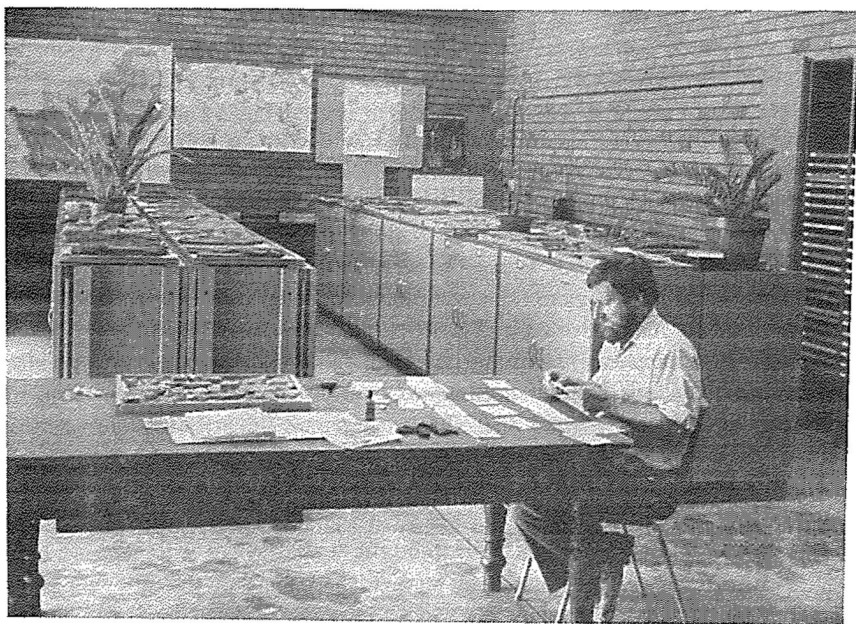


PAL NEWS NUUS

VOLUME 2(2)
APRIL 1980

Biannual Newsletter of the Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa.

Halfjaarlikse Nuusbrief van die Paleontologiese Vereniging van Suider-Afrika.



Cover: Dr John Anderson in the Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria.
What more can you want?

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Editor: Dr. Jacques van Heerden, National Museum, Bloemfontein.

SECOND PALAEONTOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Our Second Pal. Conference will be hosted by the Geological Survey in Pretoria, Dr Ian Brink being the chief organizer. A final date has not yet been set but it will probably be during the 1981 winter holidays - and we hope that Pretoria treats us as kindly as Bloemfontein (most unexpectedly) did last year, with minimum temperatures not dropping below zero!

More information on the Conference will be given in forthcoming issues of *Pal News* - in the meantime you had better reserve the whole of 1981 for this purpose. And start saving up for the after action bar satisfaction. Beg, borrow or steal, but make sure you don't miss this one!

WANTED: AN EMBLEM FOR THE SOCIETY

Judging from the number of cartoons which reach the pages of *PAL NEWS* we must have quite a number of arty ones among us. And this excludes the guys and dolls who feel the urge to doodle whenever they pick up the telephone. The doodlers, cartoonists and serious artists are all invited to take part in our very first competition. It might just prove to be worth your while, as the first (and only) prize is a whole R20-00 (twenty Rand)!

The successful emblem must include the Afrikaans and English abbreviations of the Society's name (PVSA-PSSA) and convey the idea that fossils are the subject of study. But remember that "fossils" include plants, invertebrates, vertebrates, tracks, traces and faeces! Designs should be made on good quality paper and apart from black and white two or at most three colours may be used. In order to be considered for the Competition, designs should be sent to the Editor not later than 30 September 1980. The designs which fulfill the basic requirements stipulated above will be published in the October issue of *PAL NEWS* and the best one selected by our readers.

You can send in as many designs as you like, but PLEASE remember to put your name and address on the back! Otherwise we might have a queue for the R20-00 prize.

