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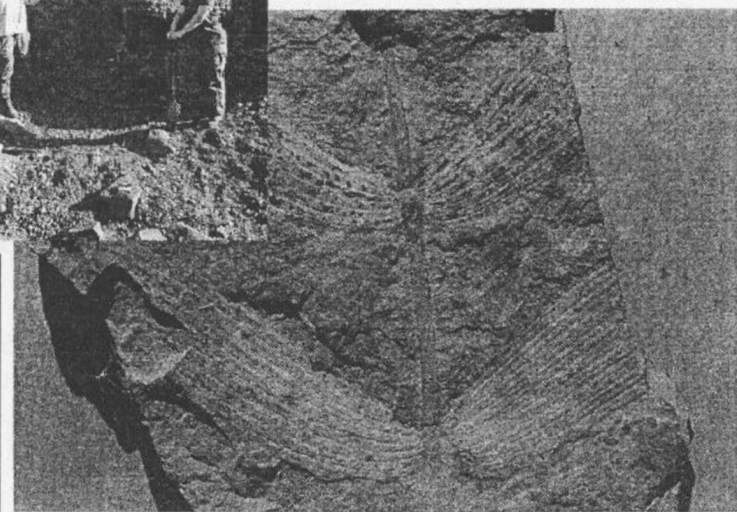
NEWS  
NUUS



Biannual newsletter of the Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa.  
Half jaarlikse Nuusbrief van die Paleontologiese Vereniging van Suider Afrika.

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**Front cover:** Palaeontologists at work: Cause & Effect. Ivo Duijnste and Cindy Looy (see reports on pg's 8 & 14) preparing for a day's fieldwork. The 'fruits' on their and their colleagues labour included this lovely *Schizoneura* fossil.

## EDITORIAL

Halo everybody! Although news has been trickling in slowly (as is by now customary for the second post-conference PalNews issue) the overall mood regarding SA palaeontology appears to be bullish. There is good reason for this. High numbers of students make for a vibrant and energetic feel necessary in science, while exiting collaborative research, government's pro-paleo stance and good media coverage adds many positive things to the mix. However I'd like to draw some attention to a concern we can not afford to ignore.

In a very short period SA Palaeontology (and the PSSA) has suffered the loss of four active palaeontologists. Heidi Anderson (*National Botanical Institute*) and Johann Welman (*National Museum*) already resigned from their posts a few months ago, while more recently Patrick Bender (*Council for Geoscience*) left for Australia. In addition Darryl de Ruiter (*PURE, Wits*) will soon take up a lecturing position in Texas. Firstly, on behalf of the PSSA, I'd like to thank this lady and three gentlemen for their contributions to South African Palaeontology over many years and wish them the very best of futures. May they experience life as a gentle adventure.

However, the point I'd like to make is that it is not yet clear when, and indeed if, these posts will be filled. We have to reconsider whether we are not guilty of too often emphasising South Africa's great paleontological heritage, while neglecting our most important palaeontological resource - the people (students and researchers) who do the work. Without workers no work is going to happen. We need to communicate this point when dealing with the public and especially political and economic power brokers. The current political and social climate is in our favour. Let's not waste it.

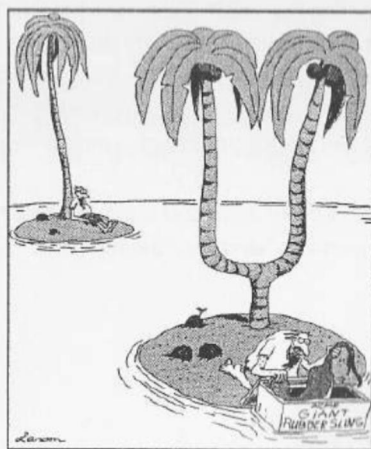
That is all from the soap box. Until next time, keep up the hunting, digging, scratching, cutting, grinding, writing, talking.....

