SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY
NEWS BULLETIN

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS --

Minutes of the 55th Annual Business Meeting, November 3, 1995, Pittsburgh, Penna.

David Krause, President, called the meeting to order at 3:17 PM and welcomed the group to the 55th annual meeting. He then recognized the SVP staff, Pamela D'Argo and Kathleen Lundgren for their hard work in assisting with the meeting.

John Flynn, Secretary, gave his report which included the following motion: to accept the minutes as presented from the 54th annual meeting. The motion was seconded and carried. Flynn reviewed the officer election results as follows: John Bolt, Treasurer; J. Flynn, Secretary; and Elizabeth Nicholls, Member-at-Large. Flynn then noted the current membership total of 1,500. Flynn also summarized the outcome of the June 1995 Executive Committee meeting. Lastly, Flynn noted that he would be working with the Executive Committee to make major revisions to the constitution and bylaws, as they are currently out of date.

Annalisa Berta, Information Management Committee Chair, gave the Information Management report. Berta reviewed the following committee accomplishments: listserve participants = 470; developing a home page on the World Wide Web for debut next year; electronic *BFV* data (equaling 21,000 references) from volumes 1981-1990 with 1,300 queries being placed thus far.

William Clemens, Past President, gave an overview of the *BFV* accomplishments and challenges, citing the future as a combination of bittersweet and the excitement of uncertainty. The accomplishments were noted as the publication of the 1991

Bibliography and the 1992 galleys in the process of being sent to Dr. Axelrod. Clemens noted however that the costs of producing the *BFV* have been increasing in absolute amount, as well as relative proportion. Clemens commented that the *BFV* net deficit for the current fiscal year alone is estimated to be $68,000. Clemens noted that even the entire interest income from the general endowment would not cover the current deficit. Clemens thanked those individuals who completed the *BFV* survey in mid-1995 and reported that two messages from the survey were clear. 1) bibliographic tools are needed to advance our science, and 2) we can no longer afford to maintain an independent bibliographic service. Given this information the Executive Committee has planned to close the *BFV* office in Berkeley. To continue providing bibliographic data to the SVP membership, plans are underway to investigate a strategic *BFV* partnership with a company that provides bibliographic data already and that would be willing to expand their coverage of both publications and data fields. Besides future volumes of the *BFV,* Clemens reported that the Information Management Committee will be investigating ways to accomplish retrospective conversion of *BFV* information (Hay, Camp, Gregory, and Romer) from the current printed form to an electronic, machine readable form available to the SVP membership. As a test, the first Hay bibliography volume will be keystroked into electronic format and evaluated by the *BFV* staff and the Information Management Committee for application to other volumes.

Krause introduced Richard Cifelli, *JVP* editor, and thanked him for his outstanding service as editor for the past three years. Krause noted that the Editorial Search Committee, chaired by Ken Rose, nominated Dick Fox; the nomination was enthusiastically supported by the Executive Committee, and the editorship was accepted by Dick Fox, to begin January 1996. Cifelli then delivered the editor's report. (See complete editor's report in this issue of the *News Bulletin*)

John Wible, Development Committee Chair, then reviewed the accomplishments of the Development Committee, noting that the first committee goal of raising $32,000 for printing additional *JVP* pages had been met. He thanked those members who supported this effort generously and asked for continued support in the new year.

John Bolt, Treasurer, delivered the 1994-95 budget results and the proposed 1995-96 budget. (See complete Treasurer's report in this issue of the *News Bulletin*.) A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and carried.

Michael Woodburne, Government Liaison Committee (GLC) Chair, discussed the midyear meeting of GLC held in March 1995 in Washington, D.C., in which they met with the lobbying firm Conservation, Environment and Historic Preservation (CEHP); met with congressional staff in Washington; and created detailed commentary on the "Fossil Protection Act" and delivered it to Representative Johnson and Senator Daeschle staffs. Woodburne noted that Rep. Johnson is "committed" to introducing it in 1995. Woodburne commented that SVP was told that our comments were taken very seriously, appreciated, and incorporated (in some fashion; we probably will not see the proposed legislation again before its introduction) into the bill. Lastly, Woodburne noted that the

GLC has expanded and reconfigured its structure to include three co-chairs (Woodburne, Leiggi, and Santucci).

Louis Jacobs, Vice President, delivered the Legislative Task Force Report. Jacobs explained that after the March GLC midyear meeting it was clear there was no consistent unified paleontology voice. To this end, the legislative task force was created. The task force is comprised of representatives from SVP (Lou Jacobs), the Paleontological Society (Jack Sepkoski), and the Dinosaur Society (Steven Gittelman). Jacobs noted that extensive and difficult discussions had taken place, that hopefully will result in a joint statement of areas of agreement and common interest. Jacobs introduced the concept that the legislative task force discussions revealed that there was no data to indicate public opinion of fossils on public and private lands. To rectify this, a survey was taken by Steven Gittelman of Dinosaur Society at his own marketing research company, Marketing Inc. (see complete survey in this issue of *News Bulletin*). At the conclusion of Jacobs' report, Krause led the membership in thanks to the Dinosaur Society, and Steve Gittelman personally, for efforts, initiative, and absorption of survey costs.

Larry Flynn, Save America's Fossils for Everyone (SAFE) President, explained the mission of the recently incorporated organization SAFE and noted that SAFE had met with legislative staffs to achieve the legislator's goal (as well as SAFE's) of conservation and protection of fossils. Flynn also noted that SAFE had also contacted American Lands Access Association (ALAA) to discuss their objectives (retaining access to lands currently available to them) and how we might reach some areas of common interest. Michael Woodburne, SAFE Treasurer, also commented that SAFE needs a minimum cash flow of $12,000 annually for yearly operations and the SAFE budget is completely independent from that of SVP.

Sally Shelton, Outreach Committee Chair, delivered the committee report summarizing their efforts, which included the creation of a newsletter, creation of a possible home page on the World Wide Web, and a possible National Science Foundation-funded outreach project.

Catherine Badgley, Membership Committee Co-chair, noted that her committee is new and consists of approximately 15 members all over the world. Badgley noted that her committee's goals are to: (1) increase members, (2) increase the sponsorship of vertebrate paleontologists internationally, and (3) increase visibility of the SVP to other scientific associations through expanded contact and marketing efforts.

Kevin Padian, Program Committee Chair, noted that 325 abstracts were considered for this year's annual meeting, which is up 40% from last year. Padian reviewed the abstracts process with the group and solicited feedback.

Bob Reynolds, Conformable Mitigation Committee Chair, reviewed his committee's report with the membership (see report in this issue of the *News Bulletin*).

Krause then called for any new business. James Clark reminded the group that the NAPC VI is scheduled to be held on June 8-12, 1996. Abstracts are due January 19, 1996. Clark noted that there are funds available to support students. For funding applications, contact Clark. Registration fee is $125 for professionals, $75 for students. The Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution will be meeting at the same time and location as NAPC VI.

Mark Norell, Co-chair for the 1996 SVP Annual Meeting, reminded the group about the 56th Annual Meeting to be held in New York City from October 16-19, 1996 at the American Museum of Natural History. Housing reservations will be accepted as early as January 1, 1996, and Norell encouraged the group to make reservations early.

Krause noted that the 57th Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held in Chicago from October 8-11, 1997, and will be sponsored by the Field Museum.

Dave Gillette, 1998 Host Committee Chair, invited the SVP to hold its 1998 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City. The group responded enthusiastically.

Pat Holroyd commented that the UCMP collections will open officially in mid-November 1995.

Krause reminded the group that the Open Executive Committee Meeting was scheduled on Saturday, November 4, from 12:00-1:30 PM.

Krause then called for comments from the floor. They included: 1) a request to keep students fees down in New York, and 2) an announcement by Jim Kirkland of student support available from the Dinamation Society.

David Krause then called Farish Jenkins to the podium to give the motion of thanks. The motion read as follows:

I rise to offer a resolution of gratitude from all of us who have been beneficiaries of the scientific and social cornucopia of this our 55th annual meeting.

Whereas, the concourse of science has been much facilitated by the opportunities in Pittsburgh for personal meeting and exchange;

Whereas, the logistics and management of our meetings, ever increasing in size and scope, require unusual sacrifices of time and effort by a few for the common cause of many;

Whereas, the generosity and gracious nature of our colleagues at the Carnegie Museum, and their astute sense of organization, are so patiently evident to us all (as indeed it was, was it not, last evening);

Therefore be it resolved, that we in general meeting do extend our heartfelt thanks to Mary Dawson, Chris Beard, Dave Berman, Mary Ann Schmidt, Norman Wuerthel, Amy Henrici, Alan Tabrum, and Elizabeth Hill;

Therefore be it resolved that we salute in admiration that master puppeteer, K. P. who so gently tugs on all those strings that make us dance, in rich array of symposia and sessions, posters and platform;

And therefore let us also resolve to adopt this thankful resolution by unanimous acclamation.

Whereas, the SVP has been the beneficiary of access to the rich world of printed information through *BFV* ;

Whereas, the prime keepers of the *BFV* have plied their linguistic and scientific skills with unerring faithfulness and against an adverse economic tide;

Whereas, while many have labored on this bibliographic series its title synonymous with the name Judy Bacskai and George Shkurkin;

Therefore let it be resolved, at the same time as we express our deepest appreciation for their enduring contributions to our science, we also resolve that on the foundation that Judy and George established, we will continue to build.

The Jenkins motion was approved by acclamation.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM. (John Flynn)

Executive Committee Motions

During the Executive Committee Meeting at the 1995 SVP Annual Meeting held November 1-4, 1995, in Pittsburgh, Penna., the Executive Committee of the Society discussed several issues. The approved motions generated from these discussions are listed below.

I. Minutes

MOTION: Approve the minutes from the June 1995 midyear Executive Committee Meeting.

II. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*

MOTION: Reduce the margins of the *JVP*.

SUBSIDIARY

MOTION: Make a final decision on cost cutting ideas based on samples.

MOTION: Ensure that going forward the production costs of the *JVP* will be reviewed annually and the page cost charge be recomputed as necessary.

MOTION: For the 1996 volume, print 615 pages and then reinvest projected page charge costs into printing additional pages.

MOTION: Print 800 pages at $140/page in the 1996 *JVP* and do not exceed $112,000. Any savings from proposed cost-cutting measures, except formatting changes, will be allocated to reduce the $112,000 expenditure.

III. *Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates*

MOTION: Restructure the *BFV* project. This will necessitate releasing the bibliographers from their current duties effective November 30, 1995.

MOTION: --Close down the *BFV* office as of the end of December with a budget of $18,000.

--Have Judy Bacskai work with BIOSIS to get a concise statement of comparison of how the *BFV* work differs from BIOSIS. (There is no additional budget for this project.)

--During November and December, have the bibliographers create a proposal to be presented to Dr. Axelrod for compiling the Hay 1 and AGI retrospective data. (There is no additional budget for this project.)

--Budget up to $500 to close the office and ship the archives.

--Budget up to $5,000 for consultation for programmers.

IV. Finances

MOTION: Approve the 1995-1996 budget as amended.

V. Government Relations

MOTION: Approve the Conformable Mitigation Report submitted by Bob Reynolds. Present the report to the membership at the Annual Business Meeting for comment. Print this report in the next *News Bulletin*.

VI. Travelling Exhibit

MOTION: To approve the concept of a travelling exhibit and permit David Krause to draft letter of support on behalf of the Executive Committee regarding the endorsement of exhibit.

VII. Legislative Task Force

MOTION: Acknowledge that SVP Executive Committee supports Dave Krause's efforts in working with AAPS and the Dinosaur Society and the resultant "Memorandum of Understanding."

Treasurer's Report

This Treasurer's Report presents the budget for 1995-1996, as adopted by the Executive Committee and SVP membership. The financial results of the 1994-1995 fiscal year, including investment performance, are shown in the unaudited reports which follow. The budget figures are as accurate as we can make them at this point; our fiscal year ended on September 30, and final audited results are not yet available. The auditors' report will be presented in the June issue of the *News Bulletin*. Some items in one or both years' budgets require some explanation and comment, as follows:

Income

Endowment contributions from members remained at the very good level ($27,000) anticipated in the budget. In addition to these contributions received through membership renewals, the Society received another $4,600 specifically targeted to last year's development campaign. John Wible and the Development Committee have put in a lot of hard and effective work to make it possible for us to meet and even exceed our fund-raising goals. *JVP* revenue was substantially higher than expected, mostly due to the fact that page charge revenues were almost $37,000 for the journal, with another $8,400 for a memoir. The bulk of page charge revenues were from the Dinosaur Society, whose help has been vital to the Society's publication program. Some of the page charges received this year were a result of our successful effort to capture page charges for past years (December of 1993 onward). The total from the current (1995-1996) year is of course likely to be smaller. However, we now have a billing mechanism in place that will allow us to track page charges reliably, and I expect that revenues from this source will continue to be relatively good. I should point out that, for the first time, we had advertising revenue from the *JVP* last year. The amount so far is small (about $1,000), but it should rise in future. Revenue from the *BFV* was nearly $18,000 below budget. The 1994 Annual Meeting reported revenue of nearly $40,000 above costs, a surplus which was far greater than projected. In the nature of things, this source of revenue is unpredictable, and we cannot expect such a financial result from every meeting--

but when it occurs, it is very welcome! Our total revenue (without endowment earnings and contributions) was $32,000 above budget.

Contributions and administrative revenues for 1995-1996 are budgeted at about the same level as last year. The source of contributions may change somewhat, as the Development Committee expects to be targeting larger donors, including corporations, outside of our own membership. We assume some significant revenue increases for the *JVP*, including increases of some $2,000 in advertising, and $5,000 in institutional subscriptions due to a

subscription rate increase. We intend to advertise the *JVP* itself more aggressively, and during 1996 the Business Manager will work with Allen Press to conduct a market survey. It is a budget priority to increase *Journal* subscription revenues. An extraordinarily generous pledge of $65,000 is targeted for the *BFV*. This will enable us, contrary to expectations expressed during the 1995 annual meeting, to produce the 1993 volume of the *Bibliography*. We now project a surplus of about $15,000 for the 1995 Annual Meeting, based on registration charges and estimated auction proceeds. Sales of SVP merchandise are expected to total some $11,000, based on experience at the 1995 meeting.

Expenses

Total expenses for 1994-1995 were some $50,000 above budget. This was partly due to an Executive Committee decision to expand the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* to 900 pages for 1995. Administrative expense was higher than expected in several areas. The largest single unbudgeted administrative expense was related to legal costs. The bulk of these costs were associated with a duces tecum subpoena issued by the U.S. District Court for the Western Division of South Dakota, to John Flynn as Secretary of the Society. This was a subpoena seeking information; there was no allegation of wrongdoing by the Society or its officers. Compliance nonetheless cost the Society an estimated $10,000 for staff time and legal and other fees. The Government Relations Committee shows expenses more than $2,000 above its modest budget; these, however, were met through a targeted donation. Due to the fact that revenues, as well as expenses, were higher than expected, our operating deficit for the year was $18,000 greater than the budgeted amount, some $32,000 less than the increase in expenses.

The Executive Committee has decided to devote $112,000 to *JVP* production costs in 1995-1996. This represents a commitment to publish considerably more than the "base" number of 612 pages. We expect to meet this cost partly through fund raising and cost cutting. Most cost savings will go to offset production costs; the budget figure is intended to be a cap. Any remaining shortfall will be met as in the last fiscal year, by directing contributions to the *JVP*.

Endowment

Most of our endowment is now invested with Merrill Lynch, in a commingled account. In other words, various funds within that account are invested together, but tracked separately. The Merrill Lynch account includes funds from the General Endowment, plus the Patterson and Skinner funds. The Romer Fund is not shown separately here because the accounting change has not been made to show it; this will be done in the current fiscal year. The Estes fund is invested separately, in accord with donors' wishes; it is currently held in an account with Dean Witter.

At present, the endowment is entirely invested in interest- bearing securities. The Merrill Lynch portion is invested in a five-year bond ladder (which includes CDs). In other words, in any one year 20% of the total matures and can then be reinvested either in the

ladder, or in other securities. The average interest rate on the bond ladder is now about 7%; the 1995-1996 budget conservatively assumes a lower interest rate to accommodate market fluctuations. At present, our need for operating funds means that in effect only the principal is reinvested in the bond ladder. We intend to continue use of the bond ladder, although it is Executive Committee policy to put 25% to 40% of endowment into stock-oriented mutual funds as soon as practicable. This policy will be implemented as additional investment funds become available.

Transfers

The Society ran an operating deficit last year of approximately $73,000. This will be covered as follows: some $42,000 from investment earnings, and $31,000 from contributions. The Executive Committee voted at the beginning of the 1994-1995 fiscal year to use up to $32,400 in contributions to cover the cost of *JVP* production. After audited 1994-1995 results are available, we may find it necessary to use a small amount of retained endowment earnings to cover the deficit.

Conclusions and Comments

The budget adopted for 1995-1996 is a responsible one, though as always we will have to monitor our costs carefully through the year. However, I am optimistic that we will be able to meet the demanding goals we have set for ourselves through a combination of continued member support, cost cutting, and fund raising. (John Bolt) **Editorial Report, *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology***

Founded in 1980, the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* has experienced rapid growth in its first 15 years. The purpose of the annual report by the editors is to summarize the status of the journal in order to track its progress. Herein we present the results for 1995: areas covered by published papers, length of the journal; number, source, and disposition of submitted manuscripts; rejection rate; length of printed contributions; and changes in the lag time between acceptance and publication. The journal's success has, in recent years, resulted in dramatic increases in manuscript submission, in turn resulting in changes in rate of manuscript rejection and the length of the journal. Indeed, following a mandate approved at the 1994 annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, the journal was expanded about 50% in terms of number of printed pages. Given the associated cost in publishing these additional pages, it is worthwhile examining the effect journal expansion has had.

Like previous annual reports, the present account is based on a fiscal year and covers the period 1 July 1994 through 30 June 1995. In compiling this report, we have consulted information preserved in the editorial files, published issues of *JVP,* and previous editorial reports. The original data files are available from us upon request.

Results for 1994-1995

A total of 122 manuscripts were received by the editors. A systematic breakdown follows (see also Fig. 1):

Group No. mss. %

Agnatha/fishes 11 9

Amphibia 6 5

Reptilia (restricted) 26 21

Dinosauria 9 7

Aves 3 2

Mammalia 53 43

Other 9 7

Final processing was done on 108 manuscripts (58 lower vertebrate, 50 mammal), of which 71 (39 lower vertebrate, 32 mammal) were accepted and 37 (19 lower vertebrate, 18 mammal) rejected. The overall rejection rate was 34.3% (32.8% lower vertebrate, 36.0% mammal).

Beginning with *JVP* 15(1), the target length of individual issues of *JVP* was increased from 150 to 225. The total number of printed pages for the reporting period is 760, as follows: 14(3), 151; 14(4), 163; 15(1), 219; and 15(2), 227. Sixty manuscripts, including articles, notes, and reviews, were published, resulting in an average of 12.67 pages per contribution. Publication lag times for the four issues, given as elapsed months from acceptance to publication, averaged as follows: 14(3), 14.14; 14(4), 18.18 (inflated somewhat because the issue did not appear as scheduled; see below); 15(1), 16.19; and 15(2), 15.69. Using an estimated publication date of 15 September 1995 for 15(3), the average lag time for this issue will be 14.81.

The target date for publication of each issue is the 15th of each quartile month (March, June, September, December). *JVP* 14(4), scheduled for publication in December 1994, did not appear until 15 February 1995, exactly two months behind schedule. The delay in this issue is particularly unfortunate because the year of publication (and therefore the formal naming of taxa) is affected. The delay resulted from several factors, including changes in the Allen Press publication schedule, unexplained delays at Allen Press, and delays on the part of the editors caused by the need to incorporate late-arriving materials (relating to awards presented at the annual meeting of SVP).

In August 1995, immediately following the end of the reporting period, Allen Press issued guidelines for submission of manuscripts on disk. We began implementing this immediately, and the requirement for disk submission will be included in the Editorial

Policies and Procedures, beginning with *JVP* 15(3). In this initial phase of electronic manuscript submission, disks will be sent to Allen Press with unedited, uncoded files. The projected savings in publication cost is $6.50 per printed page.

Results: Comparisons with Previous Years

JVP submission, rejection, and publication data for 1988-1994 (excluding some data for 1992, which was not available) is given in Table 1. The total number of manuscripts received, 122, represents a substantial increase (37%) from the previous year, which previously had represented the high-water mark for the journal (Fig. 2). To further emphasize the significance of this increase, we point out that submissions in 1995 are approximately twice what they were in 1990. Traditionally, the mammalian/lower vertebrate split has been approximately even; results for this year, including 43% submissions on mammals, support the observation (made in last year's editorial report, which showed 45% of the submission to be on mammals) that there is a trend toward increased emphasis on lower vertebrates. The increase in mammal submissions (32%) was slightly less than the overall increase. Among lower vertebrates, submissions of manuscripts on fish and birds remained approximately unchanged; dinosaurs experienced a decrease, while there were significant increases in submissions of manuscripts on other reptiles and amphibians. "Other" submissions also increased. The decrease in submission of dinosaur-related manuscripts is significant because it suggests that the availability of support for page charges, by the Dinosaur Society, has not inflated the number of dinosaur-related contributions being submitted to *JVP*.

Of the 122 manuscripts submitted to *JVP* in 1994-1995, 32 (26%) were by sole or senior authors from outside the US and Canada (excluding foreign nationals living and working in the US or Canada for an extended period). Overseas manuscripts were received from 13 countries, including the UK (6), Italy (3), Argentina (6), France (4), Spain (2), Australia (2), Germany (2); and one each from Brazil, Kenya, Russia, Japan, India, and the Slovak Republic. The rate of foreign contributions is significant because it documents the extent to which the journal serves as an international medium in vertebrate paleontology, and because it points to a source of the journal's growth: submissions from overseas experienced a 100% increase in the past year.

The overall rejection rate, 34.3%, is essentially unchanged from the previous year and remains significantly higher than for previous reporting periods (Fig. 3). Rejection rate was increased during 1994 as one of several measures to control delay in publication caused by increased submissions. As for last year, the discrepancy between manuscript acceptance and publication did not increase significantly, suggesting that the higher level of rejection is having some effect in controlling the backlog (Fig. 4). As noted above, individual issue length for the journal was increased during the reporting period. Had the greater length been applied to the first two issues of the reporting period, a balance between acceptance and publication would have been achieved (see Table 2).

The number of pages printed during the reporting period is the highest, by a substantial margin, in the history of the journal (Fig. 5). At the same time, the length of the average

article, 12.6, is one page longer than in the previous reporting period (Fig. 6). Although we can provide anecdotal examples of authors deciding to submit lengthy manuscripts elsewhere after learning of mandatory charges for printed pages after page 15, the data suggests that the mandatory charges, put in place in 1994, have not discouraged authors from submitting long papers to *JVP*.

As had been anticipated, the lag time between acceptance and publication continued to rise during the first part of the reporting period (Fig. 7). While the average for 14(4) is artificially high because publication of this issue was delayed, lag time clearly peaked during this period and was in excess of 16 months for both 14(4) and 15(1). Lag time decreased thereafter, presumably because of the increased length of individual issues, but it is projected to remain at nearly 15 months for 15(3).

Discussion

Where Do We Stand Now? --The most significant development for *JVP* during 1994-1995 is the great increase in submissions--a 37% rise from the previous year, and a doubling in the past five years. The rise is especially startling because it took place in spite of *JVP* 's well-known backlog of unpublished manuscripts. Evidence presented above indicates that the increase was not systematically uniform and that it was not due to a great increase in dinosaur-related contributions. It is worthwhile to note that the greatest increase in submissions was among foreign contributors, indicating that *JVP* is becoming established as an internationally-recognized outlet for the discipline of vertebrate paleontology.

Last year's annual report included projections for the future of the journal, based on various assumptions. These projections did not account for the greatly increased length of the journal, nor--more importantly--did they include figures based on extremely high submission rates. Available data suggested that submissions had hit a plateau and that a modest increase--5 to 10%--might be expected over the next few years.

Tables 2-4 include revised projections based on current information. These tables show the interplay between journal length, rejection rate, submissions, and average contribution length. What was the net effect, during 1994-1995, of increased *JVP* length and submission rate, maintenance of a relatively high rejection rate, and slightly increased average contribution length? Sixty manuscripts were published during the reporting period, while 71 were accepted; thus, equilibrium has not yet been achieved. Given a 900-page volume of *JVP* and an average contribution length of 12.6 pp, 71.4 manuscripts can be published (interpolation of figures given in Table 2)--almost exactly the number as were accepted during the reporting period (the discrepancy above is due to the fact that *JVP* 14[3-4] were short issues). However, the number of manuscripts processed fell short of the number received: many manuscripts take more than a year to be fully processed due to delays in author revisions and reviewer response. We believe that a more realistic view is obtained by comparing submissions and rejection rate. At 122 manuscripts per year, a rejection rate of 34.3% results in 80.15 manuscripts ultimately remaining to be published (interpolation of figures given in Table 3). At an

average length of 12.6 pages, balance would not be achieved unless individual volumes of *JVP* were about 1,010 pages long (i.e., 110 pages longer than currently mandated).

Now What? --At current levels, a change of one page in average contribution length or 5% in rejection rate means a difference of about 70-80 printed pages per volume. For example, at the current rejection (about 35%) and submission (about 120 per year) rates, a volume of *JVP* would be 936 pages, assuming a rejection rate of 35%, to 864 pages at a rejection rate of 40% (Table 4). For the current level of submissions, then, equilibrium could be achieved by altering rejection rate and average contribution length. At a rejection rate of 40% and average contribution length of 11 pages, equilibrium level would be 792 pages, allowing the remaining 108 pages (of the 900-page maximum allotted length) to be applied to the backlog (about ten additional contributions could be published). As discussed in two previous editorial reports, however, we suggest that these two figures be considered as limits, beyond which the scope and mission of the journal would be altered, and in fact a rejection rate of 35% and an average contribution length of 12 pages are, in our experience, more reasonable averages. At the *current* submission rate, we believe that it is possible to achieve an equilibrium with publication, and possibly decrease the backlog of accepted manuscripts, while staying within the 900-page maximum for a given volume of *JVP*. Achieving this balance would depend on the editors adopting the strictest possible stance on manuscript length (i.e., further discouraging submission of lengthy manuscripts) and acceptability (i.e., increasing rejections) that we believe is possible, given the nature of the journal.

By now it should be clear that the picture will change if submissions continue to rise. Lacking an adequate basis for prediction (decrease, stasis, or increase are all conceivable), we have included several additional projections in Table 4. If past trends are any indication of the future, submissions may well increase. At 130 submissions per year (an increase of 8%), achieving a publication balance may be achievable, but only if extreme measures are taken: if the limiting assumptions of 11 printed pages per contribution and 40% rejection rate are assumed, the *JVP* would be 858 pages per volume (more likely, however, these limits would be only approached, so that 1,000 pages is a more reasonable projection). At 140 submissions per year (about a 15% increase over the current level), the minimal projected length of *JVP* is 924 pages, with 1,092 pages representing the "reasonable" estimate. At 170 submissions per year (39% increase, about the same as that experienced this past year), the "minimal" and "reasonable" estimates are 1,122 and 1,224 pages, respectively.