IN DIE VELD MET BURGER OELOFSEN

Burger se gesig was verlede jaar 'n slag op TV ten tyde van (of ter herdenking aan) 'n toer wat hy saam met studente gemaak het, maar sedert die eerste Pal. Konferensie wonder almal natuurlik waar en hoe Burger sy rare fossiele in die hande kry. Oom Roy Oosthuizen (Prins Albert) en Mnr Abraham de Vries (Barrydale) het natuurlik heelwat daarmee te doen, maar Burger het ook sy voelers soos die arms van 'n seekat oor die hele Wes-Kaap uitgesprei en gevolglik was hy ook die eerste een om te verneem van die oorblyfsels van die dinosaurus by Heidelberg, J.P., in 'n klein kom van Krytafsettings. Dié fossiel word tans deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Museum uitgegrawe en ons hou maar duimvas dat dit blyk die moeite werd te wees. Wie weet, miskien vertel Burger ons meer daaromtrent by die volgende Konferensie.

Intussen was Burger en Bruce Rubidge (kleinseun van die Dr Rubidge van Wellwood, Graaf-Reinet) in die veld en Burger het 'n groot knol in die boonste skalies van die Witteberg gevind wat 'n een en 'n half meter lange, byna volledige euryptaried bevat. Oom Roy is tans besig om die eksemplaar te prepareer. Bruce het 'n ruk later die skedel van 'n soogdieragtige reptiel (waarskynlik 'n vleisvreter) in die Waterfordformasie gevind. Stratigrafies lê dié fossiel laer as *Eudicynodon* en kom sonder twyfel en volgens alle standaarde uit lae wat as *Ecce* beskou word.

Miskien moet Burger en Bruce in die Molteno vir werwelidre kom soek. Dis net moontlik dat hulle die voorsate van die dinosourusse vir ons daar sal kom oopkrap!

VERSOEK : REQUEST

Louis Botha (Grootfontein Landboukollege, Middelburg, K.P.) is steeds op soek na visse en veral ongewerweldes in die Beaufort, maar is nie altyd seker of dit wat hy vind, wel organies van oorsprong is nie. Hy sal graag meer informasie oor die ongewerweldes van veral die *Lystrosaurus*-sone wil bekom. Sy posadres is Privaatsak X529, Middelburg, 5900.

FORTHCOMING CONGRESSES

The British Society of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Comparative Anatomy will meet in late September in Kingston-on-Thames Polytechnic. When I have more definite news I will forward the dates and contact addresses to you. (Arthur Cruickshank).

The Micropalaeontology of Shelf Seas at Hull University, 19-25th July 1980. (R.V. Dingle)

Geocongress '81 will be held at the CSIR Conference Centre, Pretoria, 6-11 July 1981. The titles of papers must be submitted by 31 March 1980 and abstracts by 30 June 1980. Persons wishing to attend the symposium or to receive the second circular should write to

The Symposium Secretariat S.217
CSIR
P O Box 395
0001 PRETORIA

before 31 March 1980.

The telephone number is (012) 869211 x 3979 (Mrs Beck) and the telex address SA 3-630. (Information supplied by Tom Stratten).

NEWS

John Anderson will be attending the Gondwana Conference in Wellington, New Zealand during February. Thereafter he undertakes a study trip of various museums in eastern Australia. The palaeoflora work currently in progress will benefit greatly from the opportunity to view the original types and the many undescribed specimens available.

Heidi Anderson reports that a new palaeobotany herbarium has been established in the basement of the Botanical Research Institute in Pretoria. The specimens are catalogued with the same prefix used by the herbarium namely "PRE" with the addition of "F" for fossil, i.e. PRE/F.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Fred Grine

Research Projects:

1. Morphology and function of early hominid deciduous teeth.
2. Enamel structure in reptiles and mammals and the origin of prismatic enamel.
3. Palaeobiology of *Diademodon*.
4. Relative growth and cranial variability in *Lystrosaurus* (in conjunction with Mike Cluver).