Johann

#### NEWS FROM:

JENNIFER BOTHA, KAROO PALAEOLOGY, SAM, IZIKO  
MUSEUMS OF CAPE TOWN

Well, after much fretting for the past five months, I've finally received word of successfully becoming a postdoctoral fellow with Roger Smith at the SAM! I've just finished lecturing a vertebrate zoology course at UCT and have settled in to the Karoo Palaeontology Dept at the SAM quite nicely now. I've begun working on the *Lystrosaurus* species composition across the Permian/Triassic boundary, but never one to be satisfied with focusing on just one topic, I'm also currently working on a few side projects, which include the cynodont genera *Oudenodon*, *Tropidostoma* and *Endothiodon*. I've begun with working on the bone histology of these animals and am already coming up with some interesting results. I've also been writing up my PhD thesis for publication and have submitted several papers on cynodont bone histology. Additionally, I've written up some work I did using Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy on several cynodont teeth with Julia Lee-Thorp from UCT and Matt Spohnheimer in the States, a technique which I believe has the potential to become quite valuable for studying fossil tooth enamel. I'm hoping to expand this FTIR work over the next year or two. So, all in all, I've been kept out of mischief and have my work cut out for me for the rest of the year! Hoping to visit the BPI in the very near future to suss out their *Lystrosaurus* collection.





## BERNARD PRICE INSTITUTE

(incorporating the Palaeoanthropology Unit for Research & Exploration)

The BPI Palaeontology, now being part of the larger School of Geosciences, has been through an extensive review process this year and we are happy to report that we have come through this process very well. In addition postgraduate student numbers are up yet again and currently 23 MSc and PhD students are registered at the BPI. We also currently have no fewer than 4 postdoctoral fellows adding to the wonderful research vibe at BPI and PURE.

Apart from writing numerous reports for review committees as well as lecturing to geology students, **Bruce Rubidge** has also undertaken two field trips to the Ecca-Beaufort contact to the north of Grahamstown together with **John Hancox** and **Billy de Klerk**, as well as **Henry Mgbeahuruike** who is doing an MSc on the sedimentology and stratigraphy of the Upper Ecca and Lower Beaufort of that area. Some diagnostic dinocephalian material was found, as well as a small anapsid skull, which is currently being prepared. Billy was the discoverer of some wonderful *in situ* sphenophyes which were brought back to the BPI much to the delight of Marion Bamford and **Ray Renault**.

**Adam Yates** arrived as a postdoc at the beginning of May and will be working on the dinosaurs of the Elliot Formation. (If you have not heard about *Antetonitrus* and Adam's work and announcement on the earliest sauropod dinosaur originally thought to be another *Euskelosaurus* - Then what planet have you been on?) Early in June the Wits Geosciences "Elliot Formation Team" headed off to the eastern Free State for a closer look at dinosaurs and sediments of the Elliot Formation. The team includes Mike Raath, John Hancox, Emese Bordy, Adam Yates, **Ross Damiani**, Cecilio Vasconcelos and Bruce Rubidge. Although **Emese Bordy** (who joined the BPI as a postdoc in January 2002) is a sedimentologist, and her main research interest lies within the strata of continental deposits, she has recently been involved in a very exciting ichnological study of one of the oldest termite nests in the world. The nests were found in Early Jurassic



*Emese Bordy conducting a field survey of the Tuli termite nests*

aeolian deposits of the Tuli Basin (SA & Zimbabwe); as well as in the main Karoo Basin in Lesotho. Currently, she is undertaking a detailed sedimentological investigation of the Elliot Fm throughout the main Karoo Basin with a view to basin analysis.

Mike Raath has two Masters students studying various aspects of dinosaurs this year: Cecilio Vasconcelos is getting to grips with the postcranial skeleton of *Massospondylus* (co-supervised by dinosaur fundi, Adam Yates), and Anthea Bristowe is trying to put together a jigsaw-puzzle of a skull of a juvenile "*Syntarsus*" ("I refuse to call it by that 'other' name!" -Mike