JVP is increasingly becoming a major outlet for publication of research on fossil vertebrates. In response to greatly increased submissions in recent years, the journal was significantly expanded--from a target length of 500-550 pages per volume to 900 pages per volume. A major purpose of this expansion was to decrease the backlog of accepted manuscripts awaiting publication, so that lag time could be held to 12 months or less. Expansion of the journal has had some effect in this regard, but the effect has not been nearly as significant nor as rapid as had been hoped (lag time remains at nearly 15 months), mainly because it has been offset by a huge increase in manuscript submission. Our summary judgment is that the *JVP* remains at a critical juncture. At the current

submission rate, a publication balance can be achieved by further tightening of standards for acceptance and manuscript length. Clearly, additional measures will be necessary if submissions continue to increase. The two most obvious solutions are: 1) to further increase the length of the journal (which would necessitate a concomitant expansion of the revenue-generating basis for the journal, cost-cutting measures, or both); and 2) a change in the scope and mission of the journal, which would permit the adoption of more stringent rules regarding manuscript acceptance and length. (Richard L. Cifelli and Nicholas C. Fraser)

-- COMMITTEE REPORTS --

Conformable Mitigation Committee

In 1994 the Conformable Mitigation Committee submitted final guidelines for impact mitigation which were published in the Society's *News Bulletin*. The committee recognized that curators and existing collections might be impacted by mitigation collections if they were not received in a proper state. Consequently, in 1995, a restructured committee consisting primarily of curators developed "Conditions of Receivership for Paleontological Resource Salvage Collection."

With the sentiment that "museums are not a dumping ground," committee members provided the accompanying list of 11 conditions for collections derived from salvage projects. These conditions do not necessarily apply to collections acquired during research or collections donated by individuals to repositories. The main purpose of these conditions are to prevent already overtaxed staff and budgets of institutional repositories from being impacted by collections developed during excavations for profit-making ventures.

These conditions of receivership for paleontological resource salvage collections are respectively submitted for comments, suggestions, and additions by membership of SVP.

Final Draft--October 10, 1995

Conditions of Receivership for Paleontologic Salvage Collections

1. The repository museum and its curator maintain the right to accept or refuse the materials.

2. The materials received must fit with the repository museum's mission and policy statements.

3. All repository arrangements must be made with the curator in advance of receipt. All arrangements must be made with the curator in advance of receipt. All arrangements for

inventory numbers and locality numbers must be made in advance. "Museums are not a dumping ground."

4. The museum will act as the trustee for the specimens. A deed of gift from the land owner or agent must be provided. A loan form or M.O.U. must be prepared for specimens from governmental lands.

5. Specimens must receive discrete locality numbers. Locality data must be to the maximum specificity available and plotted on 7.5 minute topographic maps, and as specific as allowed by stratigraphic collecting and field mapping. The repository may require the repositor to bear the cost of entering locality data into computerized data files.

6. All reports prepared to meet mitigation requirements, field notes, and photgraphs must be provided at the time of transfer to the respository museum.

7. Specimens must be delivered to the repository fully prepared and stabilized. Standards of stabilization and modern conservation techniques must be established prior to preparation and must be acceptable to the repository institution. Details of stabilizing materials and chemicals must be provided by the repositor. For microinvertebrates, this means sorting and mounting. For large specimens, including whales, this means removal of all unneccessary materials and full stabilization. Fossiliferous matrix must be washed and processed. Earthquake-proofing includes inventory numbers of corks and in vials. In storage, specimens must be insulated or cushioned to protect each from contact or abrasion. Oversized specimens must be stored on shelves or on racks developed to fit existing constraints of the repository museum. The repositor must provide for all nonstandard materials for storage.

8. Specimens must be individually inventoried in accordance with the established system at the repository museum. The specimen inventory must be acceptable to and meet the requirements of the lead agency. Specimens must be individually inventoried in accordance with the established system at the repository museum. The specimen inventory must be acceptable to and meet the requirements of the lead agency. Specimens must be identified to element and to maximum reasonable taxonomic specificity. Batch or bulk cataloging must be avoided.

9. Specimens must be cataloged in accord with the repository system so that specimens are retrievable to curators and to researchers. The repository museum may require that the repositor bear the cost of having repository staff catalog specimens into computerized data bases.

10. The repository may require the repositor to bear the cost for completing preparation and stabilization, completing inventory, and completing cataloging.

11. There will be a one-time fee charged by the repository for permanent storage of specimens. This fee will be utilized to compensate the repository for storage space, cabinets or shelves, access or aisle space, a retrievable catalog system, additional

preparation, specimen filing, and labor involved in the above. The repository reserves the right to charge the repositor for unpacking and placement of specimens in approved storage cabinets.

Development Committee

In 1994, the Development Committee was charged with a new fundraising initiative to meet the growing financial needs of the Society, in particular, to enable the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* to increase the number of pages published per year and, thereby, reduce the then-current 18-month backlog of manuscripts. A two-year campaign was kicked off at the 1994 annual meeting in Seattle, with two sources of donations to be targeted: (1) the SVP membership, and (2) private individuals and foundations. With the first year of the campaign already behind us, the Development Committee is very pleased to report significant results from both sources.

Regarding the SVP membership, at the 1995 annual meeting in Pittsburgh, Donald Baird donated $65,000 for the *Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates.* We thank Don for his continued support of the Society and its programs. In addition, over the past year, a mail and telephone campaign netted more than $37,000, with the bulk targeted for the Endowment. To each and every one of you who contributed, the Development Committee and the SVP leadership are sincerely grateful. We also hope that you will renew your pledges for the coming year to help the Society and the *JVP* continue to move forward. New demands have been placed on the *Journal* through markedly increased submissions in the past year.

Regarding private individuals and foundations, since meeting in Pittsburgh, an anonymous private individual has contributed $200,000 to the Society. We are most grateful to this individual for his gift and to those SVP members who helped make this donation a reality. Also, in 1995, the Development Committee submitted a proposal for $25,000 to a private foundation. Although we did not receive an award, SVP gained valuable experience by putting such a proposal together. With needed modifications, this proposal will be submitted to other appropriate foundations in the coming year.

Finally, some new fundraising strategies are being tested or are in the planning stages. Thanks to Catherine Badgley, Emily Giffin, and the rest of the SVP Membership Committee, SVP has entered into marketing of products with the Society's theme or logo. Those SVP members in attendance in Pittsburgh already showed their approval by gobbling up annual meetng and SVP logo pins, mouse pads, and scale bars. We want your suggestions and requests for more items to market in the future. Under Stuart Sumida's initiative, the Development Committee is looking into an SVP Speakers Program, modeled loosely on the Sigma Xi program, with honoraria to be donated to the Society. Your ideas on this or on any other scheme for fundraising are always welcomed. (John R. Wible, Chair)

Education Committee

This past year, the Education Committee has focused on three important issues: 1) graduate, 2) K-12, and 3) minority outreach.

Graduate Issues

The Education Committee is looking into compiling information on graduate programs in the field of vertebrate paleontology. There are two ways in which this information may be disseminated effectively: 1) developing an SVP brochure to go to undergraduate placement offices (at present, none exists), and/or 2) providing it over the World Wide Web. The latter seems the best and most efficient, given the expansive nature of the WWW. In addition, we are developing a listing of field work opportunities and internships for the graduate community through e-mail and/or a WWW home page. Finally, we are looking into developing a listing of postdoctoral programs and jobs, again via e-mail or a WWW home page. The SVP membership will likely be tapped for information along each of these fronts.

K-12 Issues

Judy Scotchmoor has spearheaded the development of a "Joint Symposium on Paleontology for the Classroom," to be presented at the National and International Science Teachers' Association's International Convention on Science and Science Education, December 1996, in San Francisco. Judy also has organized a Paleontological Society/Geological Society of America Short Course on education outreach, which has now been funded by the Paleontological Society/Geological Society of America. Both the symposium and short course are co-sponsored by SVP. We anticipate great success of these initiatives.

In addition, we have identified the need to identify institutions and/or individuals currently working in K-12 outreach activities and initiate opportunities for a meeting and exchange of materials and ideas. Teachers are generally unaware of available curricular materials and we hope to alleviate this problem by establishing a clearinghouse for curricular materials evaluated for science content.

Minority Outreach Issues

Efforts by the Education Committee to recognize the importance of minority participation in the VP community have included the following. In 1994, we presented a proposal to the SVP Executive Committee outlining an outreach program for underrepresented minorities (especially African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans) in the field of vertebrate paleontology. This proposal suggested that 1) SVP encourage, compile, and disseminate information about minority outreach opportunities for its membership via the Internet, and 2) act on this encouragement by initiating a preconference workshop/symposium for all students. In 1995, we distributed a "Questionnaire on Programs for Support of Women and Minorities in Science" to the SVP membership. We received about 20 responses. Of these, most specifically addressed support of women. Of those that addressed minority outreach programs, only one

specifically addressed the field of paleontology; the rest focused on recruitment and training for the biomedical professions, of dubious relevance to the VP discipline.

The Education Committee regards the lack of minority membership a serious problem for SVP and we are looking into ways that will enhance minority outreach in our science. These include identifying research mentoring programs, outreach opportunities, and other educational resources specifically targeted to African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans.

A final note: Many of these issues overlap with efforts by the Outreach Committee. It is clear that these two committees, as well as the Development Committee, will be working together at nearly all levels of educational issues.

Government Liaison Committee

The GLC has initiated midyear meetings. The midyear meeting of 1995 was held in March in Washington, D.C. In addition to the Chair, GLC was represented by Pat Leiggi, Vince Santucci, Larry Flynn, and Jim Martin. Members of the Executive Committee included Dave Krause, Lou Jacobs, Larry Flynn, and Annalisa Berta.

The purpose of the meeting was to make initial contact with members of Conservation, Environment and Historic Preservation (CEHP); to meet with members of land-managing federal agencies to discuss matters relating to fossil preservation on federal public lands; and to meet with the staffs of various congressmen and women on these matters.

Prior to this time, drafts of what is becoming the Fossil Preservation Act of 1995 were being circulated for comment, and we were invited to visit with the staffs of Representative Tim Johnson and Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota. Both of these offices are preparing legislation relating to fossil protection, with that of Rep. Johnson being the farthest along.

During these meetings, the SVP members were invited to comment further on any such draft versions, and we still are in the process of doing this. It is our understanding that the Fossil Preservation Act of 1995 will be introduced by Rep. Johnson sometime in 1996. When that transpires, the GLC will examine the bill and make appropriate comment consistent with SVP policies.

The GLC has placed an electronic version of the draft version of the act as of November 9, 1995, on the VP list server on e-mail. This apparently still is not the "final" version of the bill, and Rep. Johnson's office still is committed to getting the bill introduced soon. Apparently Rep. Joe Skeen (N. Mex.) also will co-sponsor this bill.

Finally, the GLC has been reorganized so as to better handle the workload. Pat Leiggi, Vince Santucci, and Michael Woodburne now serve as co-chairs of the committee. (Michael O. Woodburne)

SAFE Activities

SAFE is a newly incorporated (September 1995) 501(c)(4) organization, founded to promote preservation of vertebrate fossils and fossil sites. Its goals are to serve the common interests and encourage the cooperation of all persons interested in the evolution and field occurrence of fossil vertebrates. SAFE consists of a Board of Directors: Larry Flynn, President; Mark Goodwin, Vice President; Mike Woodburne, Treasurer; Dave Krause, and Louis Jacobs. SAFE was founded for much the same reasons as other 501(c)(4) groups: in this day and age, a professional society simply has to have a voice in Washington, and there are serious limitations to what SVP can do as a 501(c)(3) organization under current tax laws; SAFE has a much less restricted hand. Although newly created, SAFE has been quite active. We have finalized the bylaws and incorporation documents, established operations through the offices of Smith, Bucklin & Associates, Inc., of Chicago, begun a network of communication with other organizations, and started to track federal initiatives ranging from status of lands, to merger of USGS and National Biological Survey operations, to uniform land management policies. Following the excitement of the Pittsburgh meeting, in which the national poll demonstrating overwhelming public support for fossil protection was released, SAFE distilled the poll results and released them to all U.S. senators and representatives (see copy below). We have also become very active in dialogue with those few legislators and other interested parties who are drafting new legislation that would allow, for the first time, collection of vertebrate fossils on federal public lands by commercial entities. The current draft, which is soon to be introduced, is far from protective. To help us and to provide a conduit for rapid dissemination of information, we have engaged in Washington the registered lobbying firm CEHP (Conservation, Environment, Historic Preservation). Of course, all of these activities require money. The Board of SAFE is greatly encouraged by the strong show of support by many at the Pittsburgh meeting. Your timely contributions have enabled us to get off the ground much sooner than we might otherwise have expected. Yet our current funds are insufficient to maintain the necessary level of activities for very far into 1996. To continue to work for the good of fossil vertebrates, we need your contributions. Please contact any of the Board members or write to SAFE, 401 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago IL 60611 (phone: 312 321-3708, fax: 312 527-6640, e-mail: safe@sba.com).

Fossil Collection Opinion Poll Results

The following is the national opinion poll conducted by Marketing, Inc., in October 1995 and presented by Dinosaur Society President Steven Gittelman at the SVP Annual Business Meeting on Friday, November 3, 1995.

Scenario #1:

Imagine that you have inherited a large ranch out West. On a visit to your ranch you discover the fossil bones of an animal. At first you think that they are the bones of a cow that died in recent years. However, at closer inspection you find that the bones are stone, the skull is strange-looking, and the backbone looks different from anything you've seen.

Pieces of bone are washing out of a rock ledge, they are falling apart and appear very fragile. You recall that someone told you that the fossil bones of ancient creatures, millions of years old are sometimes found in the area. Remember you now own the ranch.

Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.

Q1. The fossil is mine, finders keepers.

Q2. The fossil could be of scientific importance, I should report it to appropriate scientific experts.

Q3. The fossil could be of scientific importance, if they want it I should allow a museum or university to collect it.

Q4. The fossil is part of our heritage, it belongs to everyone in the United States.

Q5. It's within the bounds of my property, I should be allowed to do whatever I want to do with it. What's important here are my property rights.

Q6. There should be a law prohibiting my taking the fossil out of the ground.

Q7. There should be a law against my selling the fossil.

Q8. There should be a law against my taking the fossil out of the United States.

Scenario #2:

After your discovery you obtain a detailed survey of your property, you find out that you had actually wandered off of your property and into public property part of a national grasslands, a federal wilderness area, or a national park. The fossil is not on your lands but rather on these public lands.

Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.

Q1. The fossil is mine, finders keepers.

Q2. The fossil could be of scientific importance, I should report it to the appropriate scientific experts.

Q3. The fossil could be of scientific importance, if they want it I should allow a museum or university to collect it.

Q4. The fossil is part of our heritage, it belongs to everyone in the United States.

Q5. There should be a law prohibiting my taking the fossil out of the ground.

Q6. There should be a law against my selling the fossil.

Q7. There should be a law against my taking the fossil out of the United States.

Scenario #3:

Imagine you are on another visit to the ranch. Again you wander off of the ranch into public property part of a national grasslands, a federal wilderness area, or a national park. This time you discover the fossils of animals without backbones. Some look like crabs, some like corals, and others unlike anything you have ever seen. The rock seems loaded with their impressions. You recall that someone told you that the fossils of these strange creatures, millions of years old, are sometimes found in the area. Remember you are on public property.

Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.

Q1. The fossil is mine, finders keepers.

Q2. The fossil could be of scientific importance, I should report it to the appropriate scientific experts.

Q3. The fossil could be of scientific importance, if they want it I should allow a museum or university to collect it.

Q4. The fossil is part of our heritage, it belongs to everyone in the United States.

Q5. There should be a law prohibiting my taking the fossil out of the ground.

Q6. There should be a law against my selling the fossil.

Q7. There should be a law against my taking the fossil out of the United States.

General Questions:

Q1. It's okay with me for someone to buy and sell fossils.

Q1a. It's okay with me for someone to buy and sell common fossils.

Q1b. It's okay with me for someone to buy and sell rare fossils, perhaps scientifically important fossils.

Q2. Fossils found on public lands should be restricted. It should be illegal to collect them, to sell them, to destroy them, to export them out of the United States.

Q3. Fossils found on private land should be legally available for sale.

Q4. All fossils found in the United States, whether found on private or public lands, should be the property of public institutions like museums or universities.

Q5. There should be a law to stop people from collecting fossils on federally managed public lands.

Q6. There should be a law to stop people from collecting fossils on all state lands.

Q7a. Fossils of animals with backbones are part of our national heritage and should be protected in much the same way that archaeological remains (human artifacts) are now protected.

Q7b. Fossils of animals without backbones are part of our national heritage and should be protected in much the same way that archaeological remains (human artifacts) are now protected.

Q8. This is the United States, we should encourage free enterprise. A law restricting the selling of fossils collected on private lands is wrong.

Q9. If someone finds a fossil of a dinosaur and wants to keep it in their basement that's fine with me.

Q10. If someone finds a fossil of a dinosaur they should not remove it unless they obtain the aid of professionals/scientists.

Q11. If laws are created to restrict the collection of fossils on public lands, the only people who should be allowed to collect them are people with appropriate skills for doing so and with a permit for that purpose. All the fossils that they find should go into museums or universities prepared to protect them.

Q12. Fossils bring big money these days, they should be allowed for sale just like any other commodity.

Demographic Questions:

A. And which of the following do you enjoy doing in your leisure time (Multi-punch).

Visit national parks

Play sports

Go hiking or camping

Collect fossils

Go to museums

Watch TV

Other

B. What is your age, please?

under 18

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-65

66 and over

OK/Ref.

C. What is the last grade of school you had the opportunity to complete?

Some HS or less

Completed HS

Some college/trade school

Completed college

Graduate school

D. Is your total household income before taxes?

<15K

15K to 25K

25K to 35K

35K to 45K

45K to 55K

55K to 65K

65K to 75K

over 75K **Information Management Committee**

Thanks to the time, effort, and hard work of this committee, I'm happy to report considerable progress during the past year. Several of our more notable accomplishments are highlighted below.

Sam McLeod continues to do an excellent job managing the SVP listserver. To date, the listserver has more than 475 subscribers. Future plans call for release onto the listserver of the titles of papers in the upcoming issue of the *JVP*. David Polly is also acknowledged for managing a WWW site for the Society containing the last two issues of the *News Bulletin* (/svp/svp/) as well as an on-line database of the e-mail addresses of vertebrate paleontologists (http://cope.ummz.umich.edu/vpmail/).

Thanks to John Damuth, 21,000 references for the 1981-1990 volumes of the *BFV* are searchable by e-mail or the web. We've had an enthusiastic response to this resource. More than 1,300 queries have come from the US, Canada, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. Results of a survey mailed to the membership during the summer designed to help chart the future course of the *BFV* revealed that the majority of members (63%) felt that SVP should enter into a joint venture with a bibliographic service to produce an electronically searchable bibliographic database of vertebrate paleontology. In addition, 82% of members were in favor of capturing pre-1973 *BFV* references and adding them to the database.

Thanks also to a very generous donation from Don Baird the *BFV* staff will continue their employment by the SVP for another year. Four objectives have been outlined for the *BFV* project in the coming year: 1) production of the 1993 edition of the *BFV*, 2) preparation of data needed for pursuit of negotiations with BIOSIS (or some other company) to determine if they will co-produce a *Zoo. Record* -based *BFV* that can be released electronically, 3) evaluation of the tapes received by AGI for *BFV* s they produced from 1973-1980, and 4) analysis of citations produced by electronic capture of the Hay I bibliography. Progress has already been made on several of these objectives (e.g., Hay I bibliography sent to PacData for keystroking) thanks to the efforts of Bill Clemens and the *BFV* staff. Finally, the committee wishes to acknowledge the generous gift provided by Joe Gregory toward support of unbudgeted expenses of the *BFV* in the coming year. (Annalisa Berta, Chair)

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee was convened in late 1994. During the first year, 18 individuals were recruited to the committee. We canvassed the committee members for

suggestions as to how to reach more effectively potential new members for the society. We presented SVP display booths with information and membership applications at several professional meetings in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. We assisted in the design of an SVP flier, in the redesign of the membership application, and in the development of several marketing products. The co-chairs reviewed all new applications to SVP and found that the old membership application was not sufficiently informative about the applicant or the nominator, hence the new, longer application form.

An important issue that came to the attention of the committe was the need to make SVP more accessible to individuals from developing countries who cannot afford the annual membership dues. We suggested mechanisms for addressing this problem. One is the sponsorship form which every SVP member will henceforth receive along with the annual renewal. We encourage a broader sponsorship effort among those in the society who can afford to sponsor a foreign member. Also, we are proposing the creation of a sponsorship fund for individuals who need a sponsor but do not have a patron among the current members.

We are also developing ideas and contacts with Sally Shelton and the Outreach Committee. About 30% of our new members in 1995 were amateur paleontologists. We can try to reach more of this large group of people in the future and should consider ways to offer more to this group as well (e.g., in the form of publications and activities at annual meetings).

We welcome suggestions for approaches to recruiting new members and names of individuals who would be interested in working on the Membership Committee. Contact Catherine Badgley or Emily Giffin at the addresses provided with the list of committees. (Catherine Badgley and Emily Giffin, co-chairs)

Nominating Committee

Nominating committees of the SVP are composed of three Past Presidents of the Society. This year's committee comprises James A. Hopson, Ernest L. Lundius, Jr., and C. S. "Rufus" Churcher. We are charged to provide nominations for the offices of Treasurer, Vice President, and one Member-at-Large. All candidates have indicated their willingness to serve if elected. Therefore, I am happy to recommend the members named below for inclusion on the upcoming general ballot.

The serving Treasurer, John R. Bolt, will have completed three one-year terms in office in October 1996 and is eligible for reelection. We are pleased to nominate him for an additional term as Treasurer.

As the serving President, David W. Krause ends his two-year tenure in October, 1996, the present Vice President, Louis L. Jacobs, will succeed him as President and a replacement for Vice President is required. We are pleased to nominate two candidates for Vice President, John J. Flynn and Richard K. Stucky.

A replacement Member-at-Large is required as one of the three serving Members, Annalisa Berta, is retiring. (The three Members-at-Large on the Executive Committee each serve three years in overlapping rotation.) The nominees for vacant office of Member-at-Large are Blair Van Valkenburgh and John E. Storer.

We are pleased with this list of candidates and are assured that each will serve the Society with enthusiasm upon election to office. (C. S. "Rufus" Churcher, Chairman)

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee held its annual meeting at the SVP meetings in Pittsburgh on the morning of November 2. Forty-eight people were present. The meeting reviewed the accomplishments of the past year and the plans for the next. The major accomplishment for 1995 was the publication of the first Outreach Newsletter, which was mailed out to anyone who requested it as a way of publicizing the work of the committee and the goals of SVP with regard to avocational paleontologists. This newsletter will continue to be published and will hopefully be available on-line for the next issue. Any Outreach publications will be publicized by the Society for Amateur Scientists and the Skullduggery catalogue of fossil reproductions as well. Over 400 people received the first newsletter as a mailing.

The next project will be publication of the "Opportunities" brochure in 1996, a compendium of training and field opportunities for avocational paleontologists. Committee member Michael Gottfried will be investigating Outreach's qualifications for funding through the Informal Science Education program at NSF.

Committee member David Parris is developing a partnership program with a Native American colleague designed to extend Outreach-type training to Native Americans interested in working with the resources of their lands. (Sally Shelton)

Program Committee

For the 1995 annual meeting, the Program Committee considered approximately 325 submissions, up about 40% from last year's 235. There were three symposia with abstracts this year instead of one, an increase in the number of posters, an increase in submissions for the preparators' session, and a decrease in Romer Prize session submissions.

All abstracts were reviewed by at least three committee members, and occasionally by outside reviewers. The committee members considered the wishes of authors to be assigned to the platform or poster sessions, and in most cases preferences were accommodated. By decision of the Executive Committee, no more than two platform sessions were scheduled concurrently. In addition, the committee members considered abstracts with respect to general interest, originality and significance of results, and appropriateness of venue, in making program decisions. These criteria were discussed in the February 1994 *SVP News Bulletin*, and in circulars for the 1994 and 1995 meetings.

As in 1994, about 30% of submitted abstracts required substantial editorial attention. Problems generally fit three categories: failure to follow format, typographical errors, and lack of clarity in content. After review, these abstracts were returned to authors for correction with provisional acceptance. In many cases the abstracts of foreign workers were retyped to save time and effort.

As in 1994, a handful of submissions were rejected because they lacked substantial new scientific content, were clearly out of touch with current literature and methods, or their content was inappropriate for the SVP sessions.

I would like to thank for their hard work Jessica Theodor, Don Prothero, Lance Grande, Hans Sues, Mark Goodwin, Phil Fraley, Willy Bemis, Dan Chure, Brooks Britt, and Chris Beard. (Kevin Padian)

Award Winners

Richard Estes Memorial Award--Lois Roe

As a student, I have never been what anyone would call superlative, unless one counts the degree to which I am distracted by every new piece of knowledge I acquire. I have been most fortunate through the years in having had parents and teachers who not only have tolerated my distractedness, but have helped me channel my tendency toward dilettantism into useful lines of academic inquiry. At Mount Holyoke College, where I did my undergraduate degree, I was fortunate to have the full support of a small department (Geology and Geography) when I decided to change my major at the beginning of my junior year from romance languages and geography to geology. This move was inspired by my first course in paleontology with Mark McMenamin, but it would have been impossible for me to successfully complete my degree in the remaining two years had it not been for the unwavering conviction and help of our department chair at the time, Martha ("Marty") Godchaux. With unflagging enthusiasm, Marty saw to it that the schedule of classes accommodated my change. It also helped tremendously that Mount Holyoke is one of five members of what is known as the Five College Consortium, which meant being able to sign up for classes at Amherst, UMass, Smith, and Hampshire as easily as at my own institution. For me the greatest benefit of this system was the opportunity to take vertebrate paleontology with Margery Coombs at Amherst and ichthyology with Willy Bemis at UMass. If I hadn't already been hooked on paleontology, those classes would have done it for sure. I concluded that fish paleontology must surely be the ultimate challenge: if I could make sense of all those little bits, I could probably do anything!

Of most fundamental importance to me as an undergraduate, however, was the opportunity to explore a wide range of ideas (many of them naive) with my professors without the usual angst over appearing stupid. For this I am most grateful in particular to Mark McMenamin and Stan Rachootin who taught me to think in shades of gray and first got me thinking both about fish and biogeography. After graduating from Mount Holyoke in May 1986, I began graduate school at the University of Michigan, where, at the

suggestion of Catherine Badgley, I was given the opportunity to pursue my interest in fish evolution as part of the Harvard-Geological Survey of Pakistan Siwalik research group led by David Pilbeam. I spent one wonderful season in the field in 1988, during which I learned an immense amount from everyone in the group and met my current advisor, Jay Quade. Intially I focussed on biogeographic and faunal aspects of the Siwalik fish record, but during the spring semester of 1989 I took a class in geochemistry with Jim O'Neil who had just joined our faculty the year before (after 19 years with the USGS in Menlo Park), and my view of the fossil fish record was never again the same. With Jim's encouragement and that of my advisors Catherine Badgley and Gerry Smith, I began to develop ideas about applying isotopic approaches to historical biology. Some of these ideas were incorporated in an NSF proposal Jim wrote in December 1989, and when the proposal was funded, our current collaboration began.

In early 1990, I left Michigan to take a job with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration--a financial necessity. This was not a paleontological job, of course, but an administrative one in which I was charged with coordinating our agency's scientific cooperation with the People's Republic of China in the area of marine and fishery science and technology. Although I knew I wanted to be a bench scientist more than anything, I would not have traded this job for anything. It was an enlightening experience to see government from the other side. During my time at NOAA, I was most fortunate to have a supervisor, Marbara Moore, who supported my continuing research and education. With her help, and also the support of Kay Behrensmeyer, Nick Hotton, and Ken Towe at the Smithsonian, I continued my research, including my collaboration with Jim O'Neil. I also took chemistry classes at the nearby community college in order to better prepare myself to reenter graduate school. I began my Ph.D. study here at the University of Arizona in September 1993. Here in Tucson, I am continuing my isotopic work as part of the phylogenetically oriented Research Training Group for the Analysis of Biological Diversification, and am putting my early ideas to the test in a collaborative project on cetaceans with Hans Thewissen, Jim O'Neil, Ashok Sahni, and Taseer Hussain.