Recent Publications:

1. Report on two infant skeletons and an adult metatarsal excavated from Diana's Vow. *Occas. pap. Nat. Mus. Rhod. A., Hum. Sci* 4(4): 141 - 145.
2. Enamel structure in the cynodonts *Pachygenelus* and *Tritylodon*. *Proc. electron microsc. Soc. S. Afr.*, 9: 99-100. (with C.E. Gow and J.W. Kitching).
3. Multivariate analysis of diademodontine crania from South Africa and Zambia. *S. Afr. J. Sci.*, 75: 441-448. (with D. Bradu).
4. Prismatic enamel: a preadaptation for mammalian diphyodonty? *S. Afr. J. Sci* (in press), (with E.S. Vrba).
5. Incidence of the renal venous collar in the South African Negro. *S. Afr. Med. J.* (in press). (with B. Kramer).
6. Arched gonadal arteries in the South African Negro. *Brit. J. Urol.* (in press). (with B. Kramer).

7. An articulated skeleton of a small individual of *Diademodon*. *Palaeont. afr.*, 22. (in press). (with C.E. Gow).
8. Evidence for salt glands in the Triassic reptile *Diademodon* (reptilia; Therapsida; Cynodontia). *Palaeont. afr.*, 22. (in press). (with D. Mitchell, C.E. Gow, J.W. Kitching and B.R. Turner).

Arthur Cruickshank

Projects:

1. Review of the Anomodontia in "Der Handbuch der Baläoherpetologie", with Dr A W Keyser. Text actually being written:
2. The Ruhuhu (Permo-Triassic) reptile fauna. The first phase goes into operation during the last half of March 1980.
3. Review of the Saurischia with J W A van Heerden.

The weeks since the New Year have been spent in clearing the decks, and the dust off the notes accumulated over the last twenty years, for the Handbuch contribution. So far a rationalisation of the taxonomy of the anomodonts has been written in first draft, as has the sections on general osteology and geographical and stratigraphical ranges. I am busy now trying to condense all the recent functional studies on the dicynodonts into a reasonable compass . . . ! The development on the Ruhuhu faunal study is that some cash has been made available by the University Museum in Cambridge for me to go there to assess the status of the unprepared material and perhaps to be able to start to make something of it, as a first step to the compilation of the faunal review. I also hope to be able to see something of Jacques when he is in England in April, so that some idea of the scope of the classification of the Saurischia can be arrived at.

The review of the Triassic Dicynodontia, in collaboration with André Keyser has apparently just appeared in the *Trans. geol. Soc. S.Afr.*

My paper in collaboration with Beric Skews on the swimming characteristics of

the Nectridea has been submitted for publication, but no news about its acceptance as yet.

Russell Shone

Project: Giant *Cruziana* from the Beaufort Group.

An arthropod origin for the giant *Cruziana* at Burgersdorp in Beaufort Group sediments appears likely after the discovery of other arthropod traces (*Diplichnites*, *Monomorphichnus*). A discussion paper in the *Trans. geol. Soc. S. Afr.* 82 (3) will detail the find.

Recent paper: Giant *Cruziana* from the Beaufort Group. *Trans. geol. Soc. S. Afr.* 81 (3): 319-326.

F.J. du Plooy

Navorsing word tans gedoen oor grondvorm (en serie) met spesiale verwysing na die C-horisonne. Verskillende fisiese en meganiese eienskappe word ondersoek. Opnames by die Katrivier en Oslaagte is voltooi en dié by Venterstad sowat halfpad. Ongepubliseerde verslae vir die Dept Landbouetegniese Dienste is opgestel, t.w. oor die Geologie van die Molteno-omgewing, die Geologie van die Klipspruit-opvanggebied en oor Probleme insake Akkerbougronde in die Distrik Molteno.

R.V. Dingle

Project: Middle-Upper Cretaceous ostracods of SE Africa.

Investigation of the Campanian-Maastrichtian faunas is complete and has been written up for publication.

Paper in press: Marine Santonian-Campanian ostracods from a borehole at Richards Bay, Zululand. *Ann. S. Afr. Mus.*

Mike Raath

1. Sauropod dinosaurs from the Upper Jurassic of Rhodesia. Amongst the material collected in the Sipolilo area in the Zambezi Valley, Rhodesia, over the past 13 years the bones of sauropods predominate. Four sauropod genera (*Brachiosaurus*, *Barosaurus*, *Dicraeosaurus* and *?Tornieria*) have been recognised and one other genus is as yet uncertain. The remains of one large carnivorous form (*Allosaurus*) have also been recovered. The manuscript (with Prof. J.S. McIntosh of the Wesleyan University as co-author) is nearing completion.