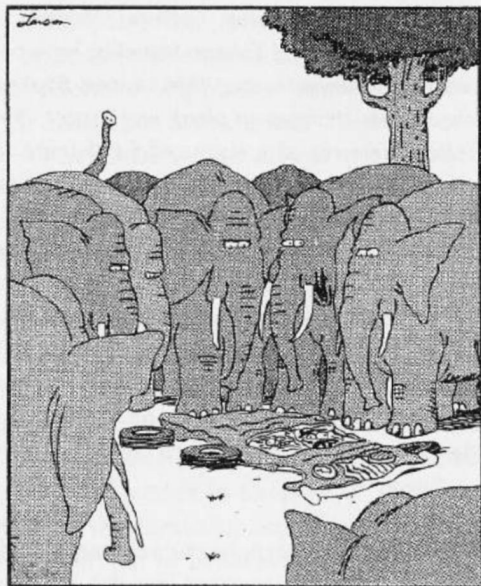
Raath, June 2003). Both are in the initial stages of their projects, so they are both still heavily involved in the intricacies of preparation. Cecilio's specimen is at least big enough to take some handling, but Anthea's little bundle is so delicate that the bones crumble even as you look at them. So it is going to be a couple of hair-greying months ahead. Cecilio is seeing whether it's possible to establish a new type specimen for *Massospondylus carinatus* (the holotype was lost in London during bombing in WW 2), and Anthea is trying to establish whether the cranial differences between *Syntarsus* and the American genus *Coelophysis* are real or imagined.

Merrill Nicolas registered at the BPI as a PhD student early in the year and has been very busy learning about the fauna of the Beaufort Group

and the distribution of various genera. She intends doing a GIS compilation of all Beaufort fossil localities in the hopes of creating a better understanding of biodiversity trends through time. Merrill has started on the BPI collections and will shortly approach curators of other Karoo collections in South Africa for permission to work on other collections.

**Juan Cisneros** joined the BPI early in June to register as a PhD student to work on parareptiles. We look forward to his presence at the BPI as he has considerable experience on the parareptile faunas of South America and so will be in a good position to make direct comparisons of the faunas from the two continents.

**Marion Bamford** has been on several field trips looking at modern wetlands again for the vegetation analogues for the Plio-Pleistocene projects she is involved in. She presented a paper on the fossil vegetation of Laetoli, Olduvai, Sterkfontein and Florisbad at the conference in Johannesburg



"You know, sometimes I sort of enjoy this herd mentality."

organised by **Lucinda Backwell** and **Francesco d'Errico** in honour of **Phillip Tobias** and to celebrate the French - South African collaboration. The conference was entitled "*From Tools to Symbols. From Early Hominids to Modern Man.*" It was held over three days at Wits University. (16-18 March). Presentations were by invitation and the conference was generously sponsored by the French Embassy, University of the Witwatersrand, CNRS, University of Bordeaux I, OMLL and PAST.

Continuing with the conference theme, Marion, assisted with the organisation of the 15<sup>th</sup> biennial conference of the *South African Society for Quaternary Research*, at Wits University from 30 March to 2 April. This conference was titled "*Climate, Change and Culture*" and about 50 delegates attended, presenting a variety of papers. Marion presented a paper on the fossil woods from Olduvai Gorge.

In collaboration with palaeobotanist **Hallie Sims**, and palaeoentomologist **Conrad Labandeira** of the Smithsonian Institution (Washington DC) and taphonomist **Bob Gastaldo** of Colby College (Maine), Marion, **Rose Adendorff**, **Andrea Sandersen** and **Johann Neveling** have been doing field work in the Estcourt and Bulwer areas. This United States NSF funded project is to look at the changes in plant and insect diversity in the Permian and Triassic. The first of a series of field-trips proved to be a fantastic and rewarding experience. To mark the occasion a quick palaeobotany mini-symposium was organised at the BPI, and we were held spell-bound by talks from Hallie Sims (Smithsonian Databases), **Cindy Looy** from Utrecht University, Netherlands (Permo-Triassic Palynology and Palaeoenvironments), **Rose Adendorff** (Glossopterid Fructifications), **Conrad Labandeira** (Plant-Animal Interactions), **Ivo Duijnste** also from Utrecht University (Quantitative Tests of Palaeoenvironmental Reconstructions), **Marion Bamford** (Synopsis of Karoo Fossil Woods) and **Bob Gastaldo** (Plant Taphonomy or How to Tell the Forest from the Woods).