J. T. Gregory Award--Jiri Zidek

A biographical sketch for Jiri Zidek is not available at this time, but we would still like to offer our sincere congratulations to him for this accomplishment.

Romer Prize Award--Jaelyn Eberle

I grew up on a grain farm in southern Saskatchewan. As a child, I spent a great deal of time walking through the fields in search of treasure--the bones and rocks that fill numerous boxes cluttering my parents' basement. Following graduation from high school in 1987, I attended the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon intent on pursuing a degree in geology. In my second year of study, Dr. James Basinger, Professor of Paleobotany at U. of S., strongly influenced my decision to major in paleobiology. A summer spent as a field assistant for Dr. Beth McIver, then a paleobotanist for the Geological Survey of Canada, convinced me that I had chosen the right field of study. Beth introduced me to the joys of doing paleontological field work in the Canadian

Rockies, grizzly bears, fossil leaves, and the Cretaceous-Tertiary extinction debate which eventually led me to Wyoming. During my first three years of study, I was most influenced by paleobotanists. However, Dr. John E. Storer, vertebrate paleontologist at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, quickly changed all of that by introducing me to fossil mammals, specifically marsupials. During my senior year, I completed an honors thesis under dual supervision of Drs. Ernest Walker (head, Department of Anthropology, U. of S.) and John E. Storer. My honors thesis, entitled " *Herpetotherium valens* (Lambe), a didelphid marsupial from the Calf Creek local fauna (Chadronian), Saskatchewan" was published in the December 1995 issue of *JVP*. In May of 1991, I received a B.Sc. Honors (with distinction) in paleobiology and became the first graduate of the paleobiology program at U. of S.

Following acceptance into the master's program in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Wyoming, I joined the field team of Dr. Jason A. Lillegraven, my graduate advisor. My thesis project was born in the summer of 1991, in Wyoming's western Hanna Basin. In spring of 1992, my graduate program was upgraded to the doctoral level. The original research plan was to study the mammalian transition across the Lancian-Puercan (or terrestrial Cretaceous-Tertiary) boundary in the western Hanna Basin. However, due to the relative paucity of Lancian mammals in the field area, I moved up in the section slightly, to concentrate on the unusually thick, fossiliferous strata of Puercan age. Intense field work, spread over five summers, resulted in discovery and documentation of the thickest, most continuous Puercan section known to date and several new Puercan mammalian taxa, including what appear to be evolutionary intermediates. My dissertation, entitled "Lancian and Puercan mammalian biostratigraphy, systematics, and evolution in the western Hanna Basin, south-central Wyoming," will be defended in the spring of 1996. I presented some of the research at meetings of the WAVP, SVP, and GSA. Current research interests include analyses of latest Cretaceous and earliest Tertiary sedimentation and basin subsidence in the western Hanna Basin. As a sabbatical replacement for Jay Lillegraven, I am teaching a course entitled "Principles of Paleontology" during the 1996 spring semester.

My research in the Hanna Basin was aided by an excellent team. I thank Jay Lillegraven, Jean-Pierre Cavigelli, and Anton Wroblewski for their field and laboratory expertise, support, comic relief, and friendship. Funding for field research was provided by NSF, GSA, the Paleontological Society, Sigma Xi, and the School of Arts and Sciences, as well as the Department of Geology and Geophysics at UW.

Romer-Simpson Medal--Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska

Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska is emeritus professor of the Polish Academy of Sciences and of the University of Oslo. Between 1961-1983 she was the Director of the Institute of Paleobiology, Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, and between 1987-1995 the Professor of Paleontology in Oslo.

In 1943-44 (during the German occupation of Poland) she studied zoology at the Secret University of Warsaw; in 1944 she took part in the Warsaw Uprising against Germans as

a soldier of the Polish underground Home Army. In 1949 she graduated from the University of Warsaw as a Master of Zoological Sciences, in 1953 she became a Doctor of Paleontology, and in 1961 a full professor.

At the beginning of her research work she was engaged in studies on trilobites and Paleozoic jaw apparatuses of polychaete annelids. Between 1963 and 1971 she organized and led eight Polish-Mongolian Paleontological Expeditions to Mongolia. The expeditions assembled a large collection of Late Cretaceous dinosaurs and other reptiles, and Late Cretaceous and Tertiary mammals. Since 1965 Zofia changed her scientific interests and has been engaged in studies on Cretaceous mammals from the Gobi Desert, and other Mesozoic mammals from different parts of the world. Her main interests are osteology and functional anatomy, evolution of brain, interrelationships of early mammals, and the problem of mammal dispersal during the Mesozoic. She frequently visited the U.S. and published joint papers with many American colleagues. Now retired, she continues research on the evolution of early mammals.

Bryan Patterson Award--John Hunter

John Hunter is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Anatomical Sciences, State University of New York at Stony Brook, where he has been a graduate student since the fall of 1990. As an undergraduate classics major at Brown University (class of 1988.5), John first became interested in paleontology while taking an elective in the sciences: Christine Janis's course on mammal evolution. "I decided then to study dead animals instead of dead people and to add a biology major to my college plans in order to study paleontology." As an undergraduate, John also completed a thesis on ontogenetic change in tooth wear in duck-billed dinosaurs, served twice as a teaching assistant in comparative anatomy, and assisted Dr. Janis "mainly by not falling asleep while digitizing occlusal outlines of teeth." After college, John spent one year (1989-90) on a Fulbright at the University of Helsinki where he worked with Mikael Fortelius of the Valio Armas Korvenkontio Unit of Dental Anatomy in Relation to Evolutionary Theory. John's published work with the Helsinki group consists of a study on tooth function in the bilophodont pig *Listriodon* and later, a study on the evolution of the hypocone and diversification in mammals, with more to come.

In the summer of 1988, John collected Paleocene mammals in the Crazy Mountain Basin, Montana, with Dave Krause and Joe Hartman. This was John's first exposure not only to paleontological field work, but also to the amazing world of tiny teeth on pin heads. John returned west in the summer of 1991 for Albion College's geological field school--where he earned the coveted "rookie of the year" award--and again in 1992 for brief stints in the Bighorn and Williston basins. During the 1992 trip to the Williston Basin, John first saw the badlands of Makoshika State Park where he would spend the next three summers engaged in field work. The goal of John's work in the Makoshika badlands has been to document mammalian faunal turnover across the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary in a new outcrop area. Work there has been challenging, necessitating some unorthodox collecting strategies--such as the use of packhorses to move bags of matrix. John is incorporating the finds into his dissertation on timing and ecology in the mammalian turnover at the

K/T boundary and adaptive radiation in the early Paleocene. In keeping with tradition, these fossil mammals will of course be glued onto pin heads. John has also been conducting exploratory field work in North Dakota, where he has been working closely with avocational paleontologists from the Pioneer Trails Museum, Bowman.

After helping to teach human anatomy for four years, John is now earning his keep as The Dinosaur Society's graduate fellow "mainly answering kids' mail." John plans to defend his dissertation later this year: "My advisor Dave Krause is calling me `the soon-to-be Dr. Hunter' and is slipping job announcements into my mailbox. I can take a hint."

Predoctoral Award--Sean Modesto

I became hooked on paleontology while preparing one of those seemingly ubiquitous Green River fish for an undergraduate course given by Robert Reisz at the University of Toronto. Paleontology was not seriously considerd as a career choice until my final undergraduate year, when I was given the opportunity to study a new skeleton of the basal edaphosaur *Ianthasaurus* from the Garnett Quarry--and my fate as a vertebrate paleontologist was sealed following several weeks of prospecting Lower Permian deposits of the southwestern U.S. with Robert and Dave Berman of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Research on *Ianthasaurus* led naturally to graduate work on two species of the related synapsid genus *Edaphosaurus,* for which I received my M.Sc. in 1991. The edaphosaurid studies prompted my continuing interest in the origins of terrestrial vertebrate herbivory, which I had considered as a possible topic for my doctoral thesis. However, Robert had amassed an impressive collection of mesosaur specimens, and proposed a joint project which would examine the phylogenetic relationships and paleoecology of these aquatic reptiles. This "joint" project soon metamorphosed into my Ph.D. dissertation, a redescription of the anatomy and the elucidation of the phylogenetic relationships and evolutionary origins of mesosaurs, which I will defend this summer. In addition to my thesis work, I have found the time to participate in quarrying operations at Garnett, conduct further research on edaphosaurs, examine the anatomy and phylogeny of captorhinid reptiles, and delve into the phylogeny and biogeography of other Late Permian reptiles and synapsids. I am currently investigating opportunities for postdoctoral research at the Smithsonian, the University of Calgary, and the Bernard Price Institute for Palaeontological Research.

I am most grateful to my research advisor, Robert Reisz, whose knowledge, affability, enthusiasm, and willingness to pursue new methods (methodological, technological, and otherwise) have created a rich study environment emphasizing both collaborative and independent research. I thank both Rufus Churcher and Robert for their unflagging support and careful guidance throughout my graduate years. Lastly, I've been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to study with Dan Brooks; his historical-ecological perspectives on phylogenetic systematics have greatly influenced the approaches I have taken for my thesis.

New Honorary Members

Arnie Lewis

Growing up on a ranch in Utah 25 miles south of Dinosaur National Monument in the heart of the Uintah Fossil Beds at the time when J. Leroy (Pop) Kay and the Carnegie Museum field crews were collecting and mapping the Uintah Formation, it didn't take long for a seven-year-old boy to decide hunting fossils was a lot more fun than farming. They set up their base camp near our temporary ranch quarters on the Leota bend of the Green River while working the first Leota Quarry and prospecting the surrounding badlands. From that time on until WWII, I joined their field parties to do whatever I could to help. After my stint in the Army I was invited to come to Carnegie Museum as a full-time paleo technician. Recently married, my wife Jane and I moved to Pittsburgh in January 1947.

Pittsburgh was still recovering from the war years and housing, etc., hadn't yet gotten up to speed, so after two years of trying to get by, Jane and I finally decided to try the West

again, accepting a job offered at the Utah Field House of Natural History in Vernal, where the next two years were spent working at getting a new museum off the ground. After a while I found I sorely missed the association of other VPs and began looking for a museum in a university setting. Harvard's MCZ was one of the first to offer me this opportunity and after meeting Dr. A. S. Romer in the field in Wyoming, I accepted and spent the next 23 years working with him and Dr. Bryan Patterson doing field work all over the US, Canada, Egypt, Kenya, Argentina, Venezuela, and the Amazon River. Though my job at MCZ was primarily research oriented, some exhibit work was possible but only more as an afterthought. So when in 1975 I was asked to head up the prep lab at the U. S. National Museum and since I had always wanted to do more exhibition work, I felt this would be my chance to try it. The next 13 years were spent renovating four major exhibit halls along with field work and research prep.

Retiring in 1989 we moved to Sarasota, Fla., where I set up a small prep studio doing mounts; *Tenontsaurus* for the Fort Worth Museum of Science and *Lagosuchus, Gobiconodon,* and *Stupendemys* for the AMNH in New York. I still look forward to any future prep jobs although I am no longer looking for large projects or mounts. In the meantime I am doing some sculpting and castings which I have neglected in the past and reproducing *Lagosuchus, Gobiconodon,* and *Stupendemys*.

Colin Patterson

Colin Patterson is an Honorary Research Fellow in the Natural History Museum, London, having retired in 1993 after more than 30 years as curator of fossil fishes in what used to be the British Museum (Natural History). His first degree, at Imperial College, London, was in parasitology, and he turned to fossil vertebrates to be sure of study material that didn't smell bad. For his Ph.D., he tackled higher teleost fishes from the English Chalk, where the technique of acid preparation, then recently invented by H. A. Toombs at the

BMNH, worked like a dream. Appointed to the BMNH in 1962, he did some work on sharks and chimaeroids, but stayed mostly with teleosts and their early Mesozoic predecessors. Beginning in 1967, he had a long and happy collaboration with the late Donn Rosen of the AMNH on a series of projects that combined neontology with paleontology and many reciprocal visits between London and New York, until they were ended by Donn's untimely death in 1986. Colin was Agassiz Visiting Lecturer at the MCZ at Harvard in 1970, where he was lucky enough to find such friendly giants as Al Romer and Bryan Patterson. A weekend with Ruth and Al Romer at the farm outside Amherst included a near-death experience brought on by splitting logs under a fierce and unexpected sun; rapid revenge came from observing the equally unexpected effect of Elephant beer on Al. A major influence during the late 1960s and 1970s was the discovery and development of cladistics, begun with an introduction to Brundin's work by Gary Nelson, during his postdoc at the BMNH in 1967. The 1973 book "Interrelationships of Fishes," edited by Humphrey Greenwood, Roger Miles, and Colin was the first multiauthored volume on a major group where the overall message was cladistic. Colin has also had a long and happy relationship with Bobb Schaeffer, late of the AMNH. They wrote a thick joint paper on Jurassic fishes in the early 1980s, and Bobb took Colin to his first SVP meeting, in Toronto; he also turned up at the meetings in Ann Arbor in 1981 and Seattle in 1994.

For the last few years, Colin has enjoyed a new and exhilarating collaboration with Dave Johnson, dynamic ichthyologist at the NMNH (the adjective is from the new edition of Joe Nelson's "Fishes of the World"). They have so far produced a revision of the major groups of acanthomorph teleosts, a monograph on the teleost intermuscular system, and a revision of lower euteleosts, and are the happy possessors of a grant funding travel back and forth between London and Washington while working on a new classification of teleosts. These days Colin is much preoccupied with DNA and the problems of extracting phylogenetic information from it; with the uphill struggle to finish revising a book on evolution first published in 1978; and with finding time to tackle the undescribed fossil fishes stacked around him. Election as an Honorary Member of SVP came as a great surprise and an unexpected pleasure--he is honored to join such a happy band of brothers (and sisters).

Call for 1996 Nominations

Your attention is directed to the Society's awards and prizes: you are encouraged to nominate worthy individuals by notifying the appropriate committee chair in writing by **April 1, 1996**. See separate "Call for Applications" for the Richard Estes Memorial Award for Graduate Research, Bryan Patterson Award for student field work in vertebrate paleontology, and the Predoctoral Fellowship which promotes a professional career in vertebrate paleontology.

Morris F. Skinner Prize

The Morris F. Skinner Prize is awarded for outstanding and sustained contributions to scientific knowledge through the making of important collections of fossil vertebrates--it

shall also be made to those persons who encourage, train, or teach others toward the same pursuits. Applications should be sent to Gregg Gunnell, Museum of Paleontology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI 48109-1079 USA; phone: (313) 936-1385, fax: (313) 936-1380, e-mail: ggunnell@umich.edu.

Joseph T. Gregory Award

The Joseph T. Gregary Award is presented for outstanding service to the welfare of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. Applications should be sent to Dale Winkler, Shuler Museum of Paleontology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas TX 75275 USA; phone: (214) 768-2743, fax: (214) 768-2701, e-mail: winkler@lust.isem.smu.edu.

A. S. Romer-G. G. Simpson Medal

The Romer-Simpson Medal is awarded for sustained and outstanding scholarly excellence and service to the discipline of vertebrate paleontology (the Society's highest award). Contact R. Ewan Fordyce, Department of Geology, University Of Otago, P. O. Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand; phone: (64) (3) 479-7510, fax: (64) (3) 479-7527, e-mail: ewan.fordyce@stonebow.otago.ac.nz.

Honorary Memberships

Honorary memberships are presented in recognition of distinguished contributions to the discipline of vertebrate paleontology. Contact Lawrence M. Witmer, Department of Biological Sciences and College of Osteopathic Medicine, Ohio University, Athens OH 45701 USA; phone: (614) 593-9489, fax: (614) 593-0300, e-mail: witmer@mail.oucom.ohiou.edu.

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY APRIL 1, 1996

Bryan Patterson Award Announcement

Applications are now being accepted for the 1996 Bryan Patterson Award for student field work in vertebrate paleontology (see announcement in recent SVP mailing). Both undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply. Applicants and their sponsors must be SVP members or pending members.

There will be one award of $1,000 or two awards of $500. Proposals for the Patterson Award **must** be for field work, and particular consideration will be given to proposals for field work that is innovative rather than routine, venturesome rather than predictable, unusual rather than run of the mill. **The deadline for receipt of proposals is April 15, 1996** ; the winner will be decided by June 1, 1996.

For application materials please write to: Dr. James M. Clark, Patterson Award Committee Chair, Department of Biological Sciences, George Washington University, Washington DC 20052.

Predoctoral Fellowship Announcement

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology announces an annual graduate fellowship in vertebrate paleontology to be provided by the SVP Endowment Fund.

This fellowship is intended to promote a professional career in vertebrate paleontology by allowing the recipient greater freedom to pursue research during the final stages of the doctoral program. This year the fellowship award will be $2,500.

Applicants must be within 18 months of completion of a Ph.D. program at a recognized university. The successful applicant will be chosen on the basis of:

1) scholarly contributions to the field of vertebrate paleontology, including the dissertation project;

2) professional activity within the field of vertebrate paleontology; and

3) promise of a productive and important professional role in vertebrate paleontology.

Fellowship applications will be due **May 1**, with funding to begin in the fall of 1996.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from David Weishampel, Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore MD 21205; phone: (410) 955-7145, fax: (410) 955-4129, e-mail: dweisham@welchlink.welch.jhu.edu.

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-- NEWS FROM MEMBERS --

CANADA

Royal Ontario Museum

The exhibit "The Maiasaur Project: The Life and Times of a Dinosaur" has been a big draw since its opening last June. It combines a preparation facility on the floor of the Life Sciences Gallery with state-of-the-art interactive exhibits and animation sequences. To date, all cervical and a number of dorsal vertebrae, the back of the skull, and various girdle and limb elements of the very well-preserved adult maiasaur have been prepared out. We are eagerly awaiting the opening of the block that contains the remainder of the skull with the impressions of the entire horny beak and the skin in the throat region. To date, only two limb bones of the associated partial skeleton of a juvenile have been recovered.

Since the passing of Bill Swinton (see obituary), we have received his reprints, including offprints of his own articles. Rather than posting a long list, we ask that if there is a Swinton paper that you desire, please drop us a line. In a similar vein, we still have many copies of some of Loris Russell's earlier papers, and Loris would be very happy if people would still be interested in receiving copies. As Loris is only in the museum once a week, please send requests for Russell or Swinton publications to Kevin Seymour at the ROM, or send him an e-mail message at kevins@rom.on.ca.

We have also received many copies of the Loris Russell festschrift: "Athlon; Essays on Palaeontology in Honour of Loris Shano Russell," a 276-page, 1976 ROM publication that did not receive wide circulation. We are willing to send anyone a FREE COPY, as long as they can send us the cost of postage (this is a **deal**, as this publication is still available at a list price of $35). Postage costs are $3 for Canadian destinations, $6 for US, and $10 for other destinations. If sending a cheque or money order, send in US or Canadian funds and make it out to "Royal Ontario Museum." Once again, please send requests to Kevin Seymour directly, **not** ROM publications (they will charge you $35!!). (Hans Sues and Kevin Seymour)

Royal Saskatchewan Museum

Preparation of the *Tyrannosaurus* is progressing quickly in the lab at Eastend. Much more of the skull has emerged, much of it prepared by Don Stoffregen, since the last jackets came out of the field early in October. Technician Melanie Vovchuk is temporarily stationed in Regina. The Eastend Fossil Research Station, and program coordinator Joan Scott, have carried out a variety of programs this fall, including an EDGEO workshop to introduce geology and paleontology to teachers. Congratulations to former University of Saskatchewan student Jaelyn Eberle on winning the Romer prize in November. Jaelyn's and John Storer's paper on the possum *Herpetotherium valens* was scheduled for the December *JVP*. Wendy Sloboda returned to the Devil's Coulee project in southern Alberta in October. Allison Gentry will start a master's program at Virginia Tech in January, and we hope she'll return decorated with letters in about a year. Picking the other end of the continent, John Storer has accepted a job as Yukon Paleontologist in Whitehorse starting in February.

Tim Tokaryk, John Storer, and Steve Cumbaa (Canadian Museum of Nature) have submitted a manuscript on the Pasquia Hills birds (Cenomanian) to *JVP*. Jennifer Rothecker (University of Saskatchewan) and John Storer are making final revisions to a paper on the Duchesnean marsupials from Lac Pelletier, also for *JVP* ; this manuscript is based on Jen's honors thesis. Jen's master's project on Whitneyan rodents from the Cypress Hills, and Frank McDougall's Ph.D. work on a Cypress Hills Chadronian fauna, continue at the University of Saskatchewan. (John Storer)

FRANCE

Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Laboratoire de Paléontologie, Paris

Organisée dans le cadre d'une convention scientifique franco-lao, une nouvelle mission paléontologique, dirigée par Philippe Taquet, a eu lieu en novembre-décembre 1995 au Laos. Elle a rénui Philippe Taquet, Jean Dejax, Monette Véran, Bernard Battail, et Philippe Richir. La première partie de la mission a été consacrée à une prospection dans le Permien supérieur continental de la région de Louang-Prabang, au cours de laquelle ont été découverts de nombreux restes de vertébrés terrestres, des dicynodontes en particulier, ainsi que des plantes fossiles. La deuxième partie de la mission s'est déroulée dans la province de savannakhet, où le géologue français Hoffet avait signalé, bien avant la deuxième guerre mondiale, les premiers restes de dinosaures. De nouveaux ossements de sauropodes et d'iguanodontidés ont été mis au jour, confirmant l'âge crétacé inférieur des affleurements. Les premiers résultats des missions précédentes ont été exposés au colloque sur la géologie du sud-est asiatique, qui s'est tenu à Hanoï (Vietnam) en novembre.

F.-X. Gauffre has almost finished his thesis on the phylogeny of prosauropod dinosaurs. The main results on the interrelationships within prosauropods, with special emphasis on the stratigraphic-cladistic pattern, were already presented during the 55th meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in Pittsburgh. F.-X. Gauffre hopes to continue and to finish his study on basal ornithischian dinosaurs from southern Africa.

Janoo Anwar is presently finishing his thesis dealing with the phylogeny of the Dodo and the Solitaire, which are currently accepted as belonging to the columbiform assemblage. These two forms constitute a monophyletic group. A cladistic analysis of the columbiforms is in progress, based on osteological characters derived from Verhyen (1957). A detailed study of the coracoid complex is undertaken with the view of understanding the higher level interrelationships between the gruiforms, Ardeidae, chadraiiforms, and columbiforms. The present work is to be accomplished by early 1996.

Bruno Chanet recently defended his thesis on the contribution of fossils to the understanding of the phylogeny of Pleuronectiformes (Osteichthyes: Teleostei). The purpose of this work was to study the fossil flatfishes in order to determine the steps in the phylogeny of the Peuronectiformes. The majority of the known flatfishes were examined and their systematic status revised, thanks to the recognition of apomorphic osteological features. Some dates for dichotomies and for the appearance of some groups have been proposed, as well as a chronology for the appearance of some characters. Bruno is now trying to continue his work on the phylogeny of flatfishes by studying the ontogeny of some of them.

Vera Eisenmann continue à étudier des Equidés. Des notes ont été publiées sur les *Equus* de Qafzeh (Israël, Pleistocène supérieur), Latamné (Syrie, Pleistocène inférieur), Prolom (Crimée, Pleistocène supérieur, en collaboration avec G. Baryshnikov) et Shalain (France, 3000 BC), ainsi que des études plus générales sur l'origine et al dispersion des *Equus* (1993) et la différence entres les sous-genres *Dolichohippus* et *Plesihippus* (en collaboration avec A. Forsten, *Mammalia,* 1995). L'étude du très riche matériel de Venta Micena (Espagne, Pleistocène inférieur) est bien avancée. Une collaboration est en place avec zoologistes et biologistes pour préciser la position systématique des Hémiones. En ce qui concerne le genre *Hipparion,* des notes sont parues sur ceux de l'Uganda et de Maramena (Grèce, en collaboration avec P. Sondaar). Les Hipparions d'Abu Dabi (Emirats Arabes Unis), de la Gloria 4 (Espagne), et un travail général sur les métapodes sont en cours de publication. D'autres hipparions provenant du Maroc et du Tchad, devront être étudiés prochainement. Pour *Hipparion* comme pour *Equus,* la question la plus préoccupante semble être celle du degré de corrélation entre caractères crâniens, dentaires et squelettiques--corrélation qui paraît de moins en moins évidente.

Léonard Ginsburg continue avec Jorge Morales (Madrid) ses recherches sur *Hemicyonides,* dont des restes importants ont été retrouvés ces dernières années en Espagne et an France. L'étude d'une forme du Miocène inférieur de Cetina de Aragon a permis de rattacher étroitement les *Cephalogale* aux Hémicyonidés. Trois groupes ont été dégagés: un, primitif, regroupant les *Cephalogale* des Phosphorites du Quercy; un second, rassemblant les genres *Phoberocyon, Plithocyon,* et les *Cephalogale* du groupe *C. depereti;* un troisième, englobant les genres *Jenicyon, Dinocyon*, et les *Cephalogale* du groupe *C. geoffroyi.* En Anjou, il a entrepris d'étudier séparément chaque gisement du Miocène dit des faluns. Il étudie aussi les Carnivores du Miocène inféurieur de Montréal-les-Gers en collaboration avec Francis Duranthon (Toulouse) et ceux du Pliocène de Calta (Turquie). Il a entrepreis aussi, à la demande de ses collaborateurs de Münich, les Drs Heissig et Fahlbusch, la révision de la faune de Sansan. C'est une oeuvre collective

pour laquelle 37 auteurs sont au travail. Le premier tome sera mis sous presse au printemps 1996. Il comprendra l'historique, le cadre stratigraphique, la sédimentologie, la magnétostratigraphie, la flore, la malacofaune, l'ichthyofaune, les amphibiens, les reptiles, et les oiseaux. Un second tome, prévu pour 1997, sera consacré aux mammifères. Sur le terrain, L. Ginsburg est allé cet été en Amérique du Sud, invité par C. de Muizon. Ils ont prospecté avec succès le Paléocène inférieur de Tiupampa (Bolivie) et le Miocène de la Formation Pisco (Pérou). Enfin il collabore depuis plusieurs années à la réalisation d'unme salle paléontologique dans le cadre du noueau musée d'Artenay (Loiret). Cette salle est consacrée à la paléontologie du Miocène de l'Orléannais. Outre des originaux, les plus belles pièces sont des moulages en bronze d'un effet saisissant. Le musée à été inauguré le 30 septembre dernier.

Saloua Gmira, docteur de l'Université Paris VII, travaille actuellement sur les Chéloniens du Maastrichtien-Paléocène des phosphates du Maroc. Le matériel de ces tortues ouvre des perspectives intéressantes; c'est particulièrment le cas d'un crâne de Benguérir, le plus ancien crâne de tortue marine cryptodyre chélonioïdé trouvé à ce jour en Afrique. En définissant le taxon et en précisant ses relations phylogénétiques, on déterminera s'il était en relation avec des formes de la côte est des Etats-Unis au Crétacé supérieur, s'il annonce la faune du bassin anglo-franco-belge ou s'il manifeste un lien avec le Khazakstan, tous lieux où des tortues marines ont été découvertes au Crétacé supérieur-Paléogène. Par ailleurs S. Gmira termine sa publication sur les tortues du Plio-Pleistocène des environs de Casablanca (Maroc). Leur étude systématique a révélé l'existence d'une nouvelle espèce de Testudinidae, la plus ancienne forme à charnière hypoxiphiplastrale actuellement connue au Maroc. L'espèce, fondée sur les restes de plusieurs individus (principalement carapace et plastron), présente des affinités avec *Testudo kenitrensis* Gmira 1993 et l'actuelle *Testudo graeca* Linné 1758.