2. Osteology of *Syntarsus rhodesiensis*.

The manuscript, which is a revision of the thesis, is making progress.

3. Collection of dinosaurs in the Northern Free State (with Dr James Kitching

Field work in the Fouriesburg/Clocoland area was carried out in February, James Kitching spending a total of six weeks looking for fossils. Paper in press: Dinosaurs and Bird Ancestry. *Honeyguide* (Rhodesian Ornithological Society) 100.

Juri van den Heever

Nog steeds besig met sy studie vir primitiewe therocephaliërs. Danksy die welwillendheid van André Keyser (Geologiese Opname, Pretoria) en James Kitching (BPI) vorder die preparering van eksemplare goed en interessante feite is besig om aan die lig te kom. Op hierdie stadium lyk dit redelik seker dat daar oortollige genera en spesies in die Pristerognathidae bestaan. Die foto-elastiekprogram oor die funksionele aspekte van die onderkaak vorder ook goed.

Publikasie op die pers: On the validity of the therocephalian family Lycosuchidae (Reptilia: Therapsida). *Ann. S. Afr. Mus.* 81 (2).

Chris Gow

Project: Ictidosaurian jaw articulation.

See entries under Fred Grine's name for joint papers.

Elizabeth Vrba

- Projects:
1. Analysis of antelope distribution in modern ecosystems for palaeoecological interpretation.
 2. Interpretation of evolutionary trends.
 3. Hippotragini (sable/roan/gemsbok) and Bovini (buffaloes) of Makapansgat.
 4. A report on the status of the Kromdraai excavation.

A major paper on evolution has just been completed while a theoretical attempt at a new explanation for evolutionary trends has been submitted. Another account of more Makapansgat antelope fossils is almost ready (there seems to be an early relative of the desert antelope *Addax* of Makapansgat Member 3!). David Panagos and Elizabeth are continuing work at cleaning the Kromdraai site, preparing the recently excavated fossils.

D.A. Salmon

- Projects:
1. Micropalaeontology of deepsea cores from the southwest Indian Ocean.
 2. Recent reefal Foraminifera from Mauritius.
 3. Foraminifera from deepsea cores in the South Atlantic Ocean.

The first of the above-mentioned is my official, fulltime project and some preliminary results have been given in the joint G.S.O./U.C.T. Marine Geology Programme Technical Report No. 11 (full references/under Recent Publications). A Marine Programme Bulletin is being prepared with the provisional title "Tertiary to Recent Foraminifera from the S.W. Indian Ocean." This will basically be a systematic study. Present and future work involves palaeoclimatic and palaeo-oceanographic interpretations based on the microfossil evidence.

Burger Oelofsen

Die navorsing oor die uitbroeibaarheid van eiers by verskillende atmosfeersamestellings vorder goed. Vyftien krokodilletjies het uitgebroei en drie broeisels bergskilpadeiers kom nou aan die beurt.

Die beskrywing van die haaiskedel is gereed vir publikasie.

Jacques van Heerden

1. Morphology and taxonomy of Triassic saurischian dinosaurs. The paper on *Euskelosaurus* was published in December 1979 and the paper on *Roccosaurus* needs a little retouching before it is finally printed. During March and April visits will be paid to Ludwigsburg (West Germany), the BM(NH) and Oxford University Museums to study Triassic dinosaur material with the view to revise the Triassic saurischian families and determine the affinities of *Roccosaurus*.

2. New Palaeontological Display at the National Museum, Bloemfontein. This is now in the final planning stage, actual construction work to begin in March. We hope to open the display at the end of next year.

3. Classification of saurischian dinosaurs.

As reported by Arthur Cruickshank, we hope to meet in Cambridge to discuss this joint project; I also hope to discuss problems with Alan Charig and John Attridge while in London.