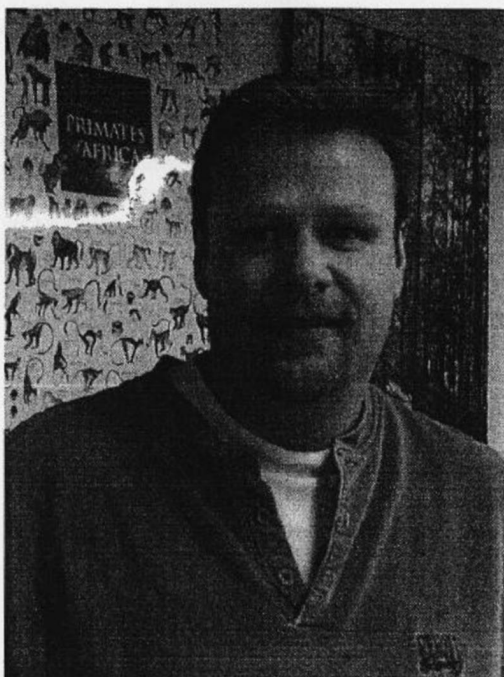
The past six months have been pretty hectic for **Darryl DeRuiter**, but he has managed to keep his head above water (barely). He traveled (one of



Suddenly the Mensa partygoers froze when Clarence shockingly uttered the "D" word.

several trips this year) to America in April to attend the *Paleoanthropology Society Meeting* as well as the 72<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the *American Association of Physical Anthropologists*, both of which were held in Tempe, Arizona. Upon his return to South Africa he assisted Lee Berger with the 4<sup>th</sup> annual *Duke Field School* hosted and run by PURE. The field-school has been excavating at Plovers Lake in the World Heritage Area. Work at this site is progressing extremely well, with a rich and varied fauna already recovered (including human material!).

Darryl has also managed to get some papers submitted and published, and is currently working zealously on the fossil material from Coopers D as well as Kromdraai A and B. Coopers D has proven to be a rich site and an extremely diverse fauna is coming to light. Animals which are normally rather rare in the Transvaal hominin-bearing localities, such as suids and canids, are found in abundance in Coopers D. Initial research has led Darryl to suggest that this particular assemblage has something to do with the accumulating agent, but he believes a lot more research is necessary



before we can make any definitive statements. The next step is to compare the fauna excavated from Swartkrans to that known from Kromdraai and Coopers D, work that is currently underway. The aim of this research is to determine if there are consistent patterns in faunal representation across several sites of a broadly similar age, accounting for different potential accumulating agents. And all this as Darryl works on his contribution to Bob Brain's new book, and, and...

*Dr Darryl DeRuiter*

No, we have not replaced Darryl with a workaholic

clone! He is working at such a feverish pace because (we are sad to announce) he has accepted a position at Texas A&M University in the US (so all that flying to America paid off!). We will be losing a valuable member of the BPI staff, but we wish him every joy and good fortune with his exciting appointment in the USA.

We hope that be now every palaeontologist in the South Africa, and PSSA members elsewhere, know that Wits is holding the next PSSA conference at Wits next year as part of a larger "*Geoscience Africa*" conference. What you probably do not know is that we are revamping the **Kitching Gallery** in honour of this auspicious occasion. The new display will be titled "*Origins*" because it will be the only display in the world where you can see

the ancestors of mammals, humans, tortoises (if you ignore the advocates of the diapsid tortoise hypothesis), and dinosaurs (well at least of the sauropods) all in one place. A sub-theme will be Darwin's "tree of life", for which we are organising the displays using a cladistic classification. The "Origins" display will also include brand new exhibits of South African dinosaurs, anapsids, amphibians and therapsids. Our deadline for finishing the "Origins" display was the end of July and as you can imagine panic is rife. We expect to have the Museum up and running in August, and we will have an official re-opening sometime in October. You are all welcome to attend the opening ceremony if you are in the Jo'burg area, it promises to be a fun and worthwhile event: give **Jacqui Thobois** (our new secretary) a phone-call to get the exact details (011 717-6682).