Daniel Goujet spent part of this year in the hospital for a restoration of his right shoulder ligaments, broken during his Canadian Arctic expedition in 1994. Nevertheless, this has not prevented him from visiting the Arctic again this year. With a team composed of Pierre-Yves Gagnier and Dirk Meckert (McGill University, Montréal), Zerian Johannson (Australian Museum), and Allan Lindoe (Edmonton University), he has excavated two localities for Lower Devonian placoderms and fish microremains on Prince of Wales Island. Many new specimens of the acanthothoracid placoderm *Romundina stellina* were collected, showing endocranial structures and body armor (with, for the first time, an extensive belly covering).

On September 4-8, the paleoichthyologists of the Laboratory of Paleontology, URA 12 CNRS, organized the 8th International Symposium on "Early Vertebrates/Lower Vertebrates," which attracted about 120 people from 17 countries. The communications were focused on four topics: the use of histological characters in vertebrate systematics, placoderm morphology and phylogeny, actinopterygian phylogeny, and morphology and phylogeny of sarcopterygians. In addition, in the framework of this symposium, the final meeting of IGCP 328 on Paleozoic microvertebrate biochronology and global marine-nonmarine correlations was held. The extended abstracts of this symposium are published as a presymposium volume in the special Memoir no. 19 of *Geobios,* Lyon (editors H.

Lelièvre, S. Wenz, A. Blieck, and R. Cloutier). The meeting was followed by an excursion in the Devonian and Carboniferous of northern France and Belgium, organized by A. Blick and R. Cloutier. In addition, M. Arsenault (Miguasha), H. Lelièvre, and P. Janvier edited the volume of the preceding symposium of "Studies on Early Vertebrates" that was held in Miguasha (Québec) in June 1991. The volume came out in July 1995 as volume 17(1-4) of the *Bulletin du Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle* (Paris).

Philippe Janvier was in Turkey in October 1994 to collect more fishes from the Late Devonian Old Red Sandstones of the Kemer area. There he found new material of *Groenlandaspis* and remains of phyllolepids and osteolepiforms. In November 1994 he went back to Vietnam in the framework of his collaboration with Tong-Dzuy Thanh, Ta Hoa Phyong, and Doan Nhat Truong of Hanoï University. The field party found a new Early Devonian vertebrate locality in the Song Da (Black River) Valley, with a quite typical "South Chinese" fish assemblage. In central Vietnam, well south of the Song Ma suture, the party found a new middle Devonian vertebrate locality which yielded arthrodires, antiarchs, and sarcopterygians. Among the antiarchs is an undoubted yunnanolepiform, again a classically "South Chinese" taxon, which provides evidence for close geographic ties between the Indochina and South China blocks in middle Devonian times. Ph. Janvier is now working on this material, as well as on a new petalichthyid placoderm from northern Vietnam. In June 1995, he went to Bolivia to collect large dunkleosteid arthrodire remains from the Famennian of the Cumana Peninsula on the shore of Lake Titicaca. These specimens, discovered by Enrique Diaz-Martinez (ORSTOM, Santa Cruz) are the first arthrodire remains ever recorded from South America. Philippe is still working in collaboration with Peter Forey (London) on the interrelationships of the craniates and they both keep producing new data matrices and new trees, in the hope of reaching an acceptable cladogram. They presented a joint communication at the symposium on the origin of craniates that was held on November 1, 1995, in the framework of the SVP meeting in Pittsburgh, Penna.

Nor-Eddine Jalil has been in Morocco (still looking for a job!) and is now back in Paris for a while. During the last six months, he has been studying the captorhinid remains from the Permian of the Argana Formation (Morocco) and preparing a paper on this material.

John Long (WAM, Perth) is also with us on a three-month invited position, and works with Philippe Janvier on the extensive description of the Emsian vertebrate fauna of Khush-Yeilagh (Iran). He is also finishing a monograph of ptyctodonts, essentially based on the material from Gogo (Australia).

France de Lapparent de Broin spent the last years studying Tertiary faunas from European-African areas: Miocene of Chana (Oman), Mio-Pliocene of Uganda, Miocene of the Baynunah Formation (Abu Dabi) and of Sansan (France). She also finished a paper with M. de la Fuente on a curious decorated turtle from the Paleocene of Argentina and has nearly finished her paper with Ralph Molnar on the first chelid from Australia and another on Plesiochelyidae from Quercy (with B. Badré, Parix VI). She is now returning to Mesozoic faunas, preparing papers on the Cretaceous of Egypt (with Ch. Werner,

Berlin), on the south of France, and of the northern Iberian Peninsula (with X. Murelaga, Universidade del Pais Vasco). But she continues her collaboration with M. de la Fuente on turtles from Argentina and her basic research on Pleurodiran turtles from Bolivia, Brazil, and Niger, without forgetting the Cretaceous crocodiles from Morocco.

Depuis la publication (fin 1994, aux éditions du CNRS) du livre "Quand le Massif Central était sous l'Equateur--un écosystème carbonifère à Montceau-les-Mines"), dont elle a été co-éditeur, et parallèlement à ses charges scientifiques et administratives, Cécile Poplin a poursuivi ses travaux sur les actinoptérygiens primitifs fossiles. L'essentiel concerne l'étude de l'ichthyofaune mississipienne de Bear Gulch (Montana, USA) en collaboration avec R. Lund: préparation très avancée de deux publications sur les rhadinichthyidés et une nouvelle famille; étude de nouveaux taxons lors d'un séjour d'un mois à Adelphi University (New York) au printemps 1995; étude de l'évolution du museau ches les actinoptérygiens primitifs. Ce dernier point a été présenté au Congrès sur les vertébrés inférieurs (Paris, sept. 1995) et fera l'objet d'une seconde publication, toujours avec R. Lund. Une étude préliminaire sur la phylogénie des "paléoniscoïdes" (avec R. Lund) et un travail sur l'histologie d'Amiidae paléocènes (en collaboration avec F. Meunier) ont également été présentés au Congrès de Paris. Une publication sur le premier paléoniscoïde trouvé dans le Permien du bassin d'Argentières (Ardèche, France) est en préparation avec le BRGM.

Brigitte Senut and Martin Pickford have been involved in dating diamond placers in Nimibia and South Africa at the invitation of NAMDEB and Namaqualand Mines. The old days of scooping up diamonds lying loose on the ground have long since gone, and in order to find new ore deposits it has become necessary to determine the processes and timing of placer developments more precisely than was the case in the past. Results have been most satisfactory with over 200 localities being "dated" by biostratigraphic means (mammals and avian eggs are the main dating "tools"). As a result, in southwestern Africa, many of the old concepts of ore genesis have been overturned and new ones considered. Already mine lives have been extended substantially as a result of this rethinking. Biostratigraphy was also done in the vanadium ores of northern Namibia using micromammals that occur in the ore-rich cave breccias. Ore genesis was found to be considerably younger (middle Miocene) than previously thought (Paleozoic or Mesozoic), a fact that radically altered models of ore emplacement, which in turn modified prospecting techniques--two examples of the value of paleontology to the mining fraternity in southwestern Africa. The end of 1994 saw the publication of the second monograph on "The Geology and Palaeontology of the Western Rift: Uganda-Zaïre" dedicated to paleobiology. This book, published by the Centre International pour la Formation et les Echanges Géologiques (CIFEG, Orléans) represents the fruit of 21 months of field work and the collaboration of 25 scientists over eight years. It deals with the flora and fauna and paleoenvironments of eastern Africa during the past 15 million years. Finally, Brigitte has completed the study of the first primates from the Plio-Pleistocene karst deposits of Botswana.

Pascal Tassy, quoique silencieux depuis longtemps, est toujours actif dans le cadre de l'équipe CNRS basée au Muséum. Cette année fut publiée la description des

proboscidiens fossiles d'Ouganda découverts par Brigitte Senut et Martin Pickford. Parmi ces fossiles figurent les plus anciens restes de la lignée de l'éléphant d'Afrique, *Loxodonta* (env. 6 Ma, âge qui recule d'autant la différenciation des Elephantidae), ainsi qu'une molaire datant de 9-10 Ma qui représente un intermédiaire idéal entre gomphothères et éléphants. Au printemps il a assisté au symposium "Fossil Vertebrates of Arabia" organisé par Peter Whybrow (Londres), où il a présenté l'éléphantidé de la Formation Shuwaiat, *Stegotetrabelodon syrticus.* Cet été, à 1100 m d'altitude, dans des dépots marins-côtiers d'âge Eocène, il a rejoint Daryl Domning au lieudit Taulanne dans les Alpes de Haute-Provence: un site exceptionnel peuplé de dugongidés, site dont seule une petite partie a été fouillée cette année. En compagnie de Francis Duranthon (Toulouse) et de Elmar P. J. Heinzmann (Stüttgart), il a mis au point l'exposition "Safari Miocene," actuellement au Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Toulouse, qui présente quelques-uns des mammifères les plus représentatifs et les plus spectaculaires du Miocènes européen.

Sylvie Wenz partage son temps entre le continental espagnol et les ex-mers de la future Union Européenne d'une part et tout le reste d'autre part. Avec la collaboration de Francisco J. Poyato Arizea (Madrid), elle a présenté les résultats sur les Pycnodontes collects lors des deux dernières années de fouilles en Espagne, au "II International Symposium on Lithographic Limestones," qui s'est tenu à Cuenca (Espagne) en juillet 1995. Sylvie, et Francisco pour les données concernant l'Espagne, s'attaquent à la description de nouveaux Sémionotidés, ainsi qu'aux problèmes de la phylogénie du groupe.

Denise Sigogneau-Russell retired somewhat prematurely in January 1995, mostly to enjoy more freedom and to be able to diversify her activities. But Mesozoic mammals must be the sister group of sirens...she has so far not been able to resist their song, and the main reason her paleontological activity became reduced in 1995 was her and Don's moving from an office they had occupied for 34 years and in which sedimentation had occurred at an impressive rate. This led to months of sorting and eliminating. Now installed at a lower level (all meanings), she was able to put an end to a paper on the Purbeck paurodonts with Paul Ensom from York, a group of therians so far not known in this famous locality; the generous loan of the type of *Foxraptor* by Peter Robinson and the hospitality of Prof. Krebs (for *Henkelotherium*) greatly facilitated the comparative part of this study. This year saw the publication of some bizarre mammals she had kept under her hat for years, some from the Cretaceous of Morocco (two new genera), some from the Triassic of Saint-Nicolas-de-Port (one new species), in two issues of *Acta Paleontologica Polonica.* The *Memoires du Museum* has just let out the volume on the skeleton of *Pucadelphys andinus,* on which she shared the study of the postcranium with L. Marshall. Also in Museum publications (*Bulletin*) came out some more reflections on the tribosphenic mammals from Morocco (one new species). She is currently revising the "peramurid" status in the light of material from the same area. Also in study are a new rhynchosaur (with S. Evans, London, as first author) and a new lizard (with A. Richter, Hannover, as first author) from the same locality. The collection of mammalian teeth from Morocco now exceeds 100, but, if the acid-dissolving process of the calcareous matrix is over, there remains a whole drawer of concentrated sediment to be sorted. So much for freedom and diversification.

For Don Russell diversification is more radical, but a hand is still retained in paleontology. A review article on Plesiadapiformes, in collaboration with Phil Gingerich, is ready for press; another paper, principally conceived by Jerry Hooker, on some marginal Franco-British insectivores(?) is nearing completion, and, provided a major push is provided by all the gods concerned with fossils, there is slight chance the opus on Paleogene paleofaunas of the world (with Don Savage, Richard Estes, and Howard Hutchison) might soon be submitted as finished to Stanford University Press. (Denise Sigogneau-Russell)

VIII International Meeting: Early Vertebrates and Lower Vertebrates/IGCP 328 Palaeozoic Microvertebrates; Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France (4-8 September 1995); Northern France and Belgium (9-15 September 1995).

The VIII International Meeting: Early Vertebrates and Lower Vertebrates was held from 4 to 15 September 1995. Symposium 6 of the meeting was devoted to the final meeting of IGCP 328 and associated workshops began on 4 September in the Salle Gaudry of the museum. The first part of the main meeting was attended by more than 100 participants from 22 countries (Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, UK, USA]. Scientific sessions took place from 5 to 8 September in the auditorium of the Grande Galerie de l'Evolution, Natural History Museum, Paris, France. All continents were represented, except Africa and Antarctica. The 77 oral communications were grouped into six symposia: the use of histological characters in vertebrate systematics; placoderms; chondrichthyans and acanthodians; actinopterygians; sarcopterygians; and IGCP 328. A seventh session was held during symposia 4 and 5 on Friday 8 September, viz., the symposium of the Subcommission on Devonian Stratigraphy (SDS) on "Devonian taxa ranges and extinction events." The SDS held its annual general meeting (business meeting) on Friday afternoon. IGCP 328 held its business meeting as an open session on the afternoon of Thursday 7 September. Several informal workshops were also held during these days, on Devonian pteraspids of the USA, thelodont morphology, the Ordovician vertebrates of Australia and Bolivia, the histology of Anatolepis, the biostratigraphical correlations of the Early Devonian, chondrichthyan and acanthodian microremains, etc.

This part of the meeting was organized by our colleagues from the Laboratory of Palaeontology, Natural History Museum, Paris (H. Lelièvre, S. Wenz, P. Janvier, C. Poplin, M. Väran, D. Goujet) with the help of a scientific committee. The abstracts of the communications have been distributed as a mimeographed booklet (copies from H. Lelièvre, MNHN: Paläontologie, 8 rue Buffon, F- 75005 Paris; fax 33-1-40793580; e-mail lelièvre@cimrs1.mnhn.fr). The communications have been published as Mémoire Spécial 19 of *Geobios* (available from P. R. Rachebèuf, Univ. Cl. Bernard, CST, 27-43 Bd du 11 Novembre, F-69622 Villeurbanne Cedex; fax 33- 1- 72448436; price 600 FRF). The manuscripts which have been deposited during the meeting will be proposed for publication to the *Bulletin de la Société Géologique de France*. During the meeting, participants were able to study the lower vertebrate collections of the Natural History Museum.

The final meeting of IGCP 328 (symposium 6) grouped 16 oral presentations, but many more papers, distributed among the other symposia of the meeting, fulfilled the aims of IGCP 328. The corresponding papers have been published in *Geobios Mémoire Spécial* 19. They deal with biostratigraphical correlations of Lower Devonian ichthyofaunas, a review of Palaeozoic ichthyofaunas of northern France and Belgium (three papers), a new palaeoniscoid and a new lophosteiform of the Lower Devonian Trundle beds of Australia (two papers), a Middle-Late Devonian phoebodont-based ichthyozonation, Late Devonian vertebrates of the South Urals, Middle Famennian vertebrates of central Russia, a vertebrate standard biozonal scheme for the Silurian, Early Devonian vertebrate microfaunas of South Wales and China (two papers), Late Devonian phoebodonts of Utah, Lower and Middle Devonian acanthodian faunas, Upper Silurian acanthodians of England, Early Devonian thelodonts of South China, and a historical review of IGCP 328.

The second part of the meeting was held in the field, from 9 to 15 September, in northern France and Belgium. Nineteen participants attended this field trip. It was headed by several colleagues of the Science and Technology University of Lille (F. Meilliez), the Natural History Museum of Lille (S. Beckary and T. Malvesy), the Polytechnic University of Lille (D. Brice), the Royal Institute of Natural Sciences of Belgium (P. Bultynck and D. Nolf), the Geological Survey of Belgium (L. Hance, E. Groessens, and F. Boulvain), the Catholic University of Louvain (M.-C. Groessens-Van Dyck), and the University of Liège (E. Goemaere), and by C. Loones and P. Stainier. A guidebook has been published (ask A. Blieck, USTL: Sciences de la Terre, F-59655 Villeneuve d'Ascq Cedex; fax 33- 20436900; e- mail Alain.Blieck@univ- lille1.fr). Two introductory conferences on the Paleozoic terrain between the Channel and the Rhine river, and on the Paleozoic vertebrates of northern France and Belgium, were given in the Natural History Museum of Lille on Saturday 9 September. Then the field trip participants visited the Devonian of the Ferques inlier, Boulonnais, and the Devonian-Carboniferous of the Orneau, Meuse, la Molignée, and Bocq valleys in the Ardenne. During the field trip, the Paleozoic vertebrate collections of three institutions were studied--the Natural History Museum of Lille, the Royal Institute of Natural Sciences of Belgium, Brussels, and the Centre Grégoire Fournier, Maredsous Abbey. Workshops on Cambro-Ordovician vertebrates, placoderms, chondrichthyans, and sarcopterygians, and a meeting of the IGCP 328 working group on a database project (leader R. Cloutier) were held on the evening of 12 September in the cellar of the Brogne Abbey, St-Gérard, Belgium. Heterostracan, placoderm, and sarcopterygian remains were collected during the field trip from several localities of Boulonnais (railway cut Caffiers-Ferques, Le Griset quarry, Beaulieu brickyard) and from the Ardenne (Fooz and Langlier quarry, Durnal).

Participants of both the fish meeting and the field trip planned to meet in 1997 in Berlin, Germany (following the hypothesis of a successor project to IGCP 328, during the second international meeting on Mesozoic fishes) and in 1999 in Flagstaff, Arizona, USA (for the ninth international meeting on lower vertebrates).

IGCP 328 has completed its fifth and last year. It is extended for one year but without funding (on extended term status 1995-96). This time span will be used to settle a

scientific final report, which should be published as a Courier Forschungs-Institut Senckenberg (Frankfurt am Main) special volume. It will comprise: synthetic chapters on the Silurian (T. Mèrss, coord.), the Early Devonian of the Old Red Continent (ORC; A. Blieck, coord.), the Middle and Late Devonian of western ORC (D. K. Elliott, coord.), the Middle and Late Devonian of eastern ORC (M. Ginter and O. Lebedev, coord.), the Devonian of eastern Gondwana (G. C. Young and S. Turner, coord.), the Devonian of western Gondwana (A. Blieck and H. Lelièvre, coords.), the Devonian of China (Zhu Min and Wang Shitao, coords.), the Early Carboniferous (C. Derycke and O. Lebedev, coords.), the Late Carboniferous and Permian (J. Zajic, J. Schneider, O. Hampe, D. Esin, et al.), and individual contributions.

We thus also have time to organize a successor project to IGCP 328. Its provisional title is "Palaeozoic and Mesozoic vertebrates as a tool for marine-nonmarine correlation: An approach towards integration of palaeontological data" (draft proposal by A. Blieck, O. Lebedev, and S. Turner in Turner and Blieck, 1995, *Ichth. Iss. Spec. Publ.,* 1:7-8). While IGCP 328 was mainly centered on Middle Paleozoic (Silurian-Devonian) vertebrates, the successor project will focus on Upper Paleozoic (Carboniferous-Permian) and Mesozoic (at least Triassic) vertebrates (J. Schneider, Freiberg, Germany, has been contacted to act as co-project leader), and Cambro-Ordovician to Early Silurian vertebrates (possible co-leaders M. P. Smith and I. Sansom, University of Birmingham, UK, and G. C. Young, AGSO, Australia). Other interested parties and potential national leaders may contact either Alain Blieck or Sue Turner.

Books published:

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ARSENAULT, M., H. LELIèVRE, AND P. JANVIER (EDS.). 1995. Etudes sur les Vertébrés inférieurs (VII Symposium International, Parc de Miguasha, Québec, 9-22 Juin 1991). Bull. Mus. natl. Hist. nat., Paris, 4th sér., 17, C(1-4), 529 pp.

BLIECK, A. (ED.). 1995. VIII International Meeting on Early Vertebrates/Lower Vertebrates (Paris-Lille, Sept. 4-15, 1995). Guidebook for IGCP 328/SDS Joint Field Trip, Boulonnais (France)-Ardenne (Belgium), Sept. 9-15, 1995. Univ. Sci. Techn. Lille publ., Villeneuve d'Ascq, 120 pp.

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TURNER, S. (ED.). 1995. Ichthyolith Issues, 15, 56 pp.

------ (ED.). 1995. Moscow-94 Workshop and IGCP 328 Palaeozoic Microvertebrates 1995 Report. Ichthyolith Issues Spec. Publ. 1, 72 pp.

Books in press:

SCHULTZE, H.-P. AND R. CLOUTIER (EDS.). Paleontology and Geology of the Upper Devonian Escuminac Formation from Québec, Canada (title may be modified). Verlag Dr. Pfeil, München (the publishing process with the Kansas University Press has been withdrawn).

WIMBLEDON, W., A. BLIECK, AND S. TURNER (EDS.). The Walter Gross Symposium Volume. Modern Geology. (Alain Blieck)

Germany

Institut für Paläontologie, Freie Universität Berlin

Since our last report (October 1991) the Institut für Paläontologie moved to another part of the university campus in Berlin-Lankwitz. Even though the "new" building--renovated former barracks--is not very charming, we have now much more space than in our old villa in Berlin-Dahlem.

After the publication of the skeleton of *Henkelotherium guimarotae* from the late Jurassic Guimarota coal mine, Bernard Krebs is now working on additional jaw material from the same locality. *Henkelotherium* is the type genus of the eupantotherian family Henkelotheriidae, closely related to the Paurodontidae. Besides *Henkelotherium,* a second genus of the same family is present in Guimarota, represented by several dozens of upper and lower jaws. It corroborates the typical characters of the family but shows an adaption towards a different type of diet. Newly discovered mammalian teeth from the Lower Cretaceous of Galve (Province of Teruel, Spain) by amateur collector José Maria Herrero (Galve) gave rise to the description of the hitherto unknown upper molars of the dryolestid *Crusafontia* from Galve and Una (Province of Cuenca, Spain) (*Berliner Geowissenschaftliche Abhandlungen,* E9:233-252, 1993).

The work on a critical annotated catalogue of pantotheres (Symmetrodonta and Eupantotheria) which has been in preparation by Bernard and his wife for quite a long time is progressing slowly. Bernard's activity as grant proposal reviewer for the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and other administrative functions absorbed a great deal of his time in the last years. Nevertheless he is optimistic to complete the description of the Guimarota henkelotheriid dentitions in 1996.

In the last years, our research on Mesozoic vertebrates of Africa progressed considerably focussing on the Cretaceous terrestrial vertebrates of Sudan. In 1991, Bernard Krebs and Christa Werner went on a first field trip to Sudan. Further collecting in 1992 and 1993 by Christa yielded more important material including a partly articulated thorax of a crocodyle. First results on the Sudanese Cretaceous vertebrate fauna have been reported by Christa in the *Berliner Geowissenschaftliche Abhandlungen,* volumes E9 and E13. The occurrence of Gymnophiones was annotated by Christa in the *Neues Jahrbuch für Geologie und Paläontologie,* Monatshefte 1994, and a paper on additional results

concerning the gymnophions and the description of sirenid salamanders coauthored by Susan Evans and Andrew Milner (both London) has been accepted by *Paleontology*. A short note on the unexpectedly diverse snake fauna together with Jean-Claude Rage (Paris) was published in *C. R. Acad. Sci.* II 319. Currently, Christa is working together with international specialists on different projects, e.g., the polypterids with M. Gayet (Lyon) and F. Meunier (Paris), the anurans with Ana Maria Baez (Argentina), and the snakes with Jean-Claude Rage (Paris). At the moment, Christa is mainly busy with a study on the Cretaceous paleobiogeography of northeastern Africa. In this respect, she and France de Lapparent (Paris) started a study on marine turtles from the Maastrichtian of Egypt. A manuscript on Late Cretaceous plesiosaur remains from Egypt with Nathalie Bardet (Paris) is going to be ready for submission. Under the paleobiogeographical point of view, Christa visited two vertebrate bearing localities of presumed Cretaceous age in the Blue Nile Basin in Ethiopia in March 1994 (*Berliner Geowissenschaftliche Abhandlungen,* 16.1) and intends to return to this locality in March 1996.

Again in 1994, joined by W. Zils, A. Moritz (both Berlin) and Charles Saanane (Dar es Salaam), Christa succeeded twice in reaching Tendaguru Hill in southern Tanzania, which was thought to be inaccessible for a long time. Despite the fact that the political and economical opening of Tanzania smoothed the way for applications of research clearances, problems of poor traffic and logistics substantially complicate field work. In an extended report the members of the field trip to Tendaguru presented a historical review compiling the most significant results, their own experiences, and information on the current situation as well as an outline of objectives for a possible future Tendaguru project (*Berliner Geowissenschaftliche Abhandlungen,* 16.2, *Documenta naturae,* 94).

In 1992-93 Thomas Martin spent a very pleasant and successful postdoc stay at the Institut des Sciences de l'Evolution at Montpellier (France). He was invited by J.-L. Hartenberger and J. J. Jaeger to work on incisor enamel ultrastructure of early rodents, particularly from Mongolia. The results of this project which corroborated the primitive condition of pauciserial Hunter-Schreger bands appeared in the *Journal of Mammalian Evolution,* 1:227-254, 1993. A broad study on theridomyid incisor enamel is in preparation. Thomas' Ph.D. dissertation on incisor enamel microstructure of Old and New World hystricognath rodents was published as a monograph in *Palaeovertebrata, Mémoire extraordinaire* (1992). One major result of this investigation was new and striking arguments for an Old World origin of the Caviomorpha (*Paleobiology,* 20:5-13, 1994). Incisor enamel microstructure proves more and more to be a powerful tool for rodent phylogeny and several projects on this subject were carried out recently. Incisor enamel indicates that the peculiar extant rodent *Chaetomys subspinosus* from Brazil (*J. Mamm. Evol.,* 2:117-131, 1994) belongs to the Erethizontidae (New World porcupines) and not to the Echimyidae as recently claimed by some authors. An investigation of the incisor enamel of fossil and extant pedetids and possibly related groups showed that an origin from Asian ctenodactyloids is most probable (*Berliner geowiss. Abh.,* E16:693-707). A chapter on enamel microstructure in mammals for the German textbook "Evolution der Zähne" (evolution of teeth) (Quintessenz-Verlag) and an article on enamel microstructure and systematics in rodents (*Courier Forsch.-Inst. Senckenberg*) are in press. Together with J.-L. Hartenberger (Montpellier) and D. Dashzeveg (Ulan Batar)

two papers on Paleogene Mongolian primitive Glires are in preparation. Gerhard Storch (Frankfurt) and Thomas described a new pangolin from the Eocene of Messel. The new species, *Eomanis krebsi,* is about one third larger than *E. waldi* from the same locality (*Berliner geowiss. Abh.,* E13: 83-97, 1994).

However, most of the time Thomas is working on his project on Late Jurassic Dryolestidae (Eupantotheria) from the Guimarota locality. In 1994 he spent several weeks in museums in England and the United States studying pantotheres from southern England and the Morrison Formation and he wishes to thank again all colleagues at these institutions for their courtesy. The investigation yielded interesting new results for dryolestid phylogeny and tooth replacement and will be completed in 1996. First results were presented at the Sixth Symposium on Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems and Biota in Beijing (*Short papers, China Ocean Press* :229-231, 1995).

Rolf Kohring is continuing his research on fossil and modern eggshells and is currently working on the ultrastructure of Miocene avian eggshells from the Steinheimer Becken. Additionally, he completed two papers on eggshell structure of modern colubrid snakes.

Most of our active diploma students have just finished or are near the completion of their degrees. So Jürgen Kriwet has finished his diploma-thesis on elasmobranchs from the lower Barremian of Spain this summer. From Guimarota, he recently described a new elasmobranch species *Asteracanthus biformatus* (*Berliner geowiss. Abh.,* E16:683-691). Jürgen just started a Ph.D. project on dentitions, tooth structures, and functional jaw morphology of pycnodontiform fishes under the supervision of H.-P. Schultze (Berlin) and Bernard Krebs. Besides this, he is currently working on an elasmobranch fauna from the Coniacian of northern Germany, and a project on Late Jurassic elasmobranchian teeth from southern Germany is planned. Together with R. Kohring, Jürgen is working on the ultrastructure and histology of extant chondrichthyan egg shells.