VERSOEK : REQUEST

Juri van den Heever en Fred Grine (Suid-Afrikaanse Museum) is op soek na lewende eksemplare van pootlose akkedisse. Hulle sal dit baie waardeer om enige lid van die fossoriale Scincidae te bekom en is selfs bereid om daarvoor te betaal.



Front Row: Prof. Jim Hopson, Prof. Mike Raath, Dr Herbert Klinger, Dr &

Middle: Dr Norton Hiller, Miss Mary-Ann van den Nieuwenhof, Juri van Chesselet, Dr Eva Kovacs-Endrődy, Johan Loock, Dr Elisabeth Vrba, Dr

Back Row: Dr Jacques van Heerden, Fred Grine, Miss Beth Peterson, An van Dyk



Mrs Bob Brain, Hannes Oberholzer, Dr James Kitching

den Heever, Miss Giselle Troskie, Miss Nadine Troskie, Miss Heidi Jacobs, Mrs Imogen
Chris Gow

Andrew Hauser, Colin MacRae, Dr André Keyser, Dr A S Brink, Burger Oelofsen, Dr Eddie

INFORMATION REQUESTED

Any references pertaining to Indian Ocean reefal Foraminifera, with special reference to Mauritius. (D.A. Salmon. Geological Survey, P O Box 572, Bellville, 7530).

FIRST PAL CONFERENCE

The authors of papers delivered at the First Conference are probably as keen as the Editor to see them in print. It is hoped that typesetting will start in April and authors should receive their proofs in May or June. The editing has taken longer than expected due mainly to outside incursions on the editor's time, but now the end appears to be in sight!

A number of members ordered colour slides taken during the first Conference. Unfortunately the Museum's photographer is as overworked as the editor (shame (shame - on both of them!)) but he hopes to get around to it as soon as he has a few moments to spare.

For those who did not attend the Conference, we include a photograph of all delegates so you can identify your old enemies and future friends.

CONFERENCES

The Micropalaeontology of Shelf Seas - Fossil and Recent. Sponsored by the British Micropalaeontological Society and to be held at Hull University, 19-25 July 1980. For more information, contact Dr D A Salmon, Geological Survey, P O Box 572, Bellville, 7530.

IT MAKES ONE WONDER, DOESN'T IT?

Mike Raath asks whether anyone else listened to the interview on the SABC English Service programme "Audiomix" on Tuesday, February 5th, when Peter Mellor spoke to someone from Sudwala Caves? Some of the "statements" in that interview were enormously entertaining, e.g. did you know that the pelycosaur *Dimetrodon* evolved into the *crocodile* simply by shaking off its sail?!

Is this really the way to educate the general public?

After this complaint was received, the Editor wrote a letter to the SABC requesting their co-operation to prevent the same thing happening in future. We will print this letter and their reply in the next issue of *Pal News*.

If you have other complaints of a similar nature, please contact Drr Mike Cluver (South African Museum) or Jacques van Heerden (National Museum) giving all the available information. It is really our *duty* to raise the standard of general knowledge regarding palaeontology.

FRED GRINE

Fred moved to Cape Town at the end of last year and his new address is:

Dept of Palaeontology
South African Museum
P O Box 61
8000 CAPE TOWN

He also married Beth in the last half of the year But I never got any champagne.

Anyway, we wish Fred and Beth everything of the best in their new surroundings.!

DR L D BOONSTRA SE NAGEDAGTENIS GEHULDIG

Die nagedagtenis van 'n Oud-Matie en een van Suid-Afrika se bekendste en kleurrikste wetenskaplikes, dr L D Boonstra, gaan voortaan gehuldig word deur die jaarlikse toekenning van 'n beurs vir gevorderde studie en navorsing in die paleontologie aan die Universiteit van Stellenbosch.

Wyle dr Boonstra, eertydse hoof-paleontoloog van die S A Museum in Kaapstad, was 'n wêreldkenner op die gebied van die primitiewe soogdieragtige reptiele van Suid-Afrika en Rusland. Vir die studie van laasgenoemde het hy Rusland onder meer in die vyftigerjare besoek.