*Compiled by Alain Renaut*

#### **TRANSVAAL MUSEUM - FRANCIS THACKERAY**

In May, **Francis Thackeray** was invited to attend a conference hosted by the University of Minnesota and delivered a keynote address on "*The Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site: Recent Research and Fieldwork*". Particular attention was given to Kromdraai, where a field school will be held with University of Minnesota students later this year.

**Jose Braga** (University of Bordeaux) and Francis have undertaken a study of hominid material from Kromdraai B, including KB 5223, now considered to represent early *Homo* in deposits associated with *P. robustus*. **Frank Senegas** (University of Montpellier) is continuing work on micromammalian fauna from Way Point 160 on Bolts Farm, where he, **Dominique Gommery** (CNRS, Paris), **Stephany Potze** (Transvaal Museum) and Francis have been collecting breccia thought to be between 4 and 5 million years old.

In April Francis attended the *Palaeoanthropology* and *AAPA* conferences in Tempe, Arizona. Results based on CT scans were presented in a collaborative study with Gerhard Weber and associates from the University of Vienna, to show the development of *A. africanus* crania from juveniles through to adults (a sequence of images has now been animated).



Francis was invited to the "African Human Genome Initiative" conference held in Stellenbosch in April, and presented a paper on palaeontology and education.

At the *SASQUA* conference in Gauteng, Francis delivered a lecture on Darwin with reference to his brief visit to South Africa in 1836. Darwin had initially said in his diary that he "never saw a much less interesting country" (a view based on observations of fynbos on the Cape Flats), but later he changed his mind completely after hearing about the diversity and abundance of fauna on the other side of the mountains beyond Paarl and Franschoek. In fact, Darwin wrote "With regard to the number of large quadrupeds, there certainly exists no quarter of the globe which will bear comparison with southern Africa" ! (see Thackeray, 1987; *Quarterly Bulletin of the South African Library*, 41, 4: 143-144).

Francis visited the Natural History Museum in London and was impressed by the new Darwin Centre. He also went to the Science Museum to see Watson and Crick's model of the DNA molecule manufactured 50 years ago. South African museums would do well to similarly display objects that are associated with anniversaries. In 1997, the Transvaal Museum had displayed the original "Mrs Ples" on the 50th anniversary of the discovery of that fossil. Surely we could mark similar anniversaries by having special temporary exhibitions of other original fossils, with the necessary security precautions.

#### **COUNCIL FOR GEOSCIENCE**

*Patrick Bender* - The last few months have been taken up with preparing for a couple of years away from the Gauteng-land hubbub. I'll be based in Hobart Tasmania where I will, among other things, continue to work with Karoo Age fossil fishes and their globally correlative potential. Tasmania has a number of Early Triassic fish forms that appear to be similar to those found in the upper Beaufort Group in South Africa, this will be an ideal opportunity to investigate further. My research contact address du-



ring this time away is at the Tasmanian Museum in Hobart (Customs House Building, 19 Davey Street, GPO Box 1164M Hobart, Tasmania, Australia 7001; email is [pkabender@yahoo.com](mailto:pkabender@yahoo.com) for the moment.

In terms of new publications: myself and **John Hancox** have submitted the Council for Geoscience Bulletin article (Fossil fishes of the *Lystrosaurus* and *Cynognathus* Assemblage Zones, Beaufort Group, South Africa: correlative implications); and I have submitted a Karoo basin, Beaufort Group, fossil fish biostratigraphic update article to the South African Committee for Stratigraphy (SACS), task group for biostratigraphy.

Johann Neveling is now managing the Council for Geoscience Palaeontology Section, with many exciting future plans and possibilities in the offing; meanwhile I look forward to the next couple of years with the increased potential to 'develop globally'. I wish everyone all the best for the next couple of years, take care, it will be good to keep in contact.

*Johann Neveling* - With Patrick's impending departure, the last few months has been consumed by a flurry of activity as we have tried to ensure some level of continuity for the future. This meant that my admin load increased dramatically although that appears to be only temporarily (thank goodness). For the time being our unit will be retained as a distinct entity under the leadership of Danie Barnardo (also responsible for Data Management). However, Patrick will definitely still be greatly missed. Personally, I have enjoyed working under, and with Patrick for the last couple of years and I know this is a sentiment shared by my colleagues at the Council. We wish him a lot of luck in Australia.