Oliver Rauhut has just finished his diploma thesis on Cretaceous dinosaurs from northern Sudan and is preparing this work for publication. Together with Christa, he recently has published first results of the investigation in that material (*Paläont. Z.,* 69:475-489). At the moment, Oliver is working on fragmentary dinosaur remains from the Iberian peninsula and Africa. For his Ph.D., he would like to go abroad and is currently looking for an interesting project.

Andrea Weigert recently has published an article on isolated teeth of cf. *Archaeopteryx* from the Guimarota locality which are almost identical with the teeth of the Berlin and Eichstätt *Archaeopteryx* specimens (*Neues Jahrbuch Geol. Paläont. Monatshefte,* 1995:

562-576). This is the first evidence for *Archaeopteryx* outside Bavaria. Her diploma thesis on pterosaurs from Guimarota is making good progress and will be completed in 1996.

Uwe Gloy is very busy with the completion of his diploma thesis on an ontogenetic and systematic study of lungfish teeth from the Cretaceous of the Sudan. After this, he is

planning to continue with a Ph.D. project on the taphonomy and stratigraphy of the Guimarota locality.

Beate Sommersfeld has just completed a first draft of her diploma thesis on an albanerpetontid amphib from Guimarota, represented by lower jaws with the characteristic mesial articulation and postcranial isolated bones. Jens Zinke is busy with the completion of his diploma thesis on small theropod teeth of Guimarota and publication of his results is planned for 1996 in *Berliner Geowiss. Abh.* Katharina Maaß is making good progress with her diploma thesis on Pleistocene Cervidae from the Rixdorfer Horizon, a gravel layer in the urban area of Berlin yielding bones of large mammals for more than 100 years. The youngest member of our working group, Marc Filip Wiechmann, just started a diploma thesis on a partial sauropod skeleton from the Late Cretaceous of Egypt collected by the late K. W. Barthel and R. Böttcher (Stüttgart) in 1977. (Thomas Martin)

Italy

Dipartimento Scienze della Terra, Università degli Studi di Milano

Our VP group is growing much slower than the new material available to us. Andrea Tintori is still busy with his Norian fishes and the description of a new genus (together with Cristina Lombardo) is almost ready; it will be dedicated to Rev. Don G. Gabanelli from Zogno to acknowledge him for his efforts in helping local paleontology. The comparison between Triassic and modern durophagous fishes is being carried on and the first results on biomechanical fragmentation of Triassic shells will soon appear in *Riv. It. Paleont. Strat.* Andrea has led field work at Trebiciano (Trieste) with some of his students, the volunteers from GSMADF of Monfalcone, and colleagues of the Trieste Univeristy. The locality, whose age is uppermost Cretaceous or lowermost Paleocene, has proved very rich in fishes even though rocks are not easy to split.

Cristina Lombardo is now in her third Ph.D. year; she is describing the Ca' del Frate fishes. The age of this fauna is around the Ladinian/Carnian boundary and several neopterygians are already present. *Perleidus* is the first genus revised by Cristine; a poster at the First Vertebrate Symposium held in Paris last September showed that *Perleidus* species from Early Triassic must be ascribed to another genus, their caudal fin being very different and without epaxial rays. Also amphibians have entered our laboratory; the find of branchiosaurids in the Permo-Carboniferous of Sardinia last summer has enlarged the areal distribution of this group. Mass mortality accumulation of these small amphibians provided several dozen specimens and we hope to collect more next year. A preliminary report is being prepared by Andrea and A. Ronchi, the Ph.D. student who found the new locality.

Silvio Renesto has almost completed the description of reptiles from the Lombardy Norian. Together with Andrea he published a new interpretation of the paleoecology and mode of life of prolacertiform *Langobardisaurus,* which shows similarities with tanystropheids. The description of a tiny sphenodontid, probably a juvenile of

Diphydontosaurus, was published in *Modern Geology.* Together with Anna Paganoni from Bergamo Museum, Silvio published a new juvenile specimen of *Drepanosaurus,* while the description of the now wholly prepared phytosaur skull is going on. Silvio, with G. Biohl of th Jura Museum in Eichstätt, is also finishing a paper on a new sphenodontid from the Late Jurassic of Bavaria.

Finally, regarding reptiles, last October Andrea found an exceptionally large specimen, more than 4 m long, in the Norian site of Endenna (Zogno). The specimen is still covered by hard matrix, but it seems complete, almost fully articulated and uncrushed. Silvio guesses it may be a new thalattosaur.

Due to the very bad weather, the fall field work in our bear cave was suspended. However, Emanuela Zanalda successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation on micromammals and now she is going to cave bears again. (Andrea Tintori)

Japan

Fukui Prefectural Museum

This is the first news from the Fukui Prefectural Museum. Fukui Prefecture came to be well known over the last several years in Japan as being the most productive area of dinosaur fossils within Japan. The Tetori Group, ranging from the Late Jurassic to "middle" Cretaceous, is the fossil-bearing sediment and is distributed within and around the Fukui Prefecture. The dinosaur fossils found so far are mostly fragmentary, but some of them are identifiable and important. A number of dinosaur footprints were also found from various localities and horizons.

Yoichi Azuma (senior curator of the museum) and Yuki Tomida (National Science Museum, Tokyo) jointly gave a paper summarizing the dinosaur fauna from the Tetori Group at the Sixth Symposium on Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems held in Beijing, China, last August. Their joint paper for the meeting, "Early Cretaceous dinosaur fauna of the Tetori Group in Japan," was published in Sun and Wang (eds.), "Sixth Symposium on Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems and Biota. Short Papers" from China Ocean Press. Among those dinosaurs, a large dromaeosaurid is one of the most important remains. It is nearly as large as *Utahraptor* and represents a new taxon of the family. Yoichi and Phil Currie (Royal Tyrrell Museum) are currently preparing the description.

Yoichi and Yuki started a joint project on dinosaurs and Mesozoic mammals with Zhiming Dong (IVPP, Beijing) in 1995. They began the project with preliminary field work in Nei-Mongol last June and July. One of the results is a discovery of a new Late Cretaceous dinosaur locality, about 100 km northwest of Bayan Mod. The locality is situated in a totally unprospected area. They will continue the project for at least three more years.

Fukui Prefecture decided to build a new museum, emphasizing dinosaurs, around the year 2000. It is in the planning stage now, but it will be a museum somewhat similar to the

Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology. Yuki, Yoichi, and a few other people visited several natural history museums in Canada and the United States for reference of the new museum during last November. To those who helped us during our visit, Yuki and Yoichi would like to express their sincere thanks for their warm hospitality. (Yoichi Azuma and Yuki Tomida)

National Science Museum (Natural History Institute), Tokyo

Teruya Uyeno retired on March 31, 1995, but has been continuing his research as a curator emeritus since then. We welcomed Dr. Naoki Kohno on April 1, replacing Ted's position. His specialty is marine mammal fossils and he had been a curator at the Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba.

Yuki was busy with a special exhibition of "Extinct Large Mammals" during the early half of 1995. After that, he spent a few weeks in the field of Nei-Mongol, China, with Yoichi Azuma (Fukui Prefectural Museum) and Zhiming Dong (IVPP, China). Then he attended the Sixth Symposium on Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems (MTE) held in Beijing and gave a talk (see "Fukui Prefectural Museum" section above for details). His recently published papers include: Reconsideration of the Late Eocene *Plesiocolopirus kushiroensis* (*Memoirs of the National Science Museum*, no. 27) and A new record of *Youngofiber* (a giant beaver) from central Japan (*Bulletin of the National Science Museum*, volume 21, nos. 3/4). Yuki continues his research on an Early Miocene small mammal fauna from central Japan. New finds in the fauna include *Plesiosorex* and " *Apeomys.* "

Makoto Manabe published a paper on terminally resorbed iguanodontid teeth from the Neocomian section of the Tetori Group, central Japan (*Bulletin of the National Science Museum*, volume 21, nos. 1/2). He gave two papers on a newly discovered Neocomian diapsid site from the Tetori Group, one at the Sixth MTE in Beijing, and another at the Symposium on Vertebrate Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The long-postponed paper on the Miocene pinniped genera *Prototaria* and *Neotherium* in the North Pacific Ocean by Naoki Kohno, Larry Barnes (LACM), and K. Hirota was finally published recently (*The Island Arc*, volume 3, no. 4). Naoki (with Yuki and two other persons) also published another paper on the Pliocene tusked odobenids in the western North Pacific and their paleobiogeography (*Bulletin of the National Science Museum*, volume 21, nos. 3/4). He has been continuing to describe a new archaic pinniped from the Early Miocene (ca. 17 Ma) of Japan and will finish up soon. He visited the Sharktooth Hill in California last summer, which gave him a chance to see the important localities and to collect samples for microfossils. He thanks Larry and his colleagues for their hospitality. (Yuki Tomida)

New Zealand

Department of Geology, University of Otago, Dunedin

This is the first report from Otago in over two years. In 1994, Hiroto Ichishima arrived from Japan to start a Ph.D. on New Zealand's late Oligocene-early Miocene mysticete whales traditionally placed in the paraphyletic and polyphyletic family Cetotheriidae. This work complements and extends Ewan Fordyce's studies on *Mauicetus.* Recently, Hiroto published articles on a new species of archaic dolphin from Japan (*Kentriodon hobetsu*) and a general review of kentriodontids from the Pacific (*The Island Arc,* 3[4]:473-485, and 486-492). He is also working on the evolution of porpoises, Phocoenidae.

After three years, Richard Köhler has written most chapters of his Ph.D. on middle Eocene marine vertebrates from New Zealand. Two papers have been published on New Zealand Eocene marine turtles (*Psephophorus*), in *Studia Geologica Salmanticensia,* 30:101-106, and in *J. Royal Society NZ,* 25(3):371-384; the latter proposes a new species, *Psephophorus terrypratchetti,* for material collected from South Canterbury during Fordyce's National Geographic field work. In mid-1995, Richard visited Canada to present a paper on fossil turtles at a meeting in Edmonton. He also studied fossil and Recent sea turtles at LACM and the Smithsonian, and at several institutions in Europe.

Jim Daniels is well through his M.Sc. on Antarctic Pliocene dolphins from Marine Plain. Preparation is largely finished, and cladistic analysis of delphinids has just started. Jim recently departed for Antarctica for another summer of collecting.

Craig Jones completed a substantial M.Sc. thesis on Oligocene penguins early in 1995, and moved to the University of Canterbury to take up a job as technician in historical geology.

Ewan Fordyce has finished year one of a three-year National Geographic grant for field work on Oligocene vertebrates in the Waitaki Valley region of South Island, New Zealand. Since late 1994, most effort has concentrated on one highly productive large excavation, where less than 0.5 m of strata yielded three layered skeletons: a large specimen of the shark *Carcharodon angustidens,* much of the skeleton of a new species of platanistoid dolphin related to *Notocetus marplesi,* and a semiarticulated large teleost (?tuna). We were delighted to have Mike Gottfried visit Dunedin in mid-1995 to work on the *Carcharodon,* which has >160 teeth and >20 vertebrae, mostly still in the bedding plane in large blocks suitable for display. The ?tuna was also recovered in large blocks (total size about 3 m x 2 m) with display in mind. Fossils found at other late Oligocene to earliest Miocene sites include small kentriodontid-sized odontocetes, penguins, squalodontids, and, of course, diverse baleen whales. Some have been recovered; others will be tackled over the next few months. At most sites, the matrix is a moderately cemented glauconitic limestone which requires long work with pneumatic gear. Preparator Andrew Grebneff, helped by temporary assistant Brett Black, has been involved with field work and has continued to prepare the extracted vertebrates. Fordyce recently wrote or coauthored reviews of whale history (*Ann. Rev. Earth Planet Sci.,* 22:419-455, 1994; *The Island Arc,* 3[4]:373-391), and hopes to clear more from a backlog of overdue projects during study leave in 1996. (R. Ewan Fordyce)

People's Republic of China

Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Academia Sinica, Beijing

The Sixth Symposium on Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems and Biota, hosted by the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP), the Chinese Academy of Sciences, was successfully held in Beijing on August 1-4, 1995. Sixty-seven colleagues from 15 countries attended the meeting.

In the first three days during the meeting, 42 oral presentations plus four posters were given in the lecture room in the new building of IVPP. The presentations concerned the development of Mesozoic research and new discoveries around the world. Some delegates were invited to give talks on some expeditions and the advances of Mesozoic research in different continents. The topics of these talks included the Chinese-Canadian Dinosaur Project (CCDP) (Philip Currie), the Joint Expedition of AMNH and the Mongolian Academy of Sciences (Mike Novacek), the Late Cretaceous mammals of the world (Bill Clemens), the vertebrates of northern Africa (Louis Jacobs), Europe (Eric Buffetaut), Australia (Ralph Molnar), and China (Zhexi Luo and Dong Zhiming), etc. The new collection of Mesozoic mammals and birds greatly attracted the delegates. Many foreign colleagues managed to find time to look at specimens and discussed the related questions with the IVPP colleagues. The paleoornithologists even spontaneously organized a seminar on early birds.

In addition to visiting the Beijing Natural History Museum and the Geological Museum of China during the meeting (August 4), the Organizing Committee of the Symposium arranged two field trips to southwestern and northwestern China, respectively. Twenty people joined the preconference excursion to Lufeng, Yunnan, and Zigong, Sichuan (July 25-31). This field trip provided the participants an opportunity to examine the Jurassic stratigraphy and to visit the localities of the earliest mammals in Lufeng and the only dinosaur museum in Asia, Zigong Dinosaur Museum. The post-conference field trip to the Zunggar Basin and the Turfan Basin, Xinjiang (August 5-11) had 16 participants. They were able to visit the IVPP and CCDP fossil localities as well as examine the Mesozoic and earliest Cenozoic stratigraphy in those areas.

The formal publication, titled "Sixth Symposium on Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems and Biota, Short Papers," was published by the China Ocean Press, Beijing, before the meeting. This tastefully printed short paper volume, edited by Drs. Ailing Sun and Yuanqing Wang, collected 52 papers (including a few abstracts) submitted to the Symposium. These papers involved many aspects of Mesozoic research, including the vertebrates, plants, stratigraphy, environment, etc.

During the meeting and the field trips, many participants expresesed their satisfaction with the Symposium and its organization. The Organizing Committee of the Symposium comprised Zhou Mingzhen (Minchen Chow), Li Chuankuei, Sun Ailing, Dong Zhiming, Zhang Miman (Meemann Chang) (Beijing), William A. Clemens (Berkeley), Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska (Warsaw), Philip J. Currie (Drumheller), José Bonaparte (Buenos

Aires), Eric Buffetaut (Paris), Patricia Rich (Clayton), David B. Norman (Cambridge), Yukimitsu Tomida (Tokyo), and Ashok Sahni (Chandigarh). The Symposium was financially supported by the following organizations: the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the South-South Corporation Fund of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Dinosaur Society, and the International Palaeontological Association. The next symposium (seventh) will be hosted by the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales in Buenos Aires in 1999, determined by voting of the participants.

By the way, there are some copies of the short paper volume available for purchase. The cost (US $50.00 each) includes the book price and airmail fee. Anyone interested in the volume can just send a letter indicating to buy the short volume copy(ies) and a check (payable to Zhang Yi) directly to the following address: Ms Zhang Yi, Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, P. O. Box 643, Beijing 100044, People's Republic of China. (Wang Yuan-qin and Li Chuan-Kuei)

Russia

Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg

Alexander Averianov, together with Andrey Panteleyev, spent two months last summer in central Russia and the Volga region collecting remains of Cretaceous vertebrates, mostly shark teeth. In May of this year, Marc Godinot and Igor Danilov worked in the Eocene mammal-bearing locality of Andarak 2 in Kyrgyzstan. Alexander is now preparing a number of papers concerning Neogene leporids, cladistic history of the Lagomorpha, Recent species of Leporidae and *Ochotona,* as well as Cretaceous sharks and chimaeroids, and the biogeography of Central Asia in the Paleogene.

Irina Kuzmina is conducting special morphological studies of baby mammoth skeletons (*Mammuthus primigenius*) from the Russian Plain and the Yamal Peninsula in West Siberia.

Andrey Panteleyev, together with Prof. N. Burchak-Abramovich (Tbilissi), is studying bone morphology of passerine birds from the Binagady locality (Pleistocene of the Caucasus). A new subspecies of jay has been described. A. Panteleyev also continues to study Holocene birds of the southern portion of the Russian Far East.

Michael Sablin is studying the systematics, phylogeny, and morphology of mammals from the Late Pleistocene faunistic complex of the Russian Plain (primary localities are the Paleolithic sites of Avdeevo, Kostenki, Eliseevichi, Sungir, and Yudinovo). His research focuses on the large- and medium-sized animals.

Alexei Tikhonov participated in two expeditions to Bolshoi Lyakhowski Island in Arctic Siberia, together with paleontologists from the Mammoth Museum in Yakutsk, Russia, and the Nagano Museum, Japan. Parts of three mammoth carcasses (pieces of skin and

legs) and 286 bone remains of Late Pleistocene mammals were found. These materials are now in Yakutsk. Alexei's paper "Distribution of *Bison priscus* in human sites in Siberia" was presented at the recent bison symposium in Toulouse, France.

In 1994 and 1995 Gennady Barshnikov conducted field research in Middle Paleolithic sites in the Crimea and Altai Mountains for collecting remains of Quaternary mammals and study of the taphonomy of the bone-bearing cave localities. He prepared papers on geographic and stratigraphic variation of *Crocuta spelaea* and *Cuon alpinus,* deciduous teeth of fossil and Recent Hyaenidae, Protelidae, Viverridae, and Herpestidae (these with Alexander Averianov), and also continued joint studies with Jeffrey Saunders (Illinois State Museum, Springfield) of mammoth bones from the Berelekh River, East Siberia. Gennady took part in conferences on the role of early humans in the accumulation of Lower Paleolithic bone assemblages (Monrepos, Germany) and on bison subsistence through time (Toulouse, France). He also was a member of the Organizing Committee of the First International Mammoth Symposium held at the Zoological Institute in St. Petersburg, October 16-21, 1995. Specialists from the USA (4), England (2), The Netherlands (1), France (2), Germany (2), Finland (1), Austria (1), Poland (1), Japan (4), Ukraine (1), Georgia (1), and Russia (85) took part in the Mammoth Symposium. Papers presented to the symposium covered the following subjects: phylogeny and genetics of the mammoth; morphology and zoogeography of species of the mammoth fauna; taphonomy of bone-bearing sites; the problem of interaction of mammoths and Paleolithic humans; vegetation and paleogeography of the Late Pleistocene; the problems of mammoth extinction; and the protection of Quaternary localities in Russia. Abstracts of the Mammoth Symposium were published in English in the Russian Journal *Cytologia,* 1995, T 37, N 7, pp. 659-719. (Gennady Baryshnikov)

United Kingdom

The 43rd Symposium of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy; The Dental School, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 20-23 September 1995

The 1995 SVPCA was ably organized by Dr. David Brown of the Dental School of the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, who ran the event virtually single-handedly with the help of a dedicated band of volunteer projectionists. Fifty papers were presented, ranging from Paleozoic fish microfossils to Miocene mammals with a strong dose of Mesozoic reptiles; videos prepared for television from Eric Buffetaut and Mike Benton concentrated, of course, on dinosaurs. Media interest came from as far as Robyn William's ABC Science Show in Australia.

This year 107 persons registered, with approximately half from the UK. In keeping with tradition this symposium is informal with no published abstracts or volume but with a strong motive to encourage student presentation.

The last official IGCP 328 UK Workshop was held in the Dental School on Tuesday 19 September organized by Sue Turner with the help of David and technician Ian Bell, and attended by Sally Young (UK representative), Roderick Williams (Wales), Jo Vergoossen

(The Netherlands), Detlev Thies (Germany), David Ward (UK), Chris Duffin (UK), and Alex Ritchie (Australia)--eight people from five countries. Discussions and examination of specimens of Silurian to Triassic remains transpired. The nature, role, and structure of the proposed successor project was an important topic as was the format and content of the special report on UK Paleozoic microvertebrates to the Stratigraphic Committee (now Commission) of the Geological Society of London (Turner and Young, eds., in prep.).

In the evening by way of an icebreaker we were treated to two thrilling yarns: Dave Martill regaled us with a flight (perhaps not of fancy) of a wild pterosaur chase through the streets of Amman, Jordan, where he and Dino Frey tracked down an elusive type specimen of a pterosaur with a colossul wing span which Dave admirably displayed across the width of the bar. Alex Ritchie then informed us of "Sudden Death in the Devonian": recent discoveries from Canowindra, New South Wales, site of the newest fossil fish museum which is an important community project.

The main scientific program began on Wednesday 20 September. The sad news had come of the death of Professor T. Stanley Westoll, Emeritus Professor of the Geology Department of the University (see Obituaries). Thus we began with a short silence to remember him.

After a welcome by the dean of the medical school, Dr. John Murray, the first session began with talks relevant to IGCP 328 given by Sue Turner "Hunting the Elusive Fish Bits (Palaeozoic Fish Microfossils in the UK)," Chris Duffin "Reworked Carboniferous Fossils in Triassic Palaeokarst," Detlev Thies "Upper Jurassic Microvertebrates from Europe," and Ivan Sansom (and Moya Smith) "The Harding Sandstone Revisited: A New Look at Some Old Bones." Others of interest to Paleozoic fish workers included: Per Ahlberg "New Devonian Sarcopterygians from Australia and Latvia," Stan Wood "Carboniferous Fishes from Mumbie Quarry, Dumfriesshire, Scotland" (the background to the field excursion), and Michael Coates "The Rear End of *Acanthostega* and Other Devonian Tetrapods."

The day ended with a brilliant (and for some nostalgic) evening at the Hancock Museum after a reception by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress which included a chance to view what was left of Sue Turner's geology gallery and the type and figured specimens of the Hancock Museum, as well as sampling the amazing variety of northern cheeses! Copies of the catalogue of Carboniferous amphibians (Boyd and Turner, 1980, and Boyd supplement, *Transactions of the Natural History Society of Northumbria* are available for purchase from the museum. Contact Principal Keeper Alex Coles).

On Thursday 21 September Jenny Clack (et al. not present--R. E. Lombard and J. R. Bolt) introduced us to the "Palaeozoic Preserve"--a new World Wide Web site for interactive systematic data. This is intended to be a powerful tool for systematics and phylogenetic analysis in paleontology. At present this is set up primarily for amphibian/early tetrapod-related taxa where they hope to foster the use of PAUP and MacClade to develop cladistic analysis and where people can retain their own private worksheets on line. Data on taxa and localities will also be stored as well as museum

specimen information, all of which sounds familiar as this is the aim of the IGCP 328 Palaeozoic Database for fishes.

A workshop on the new mid-Ordovician remains from the Harding Sandstone of Colorado ensued led by Ivan Sansom (four participants from four countries).

Posters included Sue Turner's on the history of IGCP 328, and on mid-Triassic marine microvertebrates of the northwest shelf of Australia, Rod Williams and Sue Turner's on lower Old Red sandstones fish from the Talgarth site in the Black Mountains (Turner et al., *Geobios Spec. Mem.* 19, 1995), and Jo Vergoossen's Upper Silurian and Lower Devonian acanthodians from the Welsh borderland. Stan Wood exhibited some of the fossil fish finds from Mumbie Quarry.

A delightful evening sampling Northumbrian fare at the 18th century country seat, Dissington Hall, provided our banquet.

The field excursion on Saturday 23 September was attended by about 45 delegates. Stan Wood led us to his recently opened site, Mumbie Quarry, Dumfriesshire, in the Lower Carboniferous (Visean) calciferous sandstone where whole Paleozoic fishes, crustaceans, and rare terrestrial scorpions can be found.

Outcomes of discussion led by Bob Savage were that the next VPCA will be in London (UC, Birkbeck, and NHM) and the following year (1997) at the University of Derby with the earlier September start to avoid teaching schedules in the UK. (Susan Turner)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Northeast Region

Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

Christine Janis is back at Brown University after a year at the University of Chicago (many thanks to all of you who wrote letters for me, in vain). She is refusing to communicate any other news until the chapters for the "Tertiary Mammals" volume are all submitted to Cambridge University Press (should be by the NEXT *News Bulletin*, barring the few remaining holdout contributors being totally irresponsible), but can be reached at her old address/phone, or by e-mail at Christine_Janis@Brown.edu. (Christine Janis)

Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons, Maryland

Work proceeds on CMM's new fossil hall, with the opening now projected for late November, 1996. We recently installed our dramatically posed skeletal mount of the giant seabird *Pelagornis* : the beautiful mount was done by Connie Barut-Rankin using molds on loan from USNM. We also completed the large mural that will serve as background for the megatooth shark skeletal reconstruction. Right now, we are busy

building a second big shark skeleton for the South African Museum, our collaborators on this project.

Mike Gottfried and trip co-leader Sue Dawson (Cornell) were pleased to welcome participants on the pre-SVP Calvert Cliffs field trip: productive Miocene outcrops along Chesapeake Bay, good weather, and a congenial group made for a very enjoyable couple of days. Mike is organizing a similar trip for next June's Society of Avian Paleontology and Evolution meeting, which CMM is co-hosting with USNM. We hope that many avian paleontologists and others interested in fossil birds will be able to attend the sessions in Washington, D.C., and the outing to the cliffs and CMM.

Mike's current research projects include ongoing work on skeletal anatomy and ontogenetic change in tooth morphology in white sharks; CT scan-based study of the inner ear in fossil sharks, as reported on at SVP; describing associated Carcharodon material from the Oligocene of New Zealand with Ewan Fordyce at the University of Otago; and working on a Late Cretaceous fish fauna from Madagascar as part of Dave Krause's group. A note on fossil basking sharks recently appeared in *JVP,* and papers on fossil Carcharodon should appear soon. (Mike Gottfried)

New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, New Jersey

Bill Gallagher continues his survey of New Jersey dinosaur specimens and sites, aided by Barbara Grandstaff and funded by the Dinosaur Society. Bob Denton and Bob O'Neill maintain their studies of small Cretaceous amphibians and reptiles (their own Ellisdale specimens and some sent by Jeff Eaton).

Richard Cifelli (Oklahoma University) kindly sent us some casts of *Aenigmadelphys*, so Bob Denton and Barbara Grandstaff are making comparisons to the Ellisdale marsupial (no conclusions yet!). Thanks to Jim Dobie (Auburn), we have been able to assemble a substantial number of *Diplocynodon* -like caiman specimens under our roof (Cretaceous specimens, including the distinctive mandibles and scutes). Wann Langston had first alerted us to these by finding a basal Hornerstown specimen in the NJSM collections. After Bob Denton and Bob O'Neil discussed the material with Chris Brochu at the Pittsburgh SVP, several projects seemed likely. We have long recognized the genus at the Ellisdale site but will now scour that fauna in order to identify other specimens.

Dave Parris is returning to Atlantic/Gulf Cretaceous turtles after a lapse into other projects. Always unable to resist a good scrap fauna, the lure of these isolated items is sufficient challenge for winter study. However, his favorite specimen from the summer field camp was a *Cylindracanthus* spine from the upper Pierre Shale. This is another classic New Jersey genus that has now been found in South Dakota. Dave labeled the site as the PCDI site honoring his son Bill's autism school, The Princeton Child Development Institute. Dave and Barbara are pondering the genus. (David C. Parris)

The New York Paleontological Society

Paul Olsen is continuing his work on paleoclimatology, Triassic-Jurassic extinction, and fossil reptile footprints. He is also working on a book about eastern U.S. reptile footprints and trackways. The Triassic-Jurassic working group can be reached at web site http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/~polsen/nbcp/trjworkinggroup.htmll.

Charles Sturm is working as a research associate in the Section of Invertebrate Zoology at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh. He assists in curating the molluscan collection--one of the finest in the country--used by, among others, modern ecologists to establish ecological change over historical time.

George Powell, working with Bretton Kent at the University of Maryland, has recently completed an 113-tooth reconstruction of a one-of-a-kind associated dentition from Lee Creek, North Carolina. The original of the dentition, of the false mako *Parotodus benedeni,* was donated to the Smithsonian. George donated an accurate cast to the Aurora Fossil Museum near Lee Creek.