Dié beurs sal kom uit die jaarlikse opbrengs van 'n skenking van R10 000 wat dr Boonstra se erfgename (sy weduwee en vier kinders) uit sy nalatenskap aan hulle vir die Universiteit van Stellenbosch beskikbaar gestel het. Die weldoeners is sy weduwee, mev I V Boonstra van Kaapstad, sy dogter, mev H M Ross, en sy seuns, mnre H G van D, D M en G Boonstra.

Die eerste Boonstra-beurs is onlangs toegeken aan mnr J A van den Heever, 'n Ph.D.-student aan die U S. Hy bestudeer die soogdieragtige reptiele van die Perm-tydperk.

Stellenbosch is die enigste Afrikaanse universiteit en een van die enigste twee Suid-Afrikaanse universiteite wat die paleontologie as 'n afsonderlike studierigting aanbied.

Dr Boonstra het die grade B.Sc. in 1926, M.Sc. in 1928 (albei cum laude) en sy doktorsgraad in 1930 aan die U S behaal. Kort nadat hy die graad B.Sc. behaal het, het hy aan die S A Museum begin werk, waar hy gedurende 'n leeftyd van toewysing aan sy vakgebied o m 'n belangrike bydrae gelewer het tot dié museum se waardevolle fossielversameling. Hy was 70 jaar oud toe hy in 1975 in Kaapstad oorlede is.



Met die toekenning van die eerste Boonstra-beurs onlangs op Stellenbosch is die ontvanger daarvan mnr Jurie van den Heever (tweede van links), hier saam met die dekaan van die Universiteit se fakulteit natuurwetenskappe, prof J A de Bruyn, mev I V Boonstra en mnr H G van D Boonstra afgeneem.

Artikel en foto met vriendelike vergunning oorgeneem uit *Matieland*.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- GRINE, F.E. & E.S. VRBA, 1979. Enamel prisms and diphyodonty: linked apomorphies of Mammalia. *S. Afr. J. Sci.* 75 (1).
- SALMON, D.A. 1979. Micropalaeontological investigations of piston cores from the S.W. Indian Ocean: Some preliminary results and implications. *GSO/UCT Mar. Geol. Prog. Tech. Rept.* 11: 63-72.
- 1979 Quaternary foraminifers in piston cores from the S.W. Indian Ocean. *GSO/UCT Mar. Geol. Prog. Tech. Rept.* 11: 72-79.
- 1979. Some Tertiary foraminifers in deepsea piston cores from the Central Terrace and Agulhas Bassage, S.W. Indian Ocean. *GSO/UCT Mar. Geol. Prog. Tech. Rept.* 11: 80-88.
- SIESSER W.G. & D.A. SALMON. 1979. Eocene marine sediments in the Sperrgebiet, South West Africa. *Ann. S. Afr. Mus.* 79: 9-34.
- VRBA, E.S. 1980. Evolution species and fossils: How did life evolve? *S. Afr. J. Sci.* 76 (2).
- 1979. A new study of the scapula of *Australopithecus africanus* from Sterkfontein. *Am. J. Phys. Anthropol.* 51: 117:129.
- 1979. Phylogenetic analysis of fossil and recent Alcelaphini
J. Linn. Soc. (Zool.) 11 (3): 207-228.
-

Why is Palaeontology considered a crime?
- *It doesn't pay.*

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

In the previous issue of *Pal. News* (vol. 2(1): 18-20) amendments to the Constitution were proposed. No comments have been received and it would seem therefore that our readers agree in principle with the idea to enlarge the Committee. The amendments are hereby formally proposed and members are requested to vote YES or NO on each paragraph. In case of a "NO" vote, please give the alternative you would prefer under the same number on a separate sheet of paper and attach it to the ballot form.

The closing date for this ballot is 15 September 1980 and the results will be published in the next issue of *Pal. News*.