All is not doom and gloom though, and research has been continuing in some form or the other. In March I joined **Francois Durand** (RAU) and **Marco Claasen** (Tuks) on a short fieldtrip to KwaZulu Natal. We revisited some of Francois's old haunts in the middle and southern Drakensberg, investigating the stratigraphy of the Beaufort rocks in this area. It still remains an enigmatic area with too much dolerite and too little outcrop, but the story is slowly coming together. However more work is needed and we will return to this area later in the year.

April included just one short recce trip looking for plant localities in Natal (again) together with **Marion Bamford**, **Rose Adendorff** and **Andrea Sanderson**. This was only an appetizer for a larger expedition, led by **Hallie Sims** (Smithsonian Institution) and Marion, in May and June. Other members of the extended crew included **Cindy Looy**, **Ivo Duijnste** (both Utrecht University, Netherlands), **Bob Gestaldo** (Colby College, Maine) and Bob's student **Rob Selover**. With a diverse group like this, we had a good handle on most things botanical; which was good, because the project focussed on plants - their changes through the Late Permian and Early Triassic, as well as the insects that feasted on them.



*Rob (left) and Bob (right) plastering a fossil with Johann (middle) directing proceedings.*

As the only vertebrate palaeontologist in the group I was 'allowed' the opportunity to look for some bones, in between excavating large blocks of rock, containing plant fossils. Given the holistic approach of the project, we also collected and brought back a couple of vertebrate fossils. How-

ever, this also led me to commit a palaeontologist's version of "putting your foot in it", towards the end of the trip. While directing a vertebrate fossil dig (and introducing my botanical colleagues to the finer points of this intricate procedure) a slight error in judgement saw me suffer an unfortunate finger injury. This meant that I was sidelined into an advisory role which entailed lots of finger-pointing and verbal advice (see photo). Now that I can type again it is back in the office where the winter months will afford a small window that will actually allow for some research and paper(s). More on that later.

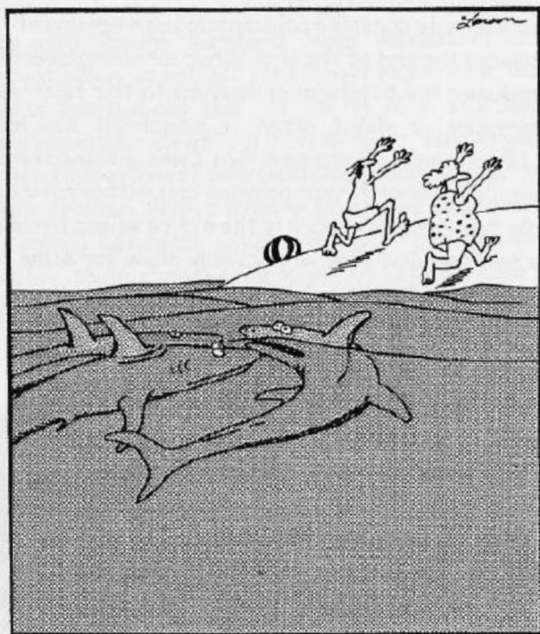
#### ARTHUR CRUICKSHANK, LEICESTER

Let me see if I can put my thoughts into some sort of order! The *Mauisaurus* manuscript has been submitted to JVP, and we await the refs reports...but minus the cladogram (unless they decide otherwise).

The two new PhD students are Mark Evans and Richard Forrest, both having a history of sauropterygian research behind them already. Along with the microvertebrate group in the Geology Dept, and Sarah Gabbott working on the Soom shale, we seem to have a fairly active nucleus of people doing interesting vertebrate research.

Mark will be dealing with the evolutionary radiation of the basal Jurassic plesiosaurian faunas, being particularly concerned with a new species/specimen from a brick pit near Rugby (Yes, the place where the correct-shape ball was first thrown!). This new one seems to be an amalgamation of every kind of plesiosaur, and should throw lots of light on their early evolution.