Don Phillips will be teaching a unique class in paleontology in continuing education at New York University in Manhattan starting in February/March, 1996. This class, composed of six modules (general paleontology, evolution and plate tectonics, history of paleontology, etc.) can be taken as individual modules or as a whole for a more comprehensive course.

The New York Paleontological Society meets on the third Sunday of every month from September to May. Past speakers, arranged by Donald Phillips, have included Michael Novacek on the AMNH expedition to the Gobi desert and its concomitant fossil finds, Paul Sereno and a new taxonomy for ornithopod dinosaurs, Niles Eldredge on teaching paleontology to youngsters, and Bruce Tiffany on the evolution of plants. Some of the talks for the spring of 1996 include Susan Klofak on the ammonites of New York State, Rob DeSalle on the science of fossil DNA, and John Maisey on the soon-to-open fossil halls of primitive vertebrates at AMNH. Don Phillips will be leading a tour through these halls at their opening in the spring. A monthly newsletter is also published. (D. Phillips)

Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

Doctoral student Marilyn Wegweiser continues her research on behavioral ecology and sequence stratigraphy in western Pennsylvania, northeastern Ohio, and southwestern New York, integrating vertebrate fossils of the Devonian with invertebrate faunal assemblage paleoecological information. Additional publications have come from the Devonian vertebrate outcrop she found in the Catskill of Somerset County, Penna., in 1992, and her work on the vertebrates of this area continues. This past summer's field season (1995) she discovered the remains of at least one large arthrodire in northeastern Crawford County, Penna. Valuable assistance in the initial collection came from A. E. Wegweiser, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and Lyall Anderson, University of Manchester, United Kingdom. Studies on this specimen (to be deposited in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History) will continue through her dissertation research. (Marilyn Wegweiser)

University of Bridgeport, Connecticut

Peter Galton finds that the table in his "Sauropodomorpha" chapter of the "Dinosauria" (ed. Weishampel et al., 1990) has caused confusion because three genera that are plateosaurids in the text (*Coloradisaurus, Euskelosaurus, Lufengosaurus*) were omitted from the galleys of Table 15.1 and ended up in the Melanorosauridae (Peter never saw the completed table prior to publication but text and table agree in the 1992 paperback version).

Revised manuscripts for "Stegosauria" sections were recently completed for volumes being edited by James Farlow and Michael Brett-Surman (a text on dinosaurs) and by Philip Currie and Kevin Padian (Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs). Manuscripts on the skulls of the Upper Cretaceous ornithopods *Thescelosaurus* and *Eugenasaura infernalis* Galton, 1995 (=? *Thescelosaurus* of Morris, 1976) should be completed soon. Peter submitted a manuscript (with Jacques van Heerden of South Africa) on the prosauropod *Blikanasaurus* with notes on the associated fauna to *Ann. S. Afr. Mus.* back in April 1994 with still no word on it as of the end of 1995 but, geologically speaking, this is no time at all. Jacques and Peter are also preparing a description of a new partial postcranial skeleton of *Melanorosaurus* --the "holotype of *Roccosaurus tetrasacralis.* " A description of the UPM partial braincase (with endocast) of *Thecodontosaurus* will be included in a manuscript on all of the Bristol material that will be submitted soon to *JVP* by Michael Benton (University of Bristol).

Peter has a variety of other papers in various stages (from just illustrations to almost complete) that he is working on slowly but surely. These include manuscripts on prosauropods--the melanorosaurid *Camelotia* (England), the postcrania of *Sellosaurus* (*Plateosaurus*) *gracilis* (Germany), and the skull of *Anchisaurus* (Connecticut, further prepared a few years ago); sauropods--the braincase of *Cetiosaurus* (=" *Megalosaurus* " of von Huene back in 1906); theropods--from the Tendaguru of East Africa in Berlin; Thyreophora--Morrison postcrania of *Echinodon* and the anatomy of *Stegosaurus* (mostly on the skulls so far); Triassic poposaurid "thecodontians"-- *Bromsgroveia walkeri* from the Middle Triassic of England (with its namesake Alick Walker of Newcastle-upon-Tyne; also a discussion of Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation "prosauropod" material) and *Spondylosoma* from the Santa Maria Formation of Brazil; and birds--the postcrania of *Enaliornis* from the Lower Cretaceous of England (with Larry Martin, University of Kansas). (Peter Galton)

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

Dan Brinkman has spent the past few months studying museum collections elsewhere for his research on the *Tenontosaurus* group. Christine Chandler and Tom Holtz are collaborating on a study of the functional morphology of the serrations on the teeth of *Troodon*. Lana McNeil's research on the functional morphology of *Mononykus* is well under way. Jessica Anderson has started on a phylogenetic and heterochrony study of the Chasmosaurinae. Cynthia Marshall is analyzing skull growth, using CAT scan or CT imaging, and heterochrony in African bovids in relation to ecology. She plans to apply

what she learns from her study on the extant samples to interpret behavioral and habitat styles of selected fossil taxa. Recently Alan Gishlick has joined our group of graduate students. Alan is interested in the patterns and processes of faunal turnover in the Permian and the Triassic.

John Ostrom as curator emeritus continues to give lectures and write papers. Elizabeth Vrba is continuing her analyses of new fossil antelope material from the Middle Awash in the eastern African Rift in Ethiopia. The work includes basic systematic description of many new species and some new genera. She has also continued her analyses of African mammal turnover during the Neogene. We are looking forward to the arrival next year of a new faculty member in vertebrate paleontology, Jacques Gauthier. Mary Ann Turner reports that the division office is moving this spring so there may be minor interruptions in services. The address remains the same. (Gerry Parisi)

Midwest Region

Cincinnati Museum of Natural History and Science

VP returns to Cincinnati with the appointment of Glenn Storrs as Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History and Science and Adjunct Professor in the University of Cincinnati Department of Geology. After a history spanning 175 years that includes an important role in explorations at Big Bone Lick, Kentucky, vertebrate paleontology at CMNHS is once again on a firm footing. The recently completed transfer of the UC vertebrate collection to the Museum gives Cincinnati the largest collection in the Lower Ohio Valley (ca. 20,000) and makes us a major research and educational resource for the tristate region. Past luminaries associated with the collection include Ken Caster, Don Baird, Richard Davis, and Greg McDonald. We particularly thank Greg for initiating the transfer of the UC collection to the Museum.

Our biggest news is the recent merger of CMNHS with the Cincinnati History Museum and the Cincinnati Museum Center Foundation, our sister organizations at Cincinnati Museum Center. We are now in a far stronger position with the local community and a new planetarium and I-Max theater is planned for the combined entity. All exhibits are housed at Cincinnati Union Terminal, a 1931 Art Deco masterpiece listed on the National Historic Register, while on-going renovations have transformed our 53,000 sq ft former exhibits building into the Frederick and Amey Geier Collections and Research Center, complete with research labs, offices, and collection areas.

Glenn Storrs continues his activities and research on plesiosaurs, stem-group Sauropterygia, and crocodiles. Glenn maintains his Research Associate status at the University of Bristol, UK, and spent the summer at Mike Benton's lab, visiting European collections, and in the field. New collections were made from the Bristol Channel Rhaetian bonebeds and Frances Mussett of University College London transferred bulk samples of bonebed and Welsh fissure-fill material to the Bristol and Cincinnati collections. The Cincinnati material includes 20 teeth of *Morganucodon*. Glenn and Mike again joined Vitaly Ochev (Saratov State University) and Peter Tchudinov (Moscow) for

a month of productive explorations in the Permo-Triassic of the Pre-Urals and the Tithonian marine sediments of the Volga. Glenn has papers in press on fossil record quality (with Mike B.), *Plesiosaurus dolichodeirus, "P." hawkinsi* (with Mike Taylor), a new pliosaur discovery in Wiltshire (with Danny Grange and others) and the probable choristodere *Pachystropheus* (with Dave Gower and Nick Large).

Adjunct Research Associate Ken Ford (MSU) continues his work on our Rancholabrean cave fauna near Findlay, Ohio. This site is apparently the most diverse such accumulation in the Great Lakes Basin. Ken once again supervised the Cincinnati internship program at Indian Trail Caverns and collected numerous new specimens of *Platygonus compressus* and a multitude of microvertebrates, including herps. Ken and Al Holman (MSU) have prepared several papers on the herps and fish from the site, while Greg McDonald (Hagerman Fossil Beds) and Russ and Mary Ann Graham (Illinois State Museum) continue their respective researches on the cave's *Arctodus,* shrews, and mustelids, respectively.

Bob Rolfes, leader of our "White Mice" program (student volunteers in VP) has left the museum for gainful employment, but continues to be an active supporter of our efforts. Undaunted, students continue to volunteer their time and are making good progress sorting cave concentrate and preparing specimens. Bob and his son Matt joined Glenn in a reconnaissance of the old Linton coal spoils and recovered numerous *Orthacanthus* and *Rhabdoderma* fossils as well as some fragmentary amphibians (? *Colotestues*). An Ohio Biological Survey grant will allow the collection of large quantities of the fossiliferous cannel coal over the next year.

We welcome Tamaki Sato to the graduate program at UC. Tamaki has relocated from Tokyo to study Japanese plesiosaurs and marine reptile bone histology with Glenn. As a museum adjunct, she will help with our cataloging, computerization, and preparation efforts as of next term.

CMNHS has worked hard to maintain its links with local collectors and professionals in the Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana areas. We expect that these links will strengthen and expand in the coming year, particularly through our outreach, volunteer, and internship programs. It is hoped that the museum can become a clearinghouse for information on specimens and expertise in the region.

We welcome all VPers to visit our resurgent program when in the area and familiarize themselves with this new resource. The collection includes a large Pleistocene component, particularly materials from Indian Trail Caverns and Big Bone Lick, but also has significant Devonian and Carboniferous holdings, as well as a sizable selection of tetrapod trackways. We also ask that colleagues send their reprints to us for inclusion in our growing VP library. Donations of representative fossils and casts, with or without data, for the exhibit and teaching collections are particularly welcome. (Glenn Storrs)

Fort Hays State University

Since our last report in June of '94, Kenshu Shimada defended his thesis on *Cretoxyrhina* and is now in the Ph.D. program at the University of Illinois-Chicago working with Dave Bardack. Susie Fishman, an undergraduate, is working with Kenshu and Chris Fielitz of KU on *Enchodus* projects. Michelle David continues to look at the schmelzmuster in *Ptychodus* while Michelle Darnell is measuring horse material from the Minium Quarry, and Rob Richards is still deciding a thesis problem. Steve Wallace (Bowling Green) and Joe Beamon (William and Mary) have joined us this fall as new VP students.

Greg Liggett also defended his thesis on the Bekerdite local biota (Miocene, Clark County, Kans.) and has joined the museum staff as an administrative assistant. He is busy with various projects involving our move to the new museum facilities. Greg and I received a grant from the NPS for a geological/paleontological survey of the Cimmarron National Grasslands in extreme southwestern Kansas. A small Miocene fauna has been collected from a gravel pit on the grasslands. Camel is the most abundant taxon. (Rick Zakrzewski)

Illinois State Museum

Russ Graham spent about ten days with Blaine Schubert, Dusty Schubert, and Rick Toomey excavating in Little Beaver Cave near Rolla, Missouri. A portion of this terminal Pleistocene fauna will form the basis for Blaine's master's thesis at Northern Arizona University under Jim Mead. Work this summer provided important insights into the means of deposition and other taphonomic pathways. The faunal record is rich and will provide critical data on terminal Pleistocene environments in this part of the Ozarks.

In August, Russ returned to Rideout Island in the Bathurst Inlet, NWT, Canada, to monitor caribou skeletons which have been exposed since 1987. He also continued his work with wolf dens in the area about 200 mi north of Yellowknife. Both projects were supported by a grant from the National Geographic Society. This summer Russ collected bones from six wolf dens on the tundra. They will provide important comparative data for other dens that have been collected at tree line. The tundra was alive with caribou and muskox this summer.

In the spring Russ attended a NATO workshop in Crieff, Scotland, which focused on the potential impacts of global warming on terrestrial ecosystems. Russ has contributed a paper on "Spatial Response of Mammals to Quaternary Climate Changes" which will appear in the proceedings of the workshop. Paul Parmalee and Russ have completed a paper on giant beavers in the Southeast. Russ has also submitted a paper on the significance of paleontological resources in caves to the *Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy Digest*. Finally, Russ, Ernie Lundelius, and other FAUNMAPers have completed a manuscript on the analysis of the FAUNMAP database as it relates to mammal community evolution, provinciality, and environmental heterogeneity.

Rick Toomey has taken a new position at the Illinois State Museum as Internet Specialist for an Illinois State Board of Education project entitled Museums in the Classroom. He is working with 25 schools throughout the state, helping them design WWW projects using

museum resources. As one of the webmasters for the ISM WWW site, he has continued to work on developing online exhibits which feature information on late Quaternary environments of the Midwest (http://www.museum.state.il.us). With the other 40 hours of his work week, Rick continues his work with Quaternary vertebrates. Much of this work is focusing on bats. He has been extremely active examining paleontological deposits with the National Park Service in the caves at Mammoth Cave National Park. Rick will be presenting a paper on the importance of fossils from caves in environmental studies at the AAAS 1996 annual meeting. (Russ Graham and Rick Toomey)

Michigan State University

Ken Ford's discovery of an antler projectile point in stratigraphic context in the ca. 11,700 BP Sheriden Pit vertebrate site, northwestern Ohio, has made this already significant site in the Great Lakes basin even more important. Ken will be submitting his dissertation on the vertebrate fauna and its paleoecology for June graduation.

Shawn Clothier has submitted his dissertation proposal on "Resolving Evolutionary Relationships of Modern and Ancient Proboscideans Through Protein and Gene Sequence Homologies" to his graduate committee. Shawn is working under the supervision of Peggy Ostrom of the Department of Geological Sciences here at MSU.

Carl Doney expects to submit his dissertation on a large Arikareean herpetofauna from western Nebraska for June graduation. Thus far, the site appears to be a unique assemblage of "archaic" and "modern" herp taxa.

Al Holman is writing a book on the vertebrate life of the provinces and states surrounding the Great Lakes for the Michigan State University Press. Al will be visiting Tijs Van Klofshotten in Leiden in May to study Netherlands Pleistocene herps and David Harrison in Sevenoaks to study Eocene snakes in August. Both projects are funded by the National Geographic Society.

Our dinosaur activities, centered around the "Dinosaurs--A Global View" exhibition, were very successful. The exhibit drew large numbers of people from September 24 to year's end and we hate to see it go. We had full attendance for all of the speakers and we are sincerely grateful to all of these VPs. (Al Holman)

University of Chicago

Paul Sereno reports on the recent expedition to Morocco: "As gruelling as rewarding, two months climbing the desert cliffs of the Kem Kem resulted in some major finds by Paul Sereno and crew, which included graduate students Jeff Wilson, Hans Larsson, Chris Sidor, Paul Magwene, and colleagues Jim Hopson, Hans-Dieter Sues, Dave Varricchio, Didier Dutheil, Gabrielle Lyon, and Marie-Sophie Cornier, as well as several Moroccan colleagues.

"In addition to abundant microvertebrate remains that help establish a continental African fauna of Cenomanian age, the fossils also include a skeleton of an unusually gracile tentanuran theropod and the huge skull of a closely related form. These new dinosaur remains will at last shed light on the tantalizing remains discovered early this century in contemporary beds in Egypt but destroyed in WWII. Also, well-preserved bony fishes and soft-bodied crustaceans were recovered. Abundant deep dinosaur footprints add to geologic evidence that the sandstones and mudstones that precede the Cenomanian-Turonian transgression in the Kem Kem represent a deltaic deposit."

Eric Lombard together with John Bolt (Field Museum, Chicago) and Jenny Clack (University Museum, Cambridge) are very pleased to see PRESERVE up and running in its initial demonstration mode. PRESERVE is a relational data base for taxa, morphological characters, and observations on states of these characters, along with supporting information for (at present) Paleozoic tetrapods. Currently, the available data include records for over 600 taxa, 600 characters, and 6,200 observations of character states, plus supporting tables that contain over 2,800 bibliographic references, 100 localities, and 100 organizations. PRESERVE is also an interface to that data and so provides users with tools for the custom assembly of systematic information as well as data manipulation through the production of PAUP-ready, downloadable matrix files in NEXUS format. Because it is online, it provides a locus where the data may be retrieved no matter what type computer is in use, and irrespective of geographical location as long as an Internet connection is available.

Looking to the future, Eric, John, and Jenny, in collaboration with software designers and programmers at the University of Chicago, will be working to have PRESERVE support the editing of data, collegial sharing of unpublished working data, and collaboration on new data without prior paper publication. Bob Carroll (McGill University, Montréal), Mike Morales (Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff), and Robert Reisz (University of Toronto, Mississauga) have joined in the big effort to include all published characters and character state observations in the data base. The intention is to have PRESERVE become a global, interactive work site and publication medium where complete systematic data on early tetrapod evolution may be found. If any aspect of this project is of interest, you are encouraged to contact any of us through the PRESERVE Web site: http://www.bsd.uchicago.edu:80/Staff/bart/PRESERVE.

Jim Hopson has been busy with projects on early mammals. He is working with John Wible and Guillermo Rougier on a description of the ear region of *Priacodon fruitaensis*, a triconodontid collected by George Callison from the Morrison Formation at Fruita, Colo. He is also preparing a reinterpretation of the peculiar molar morphology of the "therian" mammal *Shuotherium dongi* from the Jurassic of China. This form has been confused with docodontids and, conversely, docodontids have been confused with it. As part of this project, Jim is studying the intrafamilial relationships of the five adequately-known genera of docodontids. Jim's project with graduate student Chris Sidor on the presumed therapsids described by E. C. Olson from the Early Permian of Texas is nearing completion.

Laura Panko is continuing to study the backbone in extant terrestrial quadrupeds and fossil synapsids. Preliminary exploratory statistical analyses of morphometric data from vertebrae of cat, monitor lizard, crocodile, and the Triassic cynodont *Diademondon* have yielded results with interesting functional implications. She is also reanalyzing data from her project on the manus and pes of *Cotylorhynchus romeri*. (Jim Hopson)

University of Louisville

Somehow, it has been nearly two years since the last contribution. Chief among the new projects undertaken by John Wible since then is a major collaborative effort with an international team at the American Museum of Natural History, including Mike Novacek, Malcolm McKenna, and Guillermo Rougier among others, to describe and evaluate Cretaceous mammals from Mongolia. Given the number, quality, and completeness of specimens of multituberculates and therians, this long-term project will have a significant impact on our understanding of the evolution of Mesozoic mammals. Just published (*American Museum Novitates,* 3149) is a paper describing one specimen, a petrosal from the Mongolian Early Cretaceous, which has already doubled our knowledge of mammalian ear anatomy from this time period.

In a different direction, another major effort undertaken by John is the chairmanship of SVP's Development Committee, the fund-raising arm of the Society. Along with his fellow committee members, John would like to personally thank each and every contributor for their (continued, we hope) support. (John Wible)

University of Michigan, Museum of Paleontology

Jerry Smith is happily returning to work on the Glenns Ferry fish fauna and its significance, having been stimulated by the recent *USGS Professional Paper* that concludes that fish are less important than mammals as evidence for past connections of Pliocene lakes and rivers. The Taunton and White Bluffs fish faunas collected by Neil and James Morgan in Washington are going to provide important evidence on the Pliocene hydrography of the Columbia, Snake, Klamath, and Sacramento systems.

David Polly is trying to figure out what is going on with Wasatchian viverravid carnivores and is deathly afraid that he is going to have to synonymize five time-honored species of *Viverravus* as one...if anyone has any objections to this union, speak now or forever hold your peace. David will be teaching his evolution and extinction course for the last time during the winter 1996 semester.

Mark Uhen anticipates finishing his doctoral thesis on *Prozeuglodon* in the spring and has started some work on North American archaeocetes in his spare time. Will Clyde continues his studies of McCullough Peaks depositional history and mammalian faunas. Jon Bloc has completed his master's thesis and is now beginning to prepare for preliminary exams. David Fox successfully completed his prelims and is continuing his studies of North American Miocene faunas, particularly proboscideans.

Catherine Badgley, Philip Gingerich, and Serge Legendre are nearing completion of their study of mammalian body size. Catherine will be traveling to Pakistan in the spring to continue her work on Siwalik sedimentary systems. Phil has finished several papers recently including a study of sexual dimorphism in earliest Eocene *Cantius,* a paper on *Coryphodon* with Mark Uhen, and descriptions of several new cetaceans and sirenians from the middle Eocene of Pakistan with Muhammad Arif, Akran Bhatti, Hilal A. Raza, S. Mahmood Raza, and Will Clyde.

Gregg Gunnell is slowly getting caught up after his trip (with David Polly, Jon Bloch, and Will Clyde) to Kazakhstan in the early fall. We spent four weeks working in the early-late Cretaceous near the Aral Sea in west-central Kazakhstan with Elena G. Kordikova and several other colleagues from Kazakstan. Papers are now in preparation concerning the stratigraphy of the Aral Sea region and a short description of the vertebrates collected during our investigations. Meanwhile, Gregg has turned his attention to examination of the collections made from the Oregon Butte area in southern Wyoming last summer. Gregg, along with Bill Bartels and Beth Strasser, led a small group into this area for a short time in July and the results were quite promising. Among the more interesting discoveries were several good specimens of *Absarokius* and *Didymicitis*. (Gregg F. Gunnell)

Southwest Region

New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, Albuquerque

Thomas E. Williamson and crew from the NMMNH&S spent the summer looking at Upper Cretaceous and lower Paleocene rocks of the San Juan Basin, northwestern New Mexico. During the summer, Tom led a crew to the Navajo Nation and was able to relocate the site where a partial skeleton of a small tyrannosaurid was collected illegally several years ago. The specimen probably represents a subadult *Albertosaurus*. More of the tyrannosaurid was collected in May including an articulated series of caudal vertebrae. The entire specimen now resides at the NMMNH&S and is undergoing further preparation. Later in the summer, Tom and a crew from the NMMNH&S were accompanied by Bob Sullivan from the State Museum of Pennsylvania. While working in the Kirtland Formation exposed in the De-Na-Zin Wilderness Area, Bob found a nearly complete skull of a long-crested *Parasaurolophus*. The specimen was collected and is now being prepared. The crest is probably more complete than that of the type of *P. walkeri*, making it the most complete crest known for this rare lambeosaurine hadrosaur. Tom and Bob are currently planning to describe the new specimen and revise the genus. A CT-scan of the skull is scheduled for January.

Spencer G. Lucas spent part of another summer in Kazakhstan looking primarily at early Tertiary deposits and fossils. Spencer has also been involved with numerous other projects. Spencer, Tom, Pete Reser, and a small crew from the NMMNH&S recently returned from a December collecting trip to southern New Mexico. They collected ceratopsian material from the Upper Cretaceous (Lancian?) McRae Formation including well-preserved skull and postcranial elements of a large "chasmosaurine," probably

Torosaurus. This is the best ceratopsian material ever collected from the McRae Formation.

Gary Morgan and Paul Sealey continued their field work on Hemphillian and Blancan sites in the Gila River Basin in southwestern New Mexico. This year's field work produced several partial skulls and jaws of the horses *Astrohippus* and *Dinohippus* from the late Hemphillian Walnut Canyon fauna and additional samples of rodents, birds, and frogs from the medial Blancan Buckhorn fauna. Gary and Spencer Lucas, along with several geologists from the New Mexico Bureau of Mines, are working on *Bison* fossils from a gravel pit near Socorro in central New Mexico that may represent one of the oldest well-dated *Bison* samples in North America. The fossils occur less than 1 m above a volcanic ash bed tentatively dated at 600 ka. The Bureau of Mines geologists are currently working on Ar/Ar dates and geochemistry of the ash and we should have more definitive results soon.

Pete Reser is overhauling a mount of the dicynodont *Placerias* from the Petrified Forest National Monument. Among other things, the limbs of the mount are being reset into a more realistic pose. FossilWorks, our paleontology preparation lab exhibit has been up and running since July. All 736 sq ft are devoted to the preparation of vertebrate fossils. Most of that room is now being occupied by *Seismosaurus*. Over 20 volunteers are currently working in the exhibit. The exhibit is now being staffed seven days a week. So far, it has been a tremendous success.

Ancheng Ma has finished field work in the early Eocene (Wasatchian) San Jose Formation. He is almost finished picking concentrate and is now sorting and identifying his mammalian microfaunas. He is having a lot of fun trying to identify some curious "insectivores."

Andrew Heckert is writing his master's thesis on the Fort Wingate faunas from the late Triassic (Carnian) Bluewater Creek Formation, Chinle Group of west- central New Mexico.

The NMMNH&S recently published two bulletins of interest to vertebrate paleontologists: Long, R. A., and P. A. Murry, 1995, Late Triassic (Carnian and Norian) tetrapods from the southwestern United States, *NMMNH&S Bulletin* 4, 254 pp.; and Lucas, S. G., and A. B. Heckert (eds.), 1995, Early Permian footprints and facies, *NMMNH&S Bulletin* 6, 301 pp. Each is $40 plus $5 postage and handling ($7 for overseas postage). Make checks payable to "NMMNH Foundation" and send to: Nature Works, New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, 1801 Mountain Road NW, Albuquerque NM 87104.

In January we are beginning the process of moving the NMMNH&S paleontology collections into a more spacious facility located across the street from the main museum building. Because of the impending move, the paleontology research collections will be closed to visitors for all of 1996. If you have special research needs we may be able to accomodate you, but please contact us well in advance so we can determine if the fossils

you want to study are available. We will not actually start moving fossils until the "new" building is renovated, hopefully in April, but we plan to begin packing specimens in late January or early February. The "new" facility will have considerably more floor space than our current collection area, with expansion room for the existing mobile compactor system and for shelving units to store large fossils. This extra storage space is a necessity as the NMMNH&S has recently acquired the large paleontology collection, including both vertebrate and invertebrate fossils, from the New Mexico Bureau of Mines in Socorro. The new collection building also includes three offices for collection management staff, computer equipment, locality files, maps, etc. The preparation lab, casting lab, and curators' offices and labs will stay in the main museum building for the time being, although the long-range plan is to move the entire paleontology research program into the fully renovated collection facility. (Tom Williamson and Gary Morgan)

Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, University of Oklahoma

Work is proceeding at a breakneck pace on planning, designing, and constructing exhibits for the new museum building. The exhibits devoted to vertebrate paleontology are being developed mostly by Don Savage, Beth Larson, Kyle Davies, and Don Burroughs. They are receiving much appreciated aid from Bill May and his small crew of volunteers, especially Dick Hazlin. As this is being written, bids have been let for construction of the new building. If all goes well, groundbreaking and construction are to begin in February 1996.

Rich Cifelli spent another summer in Utah, directing a crew searching for Lower Cretaceous mammals and other vertebrates in the Cedar Mountain Formation. As usual, large amounts of matrix were quarried and screened, and additional new material was uncovered of a large crocodilian and an early ?hadrosaur and ?tyrannosaurid. Closer to home, we have begun screenwashing Early Cretaceous matrix from southeastern Oklahoma for small vertebrates. This is our first locality in the Antlers Formation to be productive of the small critters, so far including sharks, amphibians, turtles, dinosaurs, lizards, crocodilians, and even a couple of mammal teeth.

Dan Brinkman took a leave of absence from Yale University during the fall '95 semester to work on our *Tenontosaurus* specimens and on other topics related to his dissertation. He also accompanied us on field trips to the Antlers Formation sites, visited other museums in the region to examine specimens, and kindly gave his time as an unofficial consultant on aspects of our new dinosaur exhibits. Some of Dan's time was spent preparing a *Tenontosaurus* partial skeleton and postcranial elements of a small dromaeosaur. The dromaeosaur postcranials represent the first such elements to be found in Oklahoma; Dan has tentatively identified them as belonging to *Deinonychus*.