RULE 5. MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIETY

5.1 THE COMMITTEE:

5.1.1 The management of the Society will be vested in a Committee which consists of one representative for each of the following regions:

- 5.1.1.1 Northern Transvaal (Transvaal Museum, Geological Survey in Pretoria, University of Pretoria)
- 5.1.1.2 Southern Transvaal (Witwatersrand University and the Bernard Price Institute for Palaeontological Research, Rand Afrikaans University, Potchefstroom University)
- 5.1.1.3 Western Cape (South African Museum, University of Cape Town, University of Stellenbosch, Geological Survey in Bellville)
- 5.1.1.4 Eastern Cape (University of Port Elizabeth, University of Rhodes, Port Elizabeth Museum, Albany Museum, Kaffrarian Museum)
- 5.1.1.5 Natal (Natal Museum, University of Natal)

- 5.1.1.6 Orange Free State (U O F S, National Museum)
 - 5.1.1.7 Northern Cape Province, South West Africa/Namibia and Zimbabwe-Rhodesia
 - 5.1.1.8 One amateur member from any part of southern Africa.
- 5.1.2 Each division except the amateur section will follow one of the following the procedures to select a representative:
- 5.1.2.1 The existing regional representative will give notice of at least one month of a meeting of the members of the division and the purpose therefore, the meeting to take place not earlier than four months and not later than one month before the next bi-annual Conference. The members of the Society present at such a meeting will elect a new regional representative to take office immediately; or
 - 5.1.2.2 In the four months prior to a bi-annual Conference the existing regional representative will call for proposals for a new representative for the region from the members of the division to be presented in writing, allowing at least one month for the return of proposals, will then send out a list of the proposals to the members and allow at least one month for the ballot. The closing date for this ballot should not be later than one month before the bi-annual Conference and the new representative takes office as soon as he has been informed by the previous one of the result of the ballot. In all cases of postal votes the ballot forms must eventually be returned to the Secretary of the Society and not later than the day before the start of the bi-annual Conference. The regional representative may request the Secretary to send out the call for proposals and ballot forms on his behalf, provided such a request is made at least six months before the next-bi-annual Conference.

5.1.3 The Secretary will call for proposals for a representative for the division of amateur members and will send out the ballot forms to the amateur members; the procedure and time limits will be the same as in 5.1.2.2.

5.1.4 For the purpose of the election an amateur will be regarded as any person who is not directly or indirectly employed by a recognised palaeontological institute such as a university department or a museum. Any member may apply for transfer to the amateur or non-amateur group to the Secretary, who will place the request to the Executive Council and whose decision will be final till after the next bi-annual Conference.

5.2 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: This will consist of:

5.2.1 The Immediate Past President,

5.2.2 The President of the Society, and

5.2.3 The Vice President, who will be elected from the members of the Committee (i.e. the regional representatives) by the members of the Society present at the business meeting during the bi-annual Conference.

5.2.4 The term of office of these three office bearers will be more or less two years, i.e. from the last day of one bi-annual Conference till the penultimate day of the next bi-annual Conference. After his term as Vice President this official automatically becomes President.

5.3 OFFICE BEARERS: The Committee will appoint the following:

5.3.1 An Editor for *Pal News* who will see to it that the newsletter is published and distributed according to the conditions set forth in the Constitution and the decisions of the Committee.

5.3.2 A Secretary who will handle all correspondence on behalf of the Committee and the Executive Council and who will keep the

minutes of all meetings. If the Secretary is unable to attend, the meeting will appoint a temporary Secretary.

5.3.3 A Treasurer who will handle the bookkeeping of the Society.

5.3.4 Other officials as may be dictated by circumstances.

5.3.5 The above appointments need not be from the members of the Committee and the Committee will have the power to appoint assistants for any of the above officials or to combine any two or more of these posts.

5.4 GENERAL:

5.4.1 If the President should resign during his term of office the Vice President automatically becomes President for the remainder of that term as well as for the following term.