Apart from revising the important lower Jurassic genus *Microcleidus*, Richard will apply his statistical skills to characterise plesiosaurian post-cranial elements, particularly the vertebral column. He had a very interesting poster at the 2002 SVPCA meeting in Cambridge showing that the (very) long-necked elasmosaurs seemed to come in two quite distinct morphological types, with vertebrae he calls 'M'-types and 'E'-types.



"Well, somehow they knew we were—whoa! Our dorsal fins are sticking out! I wonder how many times *that's* screwed things up?"

Both these projects have the potential to utterly revise the whole concept of what plesiosaurs actually are! I am slowly gathering together material which has been semi-written up, and lying around for some time. Again, another 'new' lower Jurassic taxon, but based on an historical specimen collected by the amazing Mary Anning in the early 19th century, and which I attributed to the wrong genus in 1994! And other historical mistakes of Owen's and Lydekker's making of later in the 19th century to be sorted. I never did like formal taxonomy much!

Best wishes to all, and good hunting!

*Arthur*

## STRANGE SCIENCE - THE WEBPAGE

Given the fact that we celebrate *Women's Day* in August I thought it a good idea to include the following story that I discovered on the 'Net'.

*'Zofia Kielan-Jaworowska first heard about paleontological expeditions to the Gobi in the war torn University of Warsaw in 1946. A mere 16 years later, much to her pleasant surprise, she was organizing Polish-Mongolian expeditions to the Gobi. From 1963 to 1971, these expeditions unearthed one amazing fossil after another, including sauropods, tarbosaurus (similar to T. rex), duckbilled dinosaurs, ostrich-like dinosaurs, and mammals from the Cretaceous and early Tertiary. In 1965 alone, her team shipped over 20 tons of fossils back to Poland. But the most spectacular find came in 1971: a Protoceratops and a juvenile Velociraptor tangled in a deadly struggle. How the fossilization process managed to catch these two in the act is still debated.'*

*'In addition to numerous monographs describing fossil finds, Kielan-Jaworowska wrote a wonderful book entitled Hunting for Dinosaurs describing her adventures thus far. (The English version of the book was published in 1969.) In it, she described yurt hotels, vehicle breakdowns repaired by multi-talented Mongolian drivers, campfire songs, biting flies and rewarding work. As if anticipating both the asteroid impact theory of dinosaur extinction and society's growing ecological awareness, she explained why the extinction of the dinosaurs was so puzzling, and finished the book by observing that the study of mass extinctions might well improve our own future.'*

*'Amid the tensions of the Cold War, it must have been difficult to write a book with international appeal, but Kielan-Jaworowska managed with tact - giving credit where it was due to both her Soviet and American predecessors - and humor. She included a report from a colleague who recounted that one evening the Mongolian hosts serenaded the Poles with beautiful songs, then insisted their guests reciprocate. "It turned out that singing was not exactly our forte, and the only songs we could execute passably in chorus were Christmas carols. When requested to translate*

*the words, we got out of the difficulty by claiming they were 'old revolutionary songs.'*

The story of this most remarkable lady can be found on the 'Strange Science' website (Address: <http://www.strangescience.net>), which contains a load of very interesting non-scientific information regarding palaeontology. For instance you'll learn that the famous (or notorious) American palaeontologist E.D. Cope donated his skeleton to science and Bob Bakker later (in 1993) described this skeleton as the type for *Homo sapiens*. Or you can read how, in 1844, scientist August Goldfuss and artists Christian Hohe circumvented the common problem, still confronting modern palaeobotanists, of knowing what leaves belong to what branches, when they created a reconstruction of the Carboniferous (?) palaeoenvironment. A personal favourite is the theory that postulate that the discovery of *Protoceratops* and *Psittacosaurus* fossils in the Gobi, gave rise to the mythical 'Griffin' (a four-legged, lion-sized, winged creature with a sharp beak) of Greek legend. To anyone interested in the less scientific stories related to palaeontology, or having to incorporate history into talks presented to the public or children, I can recommend a visit to this webpage.