Randy Nydam has been busy teaching gross anatomy labs for the Department of Zoology, finishing up his coursework, and making progress on his dissertation work on phylogeny and functional morphology of Cretaceous lizards. He presented a poster at the annual meeting in Pittsburgh. A paper on a helodermatid-like platynotan from the Cedar Mountain Formation by Cifelli and Nydam appeared earlier this year in *Herpetologica*.

In addition to teaching and managing the other lab assistants for comparative vertebrate anatomy, Kent Smith passed his general exams and is excited to move on to his dissertation research mostly on mid-Miocene micromammals of the Monarch Mill Formation near Middlegate, Nev. (where he spent a few weeks last summer doing field work). Meantime, Kent is also trying to finish a review of Quaternary vertebrates of Oklahoma. (Nick Czaplewski)

Shuler Museum of Paleontology, Southern Methodist University

Louis Jacobs, Dale Winkler, and postdoc Yuong-Nam Lee traveled to Beijing in August to present papers at the Sixth Symposium on Mesozoic Terrestrial Ecosystems. Work on Cretaceous vertebrates from Texas continues, including the first detailed exploration of the Late Cretaceous (Cenomanian) Woodbine Formation (Jacobs) and histology and population studies of the Proctor Lake ornithopods (Early Cretaceous; Winkler). Both projects are funded by the Dinosaur Society. Recent discoveries, including a Cenomanian hadrosaur skull, are highlighted in the exhibit "Lone Star Dinosaurs." This traveling exhibit, produced by the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, opened in conjunction with the release of Louis' book of the same name by Texas A & M Press. The book and exhibit feature original artwork by Karen Carr.

Bonnie Jacobs continues her paleobotanical work on middle to late Miocene sites in the Tugen Hills of central Kenya. The fossil sites consist of leaf and fruit assemblages; study of fossil wood assemblages began recently. A major project begun this fall focuses on a study of modern leaves and climate at plant communities across equatorial Africa. The aim is to document the statistical relationships among leaf characters and climate variables so that paleoclimate can be derived from fossil leaf assemblages.

Alisa Winkler continues her research on African small mammals. She is currently studying (funded in part by the Leakey Foundation) middle Miocene rodents from Maboko Island, Kenya. Maboko includes the earliest African record of cricetid rodents of modern aspect. Research has just begun on a probable raptor accumulation of small vertebrates at Kanapoi, a spectacular early Pliocene hominid locality in northern Kenya. A paper on Miocene-Pliocene rodents from the Manonga Valley, Tanzania, is in press in a volume edited by T. Harrison.

Preparation led by Vicki Yarborough continues for exhibit of the *Acrocanthosaurus* skeleton from Hobson Ranch, Parker County, Tex., and on the Proctor Lake dinosaurs. Vicki gave a talk on preparation of the *Acrocanthosaurus* skeleton at the SVP meetings, and she also assisted in molding and casting of the Cenomanian hadrosaur skull.

Graduate students Xu Xiaofeng and Yuong-Nam Lee completed their Ph.D.s in May 1995--Xiaofeng on the phylogeny and biogeography of Castoridae, and Yuong-Nam on mid-Cretaceous archosaurs from Texas. Xiaofeng, L. Jacobs, and A. Winkler have a paper in press in the Churcher festschrift analyzing the taxonomic relationships of *Acomys,* the spiny mouse, using morphometric techniques. Yuong-Nam has a paper in press (*JVP*) describing a new nodosaur from the Paw Paw Formation (late Albian),

Texas. He continues study of archosaurs and mammals of the Woodbine Formation. Yuong-Nam recently submitted a paper on the archosaurs to the *Journal of Paleontology* describing a new mesosuchian crocodile, and nodosaurid and hadrosaur remains. The latter represent the oldest hadrosaurs east of the Western Interior Seaway. Yuong-Nam is also working on Woodbine dinosaur footprints.

We welcome new graduate students Jason Head from Michigan and Jerry Harris from Colorado. During the summer and early fall, Jason prepared and reconstructed the Cenomanian hadrosaur skull for the "Lone Star Dinosaurs" exhibit. Jason presented his research on Miocene trionychid turtles from Pakistan at the SVP meetings, and is one of the new graduate student representatives to the Executive Committee of the SVP.

Jerry is awaiting publication of a paper describing dinosaur footprints from the Morrison Formation (late Jurassic) of Garden Park, Colo. (for a GSA special volume). He has recently submitted two papers, one on some unusual functionally four-toed theropod footprints from the Maastrichtian of Wyoming (to *Cretaceous Research*) and the other on new large pterosaurs from Garden Park (to *Neues Jahrbuch*). Jerry has received a grant from the Dallas Paleontological Society to prospect land adjacent to Dinosaur Valley State Park for new localities.

Elizabeth Gomani continues study of the Early Cretaceous fauna of Malawi, Africa, which includes dinosaurs, crocodiles, frogs, and fishes. She is currently revising a paper for *JVP* on the "mammal-toothed" crocodile from this fauna. Elizabeth is finishing preparation of the dinosaurs which were shipped to Dallas last year from Malawi, courtesy of the Dinosaur Society and American Airlines. She will study the dinosaurs for her dissertation. (Alisa Winkler and Jerry Harris)

University of Arizona, Arizona State Museum

I joined the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University in 1945 at the invitation of Al Romer. Eventually I ended up here at the University of Arizona 20 years ago. Next year, after the fall semester ends, I will retire although I will maintain my office in the Arizona State Museum and will continue with my animal domestication research.

It has been a most pleasant lifetime of work and I now join many friends who have also retired to less hectic years of research with no teaching duties. (Stanley J. Olsen)

Rocky Mountain Region

Denver Museum of Natural History

Life in the Earth Sciences Department of the museum has quieted down somewhat now that the new exhibit "Prehistoric Journey" has opened. The opening coincided with other events hosted by the museum including "A Symposium on the Evolution and Ecology of Life on Earth," which was a big success.

Richard Stucky, the former curator of vertebrate paleontology and department head, has moved up the ranks to his new position as chief curator of the museum. His new duties, however, will not take him away from his research interests in paleoecology. Lisa Torick is filling in for Richard as curatorial assistant until the end of August, and will work with him researching the fossils collected in Wyoming's Bridger Basin. (Kirk Johnson, curator of paleobotany, is serving as acting department head until a replacement for Richard is hired. The department will also be looking to hire a new curator.)

Congratulations are in order to Ken Carpenter for successfully defending his doctoral dissertation. Bryan Small has submitted a grant proposal to the Dinosaur Society for research on Triassic dinosaurs. Logan Ivy, the collections manager, taught his second semester of collections management at CU Boulder. Madeline Harrell, one of our department associates, is currently a staff member working nights to oversee volunteers preparing fossils in the lab. Mechelle Martinez continues to work on the collections as the last of the collections improvement grant appointments. John Foster, a former graduate assistant on the grant, is a Ph.D. student at Boulder, and teaching a course on dinosaur identifications for the certification program here at the museum. Jennifer Snyder, the former assistant collections manager for the collections improvement grant has just been hired as the new office manager for the department since Karen Arnedo vacated the position. Karen has moved to the chief curator's office along with Richard. (Lisa Torick)

Idaho Museum of Natural History

For Bill Akersten, the past year has been dominated by the Tolo Lake Mammoth Site near Grangeville in northern Idaho. Our hoped-for major sources of funding fell through but we managed to piece together enough for a pretty good joint effort (supervised by Sue Miller) among ourselves, the Idaho State Historical Society, and the University of Idaho. Our parent institution, Idaho State University (ISU), came through with $25,000. As we expected from what we found last fall, this is a major mammoth treasure trove with a modest amount of *Bison antiquus* and at least one smaller, as yet unidentified, artiodactyl. Because we were only given a year to excavate, we started as early as possible and went as late as possible. So, of course, we had record spring and fall rains which turned about a meter of black muck overlying the lake beds into something resembling greasy chocolate pudding; even four-wheel drives on level ground would sit and spin after only a quarter inch of rain. Needless to say, excavating in a lake bottom under such conditions was draining (even though the excavation wasn't). We recovered more than 450 large bones including most of one very large bull Columbian mammoth, parts of the front limbs of a much smaller but mature (Wooly?) mammoth and numerous isolated or semiassociated bones of at least six more mammoths and three *Bison* from a fraction of 1% of the lake bottom. Preservation of most bones is exquisite with excellent surface detail. Washing for microfauna has been disappointing but we still have a lot of concentrate to sort. Because we managed to demonstrate that the lake is a major paleontologic site, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (owner of the lake) is working with us on a plan to dike off one end of the lake to allow continuing excavations while the rest is flooded for recreational purposes.

Jeff Meldrum of the ISU Department of Biological Sciences with Michael Plavcan (New York Institute of Technology) and Allen Tedrow (IMNH) instituted a research program on middle to late Eocene deposits in the intramountain basins of southwestern Montana. They collected quite a lot of good material at Pipestone Springs and McCarty's Mountain and presented a paper on the Mantle Ranch local fauna at the Rocky Mountain GSA meetings this past spring. While at the Pittsburgh SVP meetings they took the opportunity to study and mold pertinent specimens in the Carnegie Museum collections. Jeff has even gotten his feet wet in the local Pleistocene. He and Mary Flint responded to a report that a new trench at the American Falls landfill was yielding bones. They made a pretty nice collection even though many had been "altered" by heavy equipment. Jeff narrowly escaped serious injury when a face of the trench collapsed, shattering the fiberglass handle of a shovel he was holding. (Bill Akersten)

Garden Park Paleontology Society dba Dinosaur Depot, Cañon City, Colorado

By the time this article is read Dinosaur Depot will have been in operation for six months. Officially we are Garden Park Paleontology Society dba (doing business as) Dinosaur Depot and business has been good. Although our visitation slowed somewhat after mid-September, it has kept a steady pace. As of the first three months we had over 10,000 visitors from all 50 states and over 15 foreign countries. We are anticipating a busy year come next spring. To prepare for this there are now three full-time staff members: depot manager, administrative assistant, and preparator, as well as part-time bookkeeper, sales, and admissions help. At this time about 45 volunteers also make up a valuable part of the staff. The *Stegosaurus* body jacket, on loan to us from the Denver Museum of Natural History, is still in preparation and viewable to the public, one of the few in the world. Recently, another Jurassic mammal partial palate was found within the *Stegosaurus* body jacket which contains a micro site. As yet there is not positive identification, as this is still in preparation by Donna Engard, a graduate of the paleontology certification program of the Denver Museum of Natural History. The Bureau of Land Management continues to be supportive of paleontological resources in the Garden Park Fossil Area. They recently purchased the Marsh Quarry from private hands and it is now consolidated within other public lands there. There are new outdoor exhibits at the Dinosaur Depot such as a full-sized *Allosaurus* replica made by David Thomas and donated to GPPS. Along with a grant and assistant of the US Forest Service, a replica dinosaur trackway made with molds from the one in Picket Wire Track Site, is now in place outside as well. I encourage SVP members to come and visit this unique Jurassic interpretive facility. From September 15 to May 14 we are open 10-5 Wednesday through Sunday, and seven days a week from mid-May to mid-September. For information you may call the Depot at 1-800-987-6379 or fax us at 1-719-269-7227. Come see us! (Pat Monaco)

Department of Geology, Sheridan College, Sheridan, Wyoming

The past fall field season has been an active one for the Department of Geology. New quarry mapping and site location methods have been started with the help of the college's Physics Department. Faculty within the department are using reference markers

throughout the Sheridan College Sauropod Quarry. The program was developed to help with accurately locating excavation sites using Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology. This method of relocating fossil sites will add needed information at a higher accuracy.

Our field research program has changed a good deal over the active fall season--the Geology Museum now has a small grants program for students and staff which has promoted additional travel, field equipment, and additional storage areas.

Ed Jordan and several volunteers discovered the partially articulated remains of two sauropods from the north end of Fire Side Quarry. The real excitement occurred the last week of the season: a partially articulated skeleton of *Ceratosaurus* located in the upper half of the Morrison Formation along the western edge of the Powder River Basin. The excavation will continue with the start of the 1996 field season.

Mike Flynn and Bill Matterson continue their research on the biostratigraphy and paleogeographic setting of Morrison and Cloverly formations in the Big Horn Basin. Field visits were made throughout the fall to various sites in the Powder River and Big Horn basins. (Mike Flynn)

University of Wyoming

Jay Lillegraven is enjoying a year-long sabbatical leave, constructing new geologic maps and cross sections of the very strange Laramide setting that characterizes the northern rim of Wyoming's Hanna Basin. He and three of his students will be presenting results of the research on the paleontology and tectonics of the Hanna Basin at the April meeting of the Rocky Mountain GSA in Rapid City. Along with structural geologist Arthur W. Snoke, Jay will co-lead a GSA field trip to that basin just prior to the national meeting in Denver this October. The focus of the three-day tour will be paleogeography, by linking Upper Cretaceous-Paleogene VP with great surprises in the nature of local Laramide deformation.

Jean-Pierre Cavigelli spent much time and effort this summer tracking down missing and outstanding loans. He thanks all those of you who responded to his inquiries and returned specimens, some of which had been out for 15 to 20 years. After a procrastination period of 20 years, JP has finally learned how to use a computer, and has been busy cleaning up our VP database. Much work still needs to be done on it, but the database is now up and running. JP is also moonlighting doing prep work on some small South African dinosaur material for Cathy Forster.

Ross Secord is nearing completion of his thesis and plans to defend in February. He has managed to constrain the ages of two episodes of Laramide deformation in the Carbon Basin using mammalian biostratigraphy. It is now apparent that Simpson Ridge anticline formed in the Puercan or Torrejonian, and was not significantly affected by late Paleocene or early Eocene tectonism.

Anton Wroblewski continues to pound away on his master's thesis. In addition to the lower vertebrate paleontology and sedimentology of the Ferris Formation, Anton is now tackling such geological issues as subsidence and sedimentation rates of the western Hanna Basin during the Late Cretaceous and early Tertiary. This means he gets to run around in the field collecting paleocurrent data and measuring sand grains ALL winter long!!! Dad (Frank) Wroblewski helps in the field and keeps the police from hauling away young Anton.

Mike Leite has returned to Laramie after a temporary position teaching geology and paleontology at Texas A & M University in Corpus Christi. He found that experience challenging and enjoyable, but is glad to be back in Wyoming. Mike is now keeping busy at various consulting projects, including oil-field geology and paleontological clearance for development of public lands. And he has recently been involved in redesigning signs and labels in the UW Geological Museum. (Brent Breithaupt)

West Coast Region

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Borrego Springs, California

While hiding inside from the record 120+ temperatures this summer, George Jefferson finished writing several Colorado Desert District (CDD) policy and management documents. The CDD now has an official "Paleontologic Resources and Collections Management Policy." The "Paleontologic Resources Inventory and Management Recommendations, Indio Hills Project" provides management guidelines for a state park badlands area northeast of the Salton Sea that has produced an extensive late Miocene marine fauna and Irvingtonian terrestrial vertebrates. Also to come off the printer this summer is a new "Paleontology Certification Training Program Curriculum and Lectures." The volume includes 40 hours of lectures, workshops, and field training exercises.

Jefferson and George McDaniel devoted considerable time to design plans, furnishings, specifications, and cost estimates for the paleontology wing of the CDD's new Resources Building.

John White, Tucson, spent a day combing the collections with Lyn Murray. John is presently working on Blancan and Irvingtonian heteromyids. And Michael Cassiliano, having finished his dissertation on the "Paleoecology and Taphonomy of Vertebrate Faunas from the Anza-Borrego Desert of California," has deposited the database for the measured and described members of the Palm Spring Formation on file in the Stout Paleontology Laboratory archinves.

While on sabbatical leave this summer, Lyn spent time with Chris Bell at Berkeley putting the final polish on their "peccary paper." Lyn followed up with a trip to New Mexico. Lyn is back and busy compiling field locality data for the production of a digital GIS layer. The first data set, about 90 aerial photograph-recorded localities from Coyote Canyon, is being processed by the Department's Graphic Services in Sacramento.

Lyn, George Jefferson, and Paul Remeika compiled a new and thoroughly researched "Fossil Vertebrate Faunal List for the Vallecito-Fish Creek and Borrego-San Felipe Basins, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and Vicinity, California." The list, which includes 215 taxa, appeared in "Paleontology and Geology of the Western Salton Trough Detachment, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, California," edited by P. Remeika and A. Sturz, for the 1995 San Diego Association of Geologists Field Trip Guidebook.

Needless to say, Paul has been busy compiling and editing the above guidebook volume. This major undertaking represents the first comprehensive treatment of Anza-Borrego's paleontology and geology. Other contributions include "A Diverse Record of Microfossils and Fossil Plants, Invertebrates, and Small Vertebrates from the Late Holocene Lake Cahuilla Beds" by Dave Whistler, Bruce Lander, and Mark Roeder; "Cretceous Palynoflora and Neogene Angiosperm Woods from Anza-Borrego: Implications for Pliocene Climate of the Colorado Plateau and Age of the Grand Canyon" by Paul and Farley Flemming; and "Basin Tectonics, Stratigraphy, and Depositional Environments of the Western Salton Trough Detachment" by Paul.

He and George have also included their "Selected Bibliography of the Western Salton Trough Detachment and Vicinity, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, California" as the second volume to the guidebook. And George added a short note on "An additional avian specimen referable to *Teratomis incredibilis* from the early Irvingtonian, Vallecito/Fish Creek Basin, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, California" to the publication.

Paul and Chuck Powell, USGS, visited several significant late Miocene marine fossil localities in the Coyote Mountains. Both are working on reconnaissance projects as part of Anza-Borrego's Interagency Cooperative Agreement (ICA) with the BLM. This ICA has led to the recent closure of vehicles in Fossil Canyon, and establishes a major portion of the Coyote Mountains as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, prohibiting collecting. Paul met with BLM representatives Mike Mitchell and Pat Weller to discuss fossil recovery projects and the development of a research reference collection to be housed at the CDD collections facility.

Newly discovered specimens of note include the left hindquarters of a large *Camelops* from the Borrego Badlands. Measurements of the complete limb suggest the animal's hip was about 2.5 m off the ground.

We would like to thank Ted Downs, Chief Curator Emeritus of Vertebrate Paleontology, LACM, for his gift to our library of several key journal runs including *Geological Society of America, Journal of Evolution,* and *Journal of Paleontology.* (G. Jefferson, P. Remeika, and L. Murray)

San Bernardino County Museum

The San Bernardino County Museum, Earth Sciences Division, has had a busy year. Our five travelling posters, created by volunteers and student interns, have been to five different functions and museums in a very successful outreach venture. We have had

excellent feedback and invitations to exhibit our posters for upcoming events. Volunteers also completed replication of two giant ground sloths, one of which is now on display at the Nevada State Museum, the other has been travelling along with our posters but will soon be on exhibit at the San Bernardino County Museum.

1995 was a very good year for our volunteer program. We received extensive media coverage in the San Bernardino County newspapers because of our efforts. Last year, we unearthed Barstovian *Pseudaelurus* jaws, and this year at the same site we found what appears to be the associated skull. At the invitation of the San Bernardino County Medical Center, we had a CAT scan run on our cat, matrix and all. The newspaper ran the story and photos of our dig, and, subsequently, on the CAT scan. These and other articles have really been a boon in recruiting future volunteers.

Our 10th Annual Desert Research Symposium will be held from April 26 to 29, 1996, with lecturers, poster presentations, and a two-day field trip to the northeastern Mojave Desert. The 1995 Symposium was a huge success and we look forward to an even bigger event. (Mary Gonzalez)

-- **BULLETIN BOARD** --

Found at SVP Meeting in Pittsburgh

While cleaning up after the SVP meeting in Pittsburgh, we found the following items: one roll of 36-exposure, ASA 100, Sensia Fujichrome film; a manuscript in Spanish; and a 4" x 6" notebook with a yellow cover. If any of these items belong to you, please contact Mary Ann Schmidt (Scientific Publications, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15213-4080; voice 412-622-3287; fax 412-622-8837; e-mail schmidtm@clp2.clpgh.org) and they will be returned to you.

SVP '95 Mugs and Tee Shirts

In case you were unable to attend the Pittsburgh meetings, you can still obtain the "private issue" SVP '95 mugs and tee shirts that were available for sale. The mugs are white ceramic with "Society of Vertebrate Paleontology" in gold bounded on both sides by the Marsh pick logo in black. The tee shirts (available in M, XL, and XXL only) are heather gray with artwork by Andrew D. Redline depicting *Moropus* and *Camarasaurus* emerging from matrix. Prices, which include shipping, are: mugs, $8.50; tees, M and XL $14.00, XXL $16.00. Add $3.00 for foreign addresses. Order from Section of Vertebrate Paleontology, Dept. SVP, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15213-4080.

Alfred and Rose Miniaci Foundation, Inc., Scholarship Awards

Dinamation International Society announces the annual Alfred and Rose Miniaci Foundation, Inc., scholarship awards. Two awards are being offered, one to a qualified

undergraduate student and one to a graduate student pursuing a degree/career in paleontology. Each scholarship carries a $1,500 cash award.

Interested candidates must submit a cover letter, résumé, and three letters of recommendation, one of which is from a major advisor. Verification of acceptance into graduate school or active attendance in an accredited university or college is required. Demonstration of active community involvement and service (such as outreach programs as a volunteer, assisting school children, etc.) is important. Must be a person of good character and integrity, and have demonstrated a potential for success.

Application deadline is March 15, 1996. Scholarships are available for the 1996-97 school year. Send cover letter, résumé, and letters of support to: Scholarship Awards Committee, Dinamation International Society, 550 Crossroads Ct., Fruita CO 81521.

JVP Rapid Communications

A new category of report has been added to the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*. Rapid Communications are intended as vehicles for the timely publication of discoveries, concepts, or interpretations that are of outstanding importance. They will be published at the beginning of an issue and normally will be published within six months of submission. Authors should follow the guidelines for submission of regular papers, except that the text should occupy no more than eight double-spaced pages (excluding tables and figures, but including references), and ideally there should be a maximum of three figures. An abstract is not required, but the first paragraph should include the main conclusions of the report.

Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates Update--1993 Volume

We are pleased to announce that the 1993 volume of the *Bibliography of Fossil Vertebrates* (*BFV*) will be published and will be available at the end of 1996. During the SVP business meeting at the 1995 annual meeting in Pittsburgh it was reported that the *BFV* project will be restructured. However, thanks to the generous contribution from Donald Baird, one additional volume (1993) of the *BFV* will be produced in its current form (for more information see the Information Management Committee Report).

Sale!

All volumes of the *BFV* (except the most recent 1992 edition) are on sale until **June 1, 1996**. Early editions are in limited supply. Take advantage of these discounted prices to purchase a complete set or add those missing volumes! **ACT NOW!!** Refer to the *BFV* sale order form.

-- CALENDAR OF EVENTS --

Preventive Conservation of Geologic Materials/Advanced Conservation of Geologic Materials

Geological-origin specimens and objects in museums are subject to a wide range of causes of deterioration and damage. Recognizing, monitoring, and isolating causes of damage to these collections is the focus of the preventive conservation course. In the advanced course, open to anyone who has completed the first course, participants work with interventive conservation measures to repair and restore geological materials. The dates for the courses are May 13-17 for the first course, and May 20-23 for the advanced course. The courses are presented by the San Diego Natural History Museum in conjunction with Yellowstone National Park and International Academic Projects, London. Both courses will be held at Yellowstone National Park. Dormitory lodging will be available on site. The cost of each course is $350 for registrations if postmarked before May 1, $375 after that. Each course is limited to 20 participants. There is a combined registration fee of $650 for both courses. For more information and/or a registration form, contact Sally Shelton at the San Diego Natural History Museum, P. O. Box 1390, San Diego CA 92116; phone 619-232-3821 x226; fax 619-232-0248; e-mail libsdnhm@class.org.

Anoxic Enclosures and Microenvironments in Museum Storage and Exhibition: Creating Practical Solutions for Environmental Problems

Objects in museum collections often are damaged by poor storage environments. Correcting these problems on a large scale is often beyond the resources of the institution. Constructing anoxic enclosures and other specialized microenvironments is a very practical alternative. This is an intensive three-day course for anyone concerned with preventive conservation and solutions to common problems in museum storage: pests, relative humidity, gaseous pollutants, and environmental interactions. Practical techniques, tools, and materials are emphasized. The course is offered March 26-28 at the San Diego Natural History Museum and is presented by the museum in conjunction with International Academic Projects, London. The cost is $300 for registrations postmarked before March 1, and $325 after that. Further information and registration forms are available from Sally Shelton, San Diego Natural History Museum, P. O. Box 1390, San Diego CA 92116; phone 619-232-3821 x226; fax 619-232-0248; e-mail libsdnhm@class.org.

Desert Research Symposium

San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands, Calif., is sponsoring this year's symposium April 26-29, 1996. This year's symposium, combining the Tenth Annual Mojave Desert Quaternary Research Symposium and the CSU Desert Studies Consortium Symposium, features short papers in current research in geology, paleontology, geomorphology, natural history, ecology, history, anthropology, and multidisciplinary studies in or related to the California deserts and surrounding provinces. Papers (15-minute presentations) will be presented at the museum on Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27, with the poster session and social on Friday evening. The "Symposium Supper" is followed by a special Friday evening lecture. A field trip leaves Saturday evening and continues through Sunday, April 29, and will visit the northeastern Mojave Desert (Cima Dome, Halloran Hills, Clark Mountain, Kingston Range, Ivanpah, Mescal, Valley Wells, Kokoweek Peak,

and more!). Abstracts for presentations are due February 1. To request registration form and/or more information, contact Robert E. Reynolds, San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands CA 92374; phone 909-798-8590; fax 909-798-8585; or Jennifer Reynolds by e-mail: jreynolds@co.san-bernardino.ca.us or voice mail 909-387-2582.

IV Symposium on Cretaceous of Brazil

The IV Symposium on the Cretaceous of Brazil is planned for 18-24 August 1996 and will include sessions and a three-day field trip. For further information, please contact Dimas Dias-Brito, Department of Sedimentary Geology, Instituto de Geociências/UNESP, Rio Claro-SP, 13506-230, Brazil; phone 011-55-0195 340327, fax 011-55-0195 242445 or 340327, e-mail dimas@geo001.uesp.ansp.br.

-- **PUBLICATIONS** --

Skull and Atlas-axis Complex of *Camarasaurus* Cope

Carnegie Museum of Natural History is pleased to announce the publication of its latest *Bulletin* (no. 31) entitled "Skull and atlas-axis complex of the Upper Jurassic sauropod *Camarasaurus* Cope (Reptilia: Saurischia)" by James H. Madsen, Jr., John S. McIntosh, and David S Berman. This long-awaited volume is comprised of 115 pages with 54 figures and is available at the cost of $25.00 plus $2.75 postage and handling (foreign addresses add $3.00). Send your check, money order, or charge card information (MasterCard/Visa only) to: Office of Scientific Publications, Dept. SVPNB, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15213-4080.

-- **POSITIONS AVAILABLE** --

Summer Field Internship

Dinamation International Society announces the annual summer field internship, available for a graduate or senior undergraduate student pursuing a degree in either geology, paleontology, or other closely related field. The intern must be people oriented; the primary responsibility is working with Dinamation's participant-funded research programs. Student must have a deep interest in dinosaur paleontology. Candidates must submit a résumé and three letters of recommendation, one of which is from the applicant's major advisor. Applicant must provide own transportation.

Summer interns work under the direct supervision of Dr. James I. Kirkland. Work involves assisting with the supervision of participants in the excavation of dinosaur quarries in western Colorado, providing security at the Mygatt-Moore Quarry, and assisting with the public interpretation of that area. Interns will receive training in all aspects of field paleontology and will have opportunities for learning laboratory preparation as well. It is recommended that interns will use this opportunity as independent study credit.