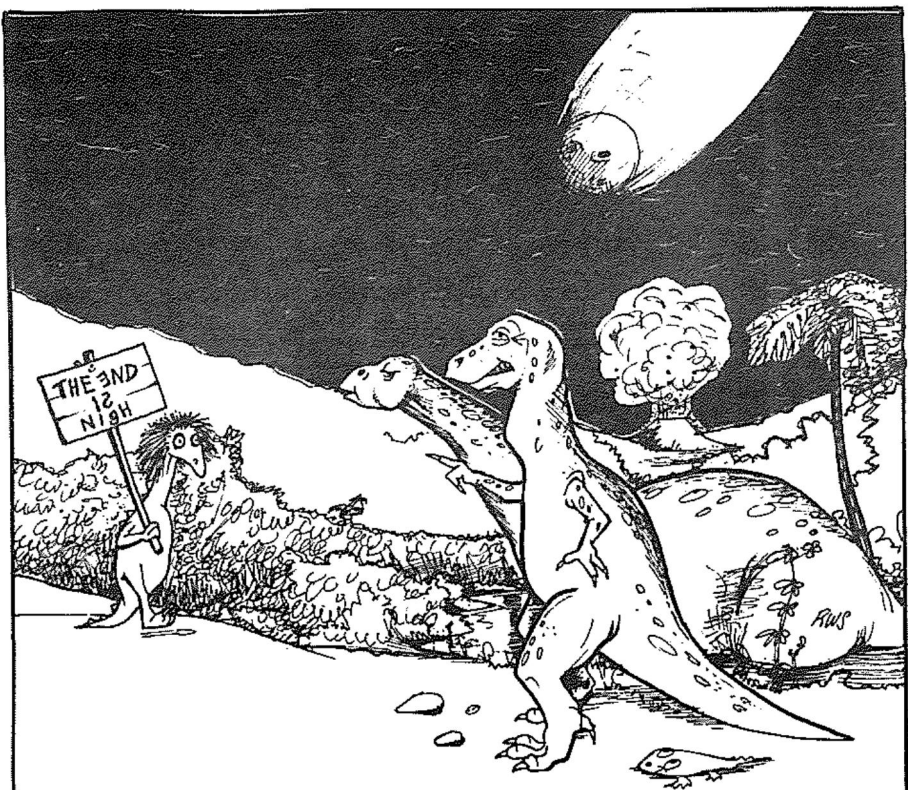
5.4.2 Should the Vice President resign a new Vice President must be elected from the Committee by the members of the Society, who will then automatically become President at the end of that term. Should the Vice President become President under circumstances set forth in 5.4.1, an Acting Vice President is appointed by the Committee and a new Vice President is then elected by the members of the Society at the next bi-annual Conference.

5.4.3 Should a vacancy for a regional representative occur in the middle of a term, the Committee may appoint a new representative for that region for the rest of the period, preferably after consulting the members of the particular region.

5.4.4 The Committee may delegate any or all of its powers to the Executive Council.

Proposed by Jacques van Heerden

Seconded by Johan Loock



"Uh oh! Here comes old Doomsday again."

(Some scientists now believe that a giant meteor might have caused the extinction of the dinosaurs.)

Cartoon by Russell Shone

PSSA ARCHIVES

It is a sad fact that although we know a fair amount about the lives of prominent South African palaeontologists of the past, very little is known of more obscure personalities like "Gogga" Brown, the Reverend Whitts, Father Ruebsamen, Dr Kannemeyer and probably a score of others. We have, therefore, three vital and urgent requests to all our readers, viz.

1. If you know of any published or unpublished biographies on any South African palaeontologist of the past, please send us the reference (if published) or what the procedure would be to procure a copy of an unpublished biography.
2. Each member of the Society is kindly requested to send us his or her *curriculum vitae* and photograph(s). These will be kept in a special file for the use of the future author of "The History of Palaeontology in Southern Africa" (to be published in 2080 at a cost of R750,99 for the paperback edition.)

It may be noted that the reports sent in by members for *PAL NEWS* are also filed so that these will eventually supplement the *curricula vitae*.

3. We would like to establish a reference library for Southern African Palaeontology which will be the exclusive property of the PSSA. It would, therefore, be appreciated if all members can send us reprints or photocopies of *all* their palaeontological papers; if you have duplicates of papers by other authors, we would certainly appreciate having them also. It is the intention to index all papers properly so that it can become a real reference library.

We thank you in advance for your kind co-operation!