*Johann Neveling*

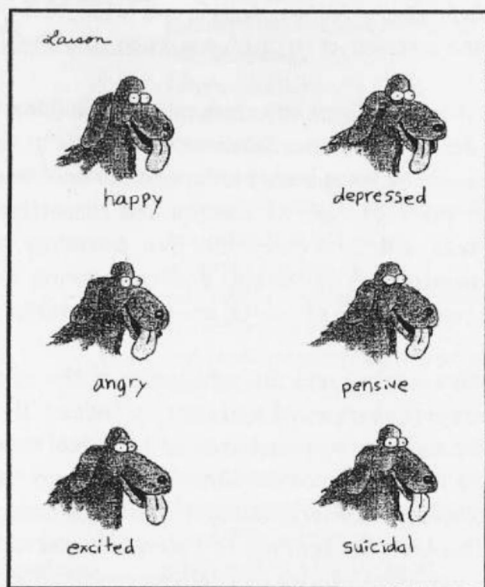
#### CONFERENCE CIRCULAR

Everyone involved with taxonomic research should please have a look at the following excerpts from the:

**First circular - First International Phylogenetic Nomenclature Meeting (Paris, 28 June-1 July 2004)**

Dear colleagues,

The Organizing Committee announces that the *First International Phylogenetic Nomenclature Meeting* will be held in Paris, at the *Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle* and at the *Collège de France*, from 28 June 28 to 1 July 2004. This meeting should be of general interest for biologists because it will constitute an important event in the development



How to recognize the moods of an Irish setter

of new code of biological nomenclature. Papers presented at the meeting will be assembled into a symposium volume whose publication will coincide with the implementation of the **PhyloCode**. This volume will represent the official starting point of phylogenetic nomenclature as implemented in the **PhyloCode**, and the names defined within it will be the first ones established under the new code. We ask that systematists who work on the same group collaborate to produce a single set of phylogenetic definitions for clade names in that group.

### **Phylocode**

Many systematists consider the current rank-based codes of biological nomenclature, which have pre-Darwinian roots, to be poorly suited to modern systematics, which is intrinsically evolutionary. As a result, an increasing number of systematists have sought an alternative to the rank-

based codes, and these investigations have resulted in the development of principles of *Phylogenetic Nomenclature*, and later, to a draft *PhyloCode* (accessible on the internet at <http://www.ohiou.edu/phylocode/>).

The *PhyloCode Advisory Committee* last met at Yale (New Haven, USA) in July 2002 and decided that the *International Society for Phylogenetic Nomenclature* would be inaugurated at an international meeting. A council and officers of the ISPN will be elected and committees established. These committees will be responsible for amending the PhyloCode, managing the registration database, and considering applications for suppression or conservation of names, among other tasks.

We hope that this meeting and the publication of the symposium volume will be key events in the history of systematics. Indeed, they will mark the introduction of a new international code of biological nomenclature that incorporates the most fundamental changes in the way taxon names are defined since Linnaeus. All interested systematists are cordially invited to participate in this historic meeting. To receive the second circular (with abstract and registration information), please contact Michel Laurin by e-mail ([laurin@ccr.jussieu.fr](mailto:laurin@ccr.jussieu.fr)) and write in the "subject" field of the message "PhyloCode 2004 meeting".

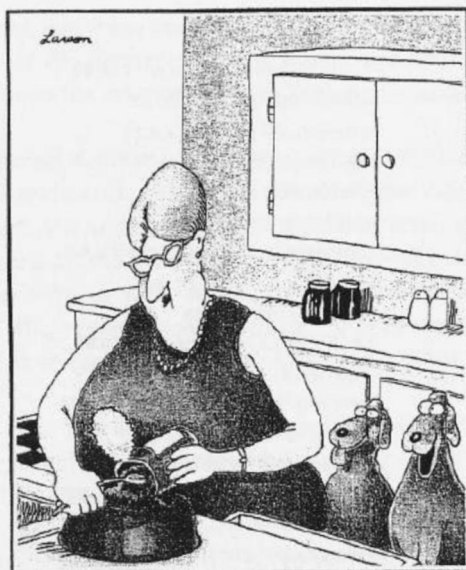
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"Oh boy! ... It's dog food again!"

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**Reminder:**

*Deadline for contributions for the next issue of  
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