The term of internship is from June 1 to August 30, 1996. Application deadline is March 15, 1996. Dinamation International Society will provide living accommodations (trailer) at the Mygatt-Moore Quarry, $400/month stipend, some meals with expedition participants, and training in field and laboratory techniques. Intern will provide own transportation and must be willing and able to perform physical labor. For more information, contact Mike Perry, Director, Dinamation International Society, 550 Crossroads Ct., Fruita CO 81521.

Smithsonian Minority Internship Program

Internships, offered through the Office of Fellowships and Grants, are available for students to participate in research and museum-related activities for periods of ten weeks during the summer, fall, and spring. US minority undergraduate and beginning graduate students are invited to apply. The appointment carries a stipend of $250 per week for undergraduate and $300 per week for graduate students, and may provide a travel allowance.

Application deadline is February 15 for summer (to begin after June 1, 1996), fall (to begin after October 1, 1996), or spring (to begin after January 1, 1997). For applications and/or information, please write: Smithsonian Institution, Office of Fellowships and Grants, 955 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 7000, Washington DC 20560, or e-mail siofg@sivm.si.edu.

Fossil Beds Announces Field Internship Program for 1996

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument is seeking interns for the 1996 summer season. Major duties include interpreting the cultural and natural resources for visitors to the national monument, resource management, fee collection, maintenance, and park operation. Academic credit may be arranged through your college administration and our volunteer coordinator. Housing is provided. Candidates receive uniforms and a stipend of $8.00 per day.

Florissant Fossil Beds NM is near Colorado Springs, Colo., in the heart of the Rocky Mountains. Delicate shale fossils of insects and plants as well as petrified remains of giant redwood trees remain as evidence from a 34-million-year-old ecosystem. The short summer brings warm days and cool nights to the 8,400-ft elevation. Daytime highs reach the upper 80s and overnight lows in the 40s are common. Recreational opportunities include hiking, biking, mountain and rock climbing, and rafting on the Arkansas River approximately 90 minutes from the park. Public transportation is not available, so a personal vehicle is highly recommended.

To apply, send a cover letter describing your interest in the position. Include a résumé and two references who are familiar with your knowledge, skills, and abilities. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 15, 1996. Selections will be made in April for positions that will begin in late May and continue through mid-August. For more information on this unique opportunity with the National Park Service, contact the

Volunteer Coordinator at (719) 748-3253, or send an application to Volunteer Coordinator, National Park Service, Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, P. O. Box 185, Florissant CO 80816.

-- **OBITUARIES** --

Robert W. Fields

Dr. Robert W. Fields, 74, of Bigfork, Mont., died of pancreatic cancer August 23, 1995, in Kalispell, Mont., after a short period of hospice care at his home north of Bigfork.

Bob, as he was known to all, was born in San Leandro, Calif., on September 17, 1920, to William L. and Jesse Fields.

In 1945, while serving in the Army Air Corps in Bakersfield, Calif., Bob married Charlotte G. Carpenter. After his discharge, he entered the University of California at Berkeley where he was graduated in 1947 with a bachelor's degree. He continued his studies there in vertebrate paleontology under Dr. R. A. Stirton. He was expedition leader for a University of California seven-month expedition to Colombia and received his doctorate based on this research. He then worked as a petroleum geologist for Shell Oil Company in Colorado.

Bob joined the University of Montana Geology Department as an assistant professor in 1955. He served the department twice as chairman, chaired numerous university committees, and carried out a major study of Tertiary basin stratigraphy in western Montana supported by grants from the National Science Foundation. Late in his teaching career Bob was co-leader of four programs in geology and geography studies in New Zealand. He was a fellow in the Geological Society of America, a member of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, and a member of Sigma Xi.

Bob is also remembered as an extraordinary mentor by his graduate students and by the many undergraduates who went on to complete higher degrees in vertebrate paleontology at other universities. Receiving doctorates under Bob were D. W. Kuenzi, D. Hoffman, R. M. Petewwich, J. S. Monroe, W. J. Fritz, S. Harrison, and D. L. Hanneman.

Bob became Professor Emeritus at the University of Montana in 1982, but continued teaching part time until 1987, when he moved to Anacortes, Wash. While there he continued a life-long interest in conservation by supervising an inventory of nearby wetlands conducted by Audubon Society volunteers. He returned to Montana in 1993 to live north of Bigfork. Bob was an outdoors person, interested in fishing, hunting, and boating. He was a former member of the Missoula Ski Patrol.

Although Bob underwent radiation and chemotherapy treatments in January, he knew there was really not much hope. Fortunately he was able to carry on an active lifestyle until the middle of July. He maintained a positive philosophic attitude. Charlotte says there were lots of good times despite the illness. Fortunately, only the last month of Bob's

life was difficult. That included hospice care at home and ended with about ten days of treatment in a Kalispell hospital and nursing home after he slipped into a coma.

Ralph Nichols, rancher friend and former student, has a few reminiscences to share. Ralph says Bob encouraged him to come back to school after a hiatus of nearly 30 years and learn something of vertebrate paleontology. They became great companions because Bob was interested in learning something about ranching. Ralph was six months older than Bob and one of Bob's favorite stories stemmed from a field trip to southern California where a young student asked Nichols if he was Dr. Fields and Nichols replied, no, he was just a student of Fields and that Dr. Fields was that old man over there. Bob never tired of telling that tale on himself but often got back at Nichols by introducing him as the world's oldest graduate student. They had a continuing banter about their vehicles. Bob drove a GMC pickup and Nichols a Ford. Bob was especially conscious about gas mileage and on one occasion where they had both trucks on a field trip, Bob was filling both gas tanks. When Ralph came back from the rest room Bob was rocking the Ford from side to side with all his might to get the last bubble of air out of the tank so that he could put a little more gas in it than he put in his GMC. Nichols says Bob was a person he admired, respected, and truly loved, and he felt very fortunate to have known him.

Survivors include his wife Charlotte, a son Mark, a granddaughter Libby, and all of Columbia Falls, Mont. A daughter Karen Fields Green preceded him in death. (Robert W. Weidman)

Johannes Hürzeler (1908-1995)

After Emil Kuhn-Schnyder, who died in 1994, Switzerland lost the other great old man in vertebrate paleontology with the death of Johannes Hürzeler.

At a very young age already Johannes Hürzeler came in contact with fossil mammals: when a canal was excavated in front of his father's house in Gretzenbach (Canton of Solothurn), young Johannes played in the heaps of excavated sediment. There he found teeth and jaws of mammals of an Eocene fauna which later became known under the name of "Obergösgen." Hürzeler's father became aware of the fossils his son had in his trouser pockets, and he decided to bring the finds to Dr. H. G. Stehlin at the Basel Natural History Museum. In his paper on the mammal fauna of Obergösgen (1922), Stehlin mentioned "the merit of a very young natural scientist, the 12-year-old Hans Hürzeler, son of the teacher Ferdinand Hürzeler in Gretzenbach, in having recognized the scientific value of the excavated material."

From this time Johannes Hürzeler stayed in contact with H. G. Stehlin and continued collecting fossil mammals in the extremely fossiliferous region on the southern foot of the Jura mountain range. In later years he often told us how he collected at localities like Egerkingen, Rickenbach, Küttigen, Wynau, Aarwangen, etc., all by bicycle and wagon.

That Hürzeler decided to become a paleontologist was the logical consequence of this collecting. He matriculated at Basel University and studied geology with Prof. August

Buxtorf. Under the direction of H. G. Stehlin he wrote a thesis on the osteology and odontology of the Caenotheridae (1936). This paper laid the foundation of Hürzeler's reputation as an outstanding paleontologist, and the great Alfred S. Romer at different occasions named it one of the best monographs ever written in vertebrate paleontology. In 1937 Johannes Hürzeler was employed as a curator in the Osteological Department of the Basel Natural History Museum. At that time this department was one of Europe's most important research centers for mammal paleontology with Hans Georg Stehlin (1870-1941), Hermann Helbing (1880-1938), and Samuel Schaub (1882-1962) working there. Hürzeler profited from this outstanding scientific environment and in rapid succession he published a number of important monographs on fossil artiodactyls, carnivores, insectivores, and primates. Among these, revisions of the European Hemicyonidae (1944) and the Dimylidae (1944) and on the phylogeny of the Necrolemuridae (1949) are exemplary for clearness and careful formulation.

Like his colleagues of the museum Hürzeler loved France, where he did many field trips. Together with his friend Jean Viret from Lyon he carried out some major excavations, among others, in Estrepouy (1938), Vieux Collonges (1939), St. Vallier (1951), and Sansan (1953). Since travelling abroad was impossible during the Second World War, Hürzeler collected on a large scale at Swiss mammal localities. Some important papers on the biostratigraphy of the Swiss Molasse were the result of these activities.

Through his investigations on Eocene primates Johannes Hürzeler came across the Miocene primate *Oreopithecus.* During his whole later life this strange endemic primate kept his mind enthralled. In 1949 Hürzeler started his series of papers on *Oreopithecus* with a new description of this almost forgotten primate. In this publication he objected to the then generally accepted opinion that *Oreopithecus* was a hominid (at that time only man and his ancestors were in this family), and Hürzeler unleashed a wave of discussions. Many of the authorities in the field of primatology and anthropology disagreed with Hürzeler's opinion, while others supported him enthusiastically. Soon the scientific community was divided into two camps.

For corroborating his interpretation of the phylogenetic relationships of *Oreopithecus*, Hürzeler looked for more fossil material. His efforts concentrated on the lignite mine of Baccinello in southern Tuscany. Remains of *Oreopithecus* have been found in different mines, but at that time Baccinello was the only one in operation. Hürzeler had evidence that there were complete skeletons of *Oreopithecus* in the Baccinello lignite, but only jaws and bone fragments came to light. In 1958 the mine of Baccinello had to close down for economical reasons. Literally in the last moment, the night before Hürzeler was to leave disappointedly, an almost complete skeleton of *Oreopithecus* was found.

This find made headlines all over the world, but Hürzeler earned by it not only praise and appreciation. Before he had time to describe the new find some of his colleagues attacked his interpretations of *Oreopithecus* vehemently. Some of these attacks were very personal and unfair, and they prevented Hürzeler from continuing to publish about *Oreopithecus*.

For many years he devoted himself to other assignments. He built up documentation for more than 600 Tertiary mammal localities of Switzerland. At the same time he gave himself up to the library of the osteological department, which he turned into one of the most complete ones on fossil mammals in all of Europe. But in all those years he never lost his interest for the Baccinello faunas. By field trips every year to this area he collected a large amount of fossils from many localities still exposed. These finds resulted in papers on the suids (1982), on an alcelaphine bovid (1983), and on the lutrines (1987) of the Baccinello basin.

Johannes Hürzeler was one of the last of a generation of vertebrate paleontologists with universal knowledge. There are few mammal orders he wasn't concerned with, and in those few he was well versed, too. In a time of specialization many colleagues profited from Hürzeler's wide knowledge, presenting him difficult questions and problematic fossils. And hardly ever did they leave without a clarifying answer or at least an indication of the direction for further search.

Johannes Hürzeler was a very modest person and he never cared about honors. Nevertheless he received many distinctions for his scientific work. Among others he became a corresponding member of the Paris Academy of Sciences, honorary lecturer of Basel University, honorary member of the SVP, Commander of the Order of Saint Gregorius of Rome, and honorary citizen of the community of Scansano (Tuscany).

Johannes Hürzeler died on July 24, 1995, at the age of 87. To his satisfaction he could see the discussions about *Oreopithecus* being revived by studies of younger scientists. Even these investigations didn't solve the problems of this unique primate's phylogenetic relationships; they confirmed Johannes Hürzeler's opinion, that *Oreopithecus* isn't a cynomorph primate after all. (Burkart Engesser)

David John Klingener

Dave Klingener died at his home in South Deerfield, Mass., on July 6, 1995. He was a professor of zoology (now biology) at the University of Massachusetts, where he had been on the faculty since 1964. He was also curator of the collection of birds and mammals at UMass, which he meticulously cared for and built into a fine regional research collection as well as a comprehensive teaching collection. He was a renowned teacher, receiving the Distinguished Teaching Award at the University in 1974. His graduate and undergraduate classes were much sought after by students because of his mix of knowledge, rigor, and iconoclastic wit and humor. He applied this same combination as a graduate advisor and mentor, and his many graduate students valued their years under Dave's guidance so much that most remained life-long friends. He kept in touch with a long list of past students and current colleagues by letters. How he had time to write such crisp, funny, warm, and thoughtful letters in the midst of his many other activities was a constant surprise to all who were touched by Dave's attention, and who profited from his advice, criticism, and humor. He was also a gifted cartoonist, which were turned out with a felt-tipped pen with amazing speed and cutting insight.

Dave was born in Meadville, Penna., on September 4, 1937. His family was close to their Swedish roots, and Dave was fiercely proud of his Swedish heritage. He attended Swarthmore College where he came under the influence of Robert K. Enders, a well-known comparative anatomist and mammalogist. He did his graduate work at the University of Michigan, where he worked with Emmet T. Hooper. His dissertation on the comparative myology of four dipodoid rodents was published by Michigan in their Museum of Zoology series and is still widely cited. He remained a comparative anatomist throughout his career and published papers on facial muscles and dental morphology. He was also interested in bats and wrote papers on the distribution and systematics of Antillean bats. His *Laboratory Anatomy of the Mink,* first published in 1972, presented the mink as an economical alternative to cats for comparative anatomy lab dissection and is still being used in its second edition.

Dave was a life member of the American Society of Mammalogists, and was associate editor of the *Journal of Mammalogy* from 1973-76. He was also a member of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, the American Society of Zoologists, and the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, as well as a life member of the Corporation of Rocky Mountain Biological Station.

Dave attracted a number of talented graduate students who completed M.S. and Ph.D. degrees under his direction. Among the professional skills imparted to his students were a solid knowledge and critical reading of the myological literature; dissection techniques for locating and identifying the tiny muscles of rodents, bats, carnivores, and insectivores; and clear, detailed artistic rendering of dissected musculature. Dave's students have continued his legacy of small mammal myology and teaching excellence at colleges and universities across the country.

Following the retirement of Albert Wood from Amherst College around 1970, vertebrate paleontology seemed ready to disappear as a scholarly discipline from the Amherst area. Dave was instrumental in developing an agreement whereby the University of Massachusetts hired a vertebrate paleontologist who would also teach a course at Amherst College and be involved with the vertebrate paleontology collections there. He subsequently served on Ph.D. and M.S. thesis committees of eight UMass vertebrate paleontology graduate students and was helping to guide the work of several current students.

In addition to his many activities at the University of Massachusetts, Dave also had interests in cars (especially Volvos and vintage "motorcars"), in natural history books and art, and in the Civil War. He collected regimental histories on the Civil War units, especially for New England, and became an acknowledged authority on Civil War battles and history. He was also very active in AA, regularly attending meetings and helping many people. His warmth and commitment to people came through in all aspects of his life as a teacher, advisor, colleague, friend, or helping hand in the AA community. He disguised his feelings well, however, and delighted in his image as a curmudgeon and iconoclast.

Dave is survived by his mother Ruth, his brother Fred, his first wife Sally, and their two daughters Alice and Nancy, as well as his second wife Andree Clearwater and their son David.

Dave was only 57 when he died of complications from a heart condition. He was still a vibrant teacher and scholar. We are all better people because of Dave's influence on our lives. His published contributions to paleontology, comparative morphology, and mammalogy are less extensive than they would have been if he had not taken the time to touch so many other people's lives, but they stand out as major contributions.

Contributions in Dave's memory to benefit collections of the biology museum at UMass may be made to the University of Massachusetts (memo on check: David Klingener Memorial Fund) and sent to Ms. Penny Jaques, Staff Assistant, Department of Biology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA 01003. (Charles Woods and Margery Coombs)

Chow Minchen

Prof. Dr. Chow Minchen (Zhou Minzhen), a long-time SVP honorary member and former director of IVPP, died of gastric cancer on January 4, 1996, in Beijing. An obituary is planned for the June issue of the *News Bulletin.*

Lev Alexandrovich Nessov

On October 1, 1995, Dr. Lev Alexandrovich Nessov, senior scientific researcher in the Laboratory of Palaeogeography, Institute of Earth's Crust, St. Petersburg University, died after a long illness. Dr. Nessov was an internationally recognized paleobiologist with some 160 scholarly papers on subjects ranging from Precambrian ascidians and Devonian fishes to Cretaceous pterosaurs to Mesozoic ecosystems. Since 1970 he had done field work in many areas of the former Soviet Union including Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan, Kazakhstan, Moldavia, Latvia, Ukraine, and parts of Russia such as Chukotka, the Far East, and Transbaikal. Especially significant was his pioneering work beginning in he late 1970s on Jurassic, Cretaceous, and Paleogene vertebrate faunas in the southwestern region of the former Soviet Union. He was much beloved as a mentor of students. Some have gone on to successful careers at major institutions in Russia.

His research and publications, extending over some 25 years, dealt with the ecological and evolutionary relationships of various groups of fossil vertebrates such as sharks, bony fishes, amphibians, lizards, turtles, pterosaurs, dinosaurs, salamanders, and mammals. He named several hundred new species and genera, several families and orders, and one subclass of vertebrates. He was keenly interested in changes in ecosystems that include Mesozoic vertebrates. Before his pioneering work, Mesozoic mammals were known in the Soviet Union only from one edentulous jaw. He discovered totally new mammalian faunas from the later part of the Early Cretaceous (Aptian-Albanian) through the early part of the Late Cretaceous (Cenomanian-Coniacian). He also worked with his paleobotanist wife, Lena Golovneva, in the Russian Far East and elsewhere collecting

Cretaceous and Paleogene floras. In the past year he had turned his attention back to his earlier study of dinosaurs. His monographic study "Dinosaurs of northern Eurasia: New data about assemblages, ecology, and palaeobiogeography" was published this year in St. Petersburg. He lists some 210 dinosaur localities found in the former USSR, 80 of which he discovered.

Dr. Nessov was born in Tallinn, Estonia, January 6, 1947, where his mother and sister still reside. Dr. Nessov moved to St. Petersburg (then Leningrad) where he began his undergraduate degree in geological sciences at St. Petersburg University (then Leningrad State University) in 1964. After completing his undergraduate and master's degree in 1969 on Devonian fishes of Svalbard, he became a laboratory assistant, senior laboratory assistant, assistant professor, and finally reader in the Department of Zoology at the same university. He received his Ph.D. from St. Petersburg University in 1977, working on Mesozoic turtles of the USSR. In 1989 he moved to a research position in the Laboratory of Palaeogeography at St. Petersburg University as a senior scientific researcher, a position that he occupied at the time of his death.

Dr. Nessov is survived in St. Petersburg by his wife Lena and young son Leonid, in Tallinn by his mother and a sister Natasha, and in Germany by a grown daughter Yulia and one grandchild. (Lena Golovneva, Alexander Averianov, Gennady Baryshnikov, and David Archibald)

Zden k V. Špinar

Zden k V. Špinar, Professor Emeritus at Charles University, Prague, died at the age of 79 from a stroke at his summer house in north Bohemia on August 14, 1995. He was born on April 4, 1916; he studied biology and chemistry at Charles University until 1939 when Czechoslovak universities were closed due to Nazi persecution. This is the reason he was graduated only in 1945. He was invited to stay at the Paleontological-Geological Institute of the University as assistant professor, later (in 1951) as associate professor, and in 1965 as full professor of zoopaleontology.

Although a naturalist with a broad scope of interests (for instance, he was an excellent connoiseur of contemporary European avifauna), since the beginning of the 1950s he focused himself mainly on the Permo-Carboniferous labyrinthodont amphibians ("Revision of some Moravian Discosauriscids," 1952) and Tertiary anurans; results of the latter research were summarized in his book "Tertiary Frogs from Central Europe" (1972). Later, he worked on the Cretaceous frogs from Israel, Mongolia, and on the Tertiary pipids from Libya. He is also author or coauthor of many papers on invertebrate fossils.

Besides research, he spent much of his time with his students. He published comprehensive text books on systematics of invertebrate fossils (1960) as well as of fossil vertebrates (1985). Also appreciated is his long-term cooperation with famous artist Zden k Burian which resulted in the reconstruction of many fossil vertebrates in the book "Life Before Man" that was published in many foreign languages, including Japanese and

Finnish. Thus, many people who are interested in paleontology as amateurs see our remote past through Špinar's and Burian's eyes. (Zybn k Ro ek)

William Elgin Swinton (September 30, 1900-June 12, 1994)

I first met William Elgin Swinton in the middle of the Atlantic just 25 years ago. He had been visiting England and was returning by ship to Canada, his adopted home of the last eight years. I was a fresh Ph.D. on my way to a new job. It was with much trepidation that I was escorted to his stateroom on the first-class deck: I was going to meet the legendary Swinton. The word "legendary" is used advisedly because it is doubtful whether anybody even remotely interested in paleontology had not heard of him.

Born in Kirkcaldy, Scotland, in 1900, he joined the staff of London's Natural History Museum in 1924, where he became curator in charge of the department that housed the dinosaurs. He was a great popularizer of science through his many books, magazine articles, radio and television broadcasts, and lectures. His first book, "The Dinosaurs," published in 1934, was also the first popular book ever written on the subject. He also wrote scholarly papers for scientific journals on a wide range of subjects from dinosaurs and *Archeopteryx* to pterosaurs, plesiosaurs, ichthyosaurs, nothosaurs, and crocodiles. A frequent contributor on the subject of Darwin and the theory of evolution, he received the Darwin Medal from the Academy of Sciences in Moscow following his centennial address on the "Origin of Species" in 1953.

Dr. Swinton was well travelled. His first major expedition, in 1920, was to Spitsbergen, 500 miles north of Norway; during the 1950s he climbed part way up Mount Everest. He served with Naval Intelligence during the Second World War, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Commander and was the commanding officer of James Bond's creator, Ian Fleming. During his early years at the Natural History Museum he had the honor of teaching natural history to the young princess Elizabeth. In later years he recalled, warmly, that Her Majesty the Queen still remembered those lessons.

Leaving England in 1961 he joined the staff of the Royal Ontario Museum, first as the Director of the Life Sciences division, then as overall Director in 1963. He was also cross- appointed to the Department of Zoology of the University of Toronto as a full professor. The effects of his stewardship on the museum were dramatic. Attendance soared, government funding increased, as did the academic stature of the institution--the eloquent communicator of science had put the ROM on the map. "I see museums as department stores of knowledge and the showcases as our shop windows," he told a national newspaper. "I am the floor- walker. Mingling with the customers...[which] helps me guard against the temptation to think of the museum as a collection...mainly used for the benefit of the curator, with the public as a necessary evil." On his retirement from the museum (1966), he became Centennial Professor of the History of Science at the University of Toronto and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Zoology. He was actively engaged in planning the Ontario Science Centre, serving on the operating board when it opened in 1969.

And how did the legendary Swinton receive the young paleontologist aboard the *Empress of Canada* ? With characteristic grace, warmth, and charm, and a genuine willingness to offer all the help and advice I could use. He was a great conversationalist--a born storyteller--and several hours slipped by without either one of us noticing, an event that would be repeated many times in the next quarter century.

He would reminisce about paleontologists he had known, famous names that had long since slipped into the shrouds of time. On one occasion our conversation touched upon the Piltdown hoax. With a characteristic sparkle in his eye, he hinted that he possessed some inside information. Not as a conspirator, I hasten to add, because he was only an eight-year-old lad in 1908 when the first remains were discovered. But consider the fact that when he took up his appointment at the British Museum--the potential butt of the hoax--the story was only 16 years old and it would be almost three decades before the museum denounced the find as an elaborate fabrication. I pressed him for more information without success, and the conversation changed to other things. Perhaps he was only teasing me after all, but I will never know now.

Of all his many attributes, the one that stands out in my mind was his skill as an orator. I have heard some outstandingly good speakers over the years, but the great Swinton was unquestionably the best. No other speaker that I know can deliver a one-hour talk without a single "um" or other unwanted pause, but *he* could. And, like a professional entertainer, he could carry the thread of a joke through the anecdotal story he wove, delivering the punch line at precisely the right moment. And what magic he could work on his audience! On one memorable occasion, the 150th anniversary of the first dinosaur publication, he transported his audience from a lecture room in downtown Toronto to the Sussex downs and drawing rooms of a pre-Victorian England. Retracing the footsteps of Gideon Mantell, physician-turned-geologist, he took us back to the *Iguanodon* quarry on the rolling hills of the Weald, the spire of Cuckfield church in the distance. Following the celebratory dinner marking his 90th birthday, he gave a talk reminiscing on his long career in paleontology. I must confess I had some reservations whether he would be able to speak without at least a few pauses for thought, but how wrong I was. The great man rose to his feet, as quiet and unassuming as always, and enchanted his audience with an elixir of science, history, and humor. It was a faultless performance, pure Swinton magic, and when we rose in adoration at its close, there were several moist eyes in the room beside my own. Bill Swinton, a bachelor, left no heirs, but he lives on in the words he has left behind for us. In the penultimate chapter of "The Dinosaurs," dealing with their demise, he wrote: "The great race, entrenched on earth for so many million years...silently passed away, leaving the reptilian field to a few relatively unimportant orders, but having no descendants of its own....[T]he candle flame of their life was extinguished; the wind of some unknown circumstances had blown over it and it was gone. So closed one of the most memorable chapters in the history of life on the earth." (Chris McGowan)

T. Stanley Westoll, 1912-1995

Sadly, on the morning of Tuesday, 19 September 1995, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, Emeritus Professor T. Stanley Westoll, doyen of Paleozoic fishes and tetrapods in Britain who retired from the Department of Geology, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1977, died peacefully after suffering a minor stroke in early August. (Susan Turner)

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FUTURE SVP MEETINGS

Remember to mark these dates on your calendar!

1996 ANNUAL MEETING
October 16-19, 1996
American Museum of Natural History
New York City, New York

1997 ANNUAL MEETING
October 8-11, 1997
Ramada Congress Hotel
Chicago, Illinois

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

By-Law on Ethics

Article 9. Statement of Ethics.

Several goals for the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology follow from its mission statement (Constitution Article 1): to discover, conserve, and protect vertebrate fossils and to foster the scientific, educational, and personal appreciation and understanding of them by amateur, student and professional paleontologists, as well as the general public. Fossil vertebrates are usually unique or rare, nonrenewable scientific and educational

resources that, along with their accompanying contextual data, constitute part of our natural heritage. They provide data by which the history of vertebrate life on earth may be reconstructed and are one of the primary means of studying evolutionary patterns and processes as well as environmental change.

* It is the responsibility of vertebrate paleontologists to strive to ensure that vertebrate fossils are collected in a professional manner, which includes the detailed recording of pertinent contextual data (e.g. geographic, stratigraphic, sedimentologic, taphonomic).

* It is the responsibility of vertebrate paleontologists to assist government agencies in the development of management policies and regulations pertinent to the collection of vertebrate fossils, and to comply with those policies and regulations during and after collection. Necessary permits on all lands administered by federal, state, and local governments, whether domestic or foreign, must be obtained from the appropriate agency(ies) before fossil vertebrates are collected. Collecting fossils on private lands must only be done with the landowner's consent.

* Fossil vertebrate specimens should be prepared by, or under the supervision of, trained personnel.

* Scientifically significant fossil vertebrate specimens, along with ancillary data, should be curated and accessioned in the collections of repositories charged in perpetuity with conserving fossil vertebrates for scientific study and education (e.g., accredited museums, universities, colleges, and other educational institutions).

* Information about vertebrate fossils and their accompanying data should be disseminated expeditiously to both scientific community and interested general public.

* The barter, sale, or purchase of scientifically significant vertebrate fossils is not condoned unless it brings them into, or keeps them within, a public trust. Any other trade or commerce in scientifically significant vertebrate fossils is inconsistent with the foregoing, in that it deprives both the public and professionals of important specimens, which are part of our natural heritage.