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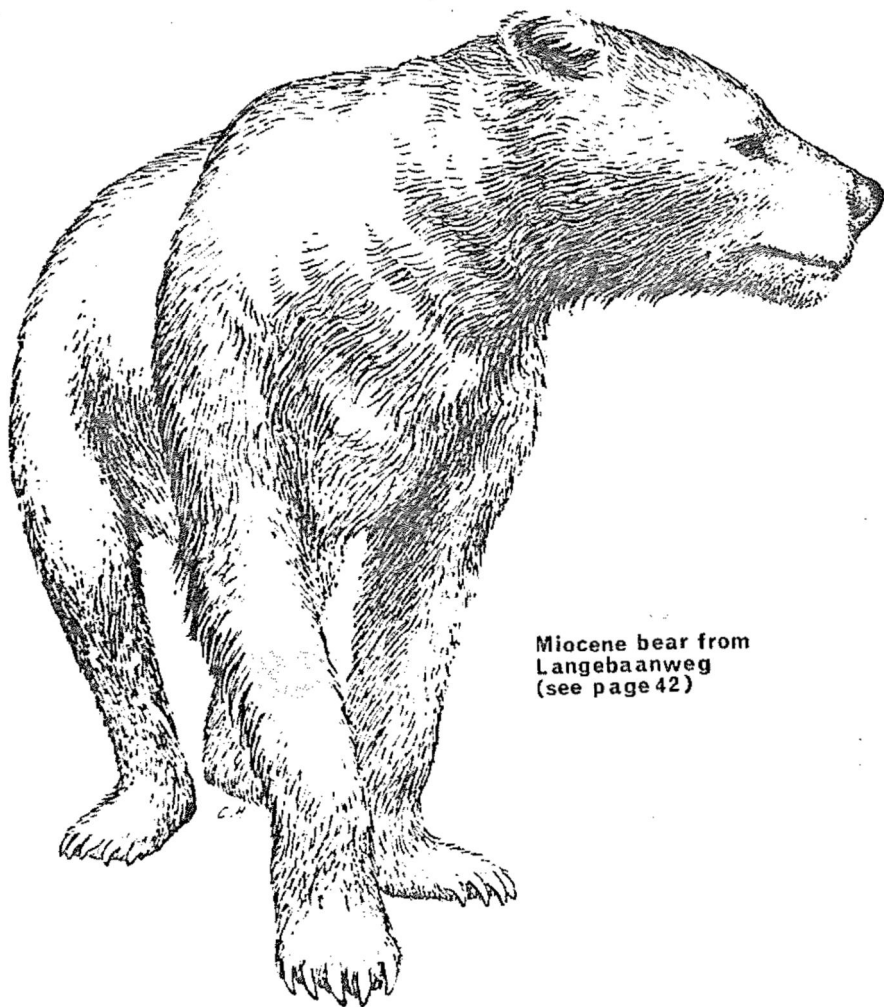
# PAL NEWS PAL NUUS

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JUN 1982

Biannual Newsletter of the Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa.

Halfjaarlikse Nuusbrief van die Paleontologiese Vereniging van Suider-Afrika.



Miocene bear from  
Langebaanweg  
(see page 42)

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PAL NEWS is printed by the University of the Witwatersrand and published by the Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa for its members.

Acting Editor: Prof. M.A. Raath, BPI (PALAEONTOLOGY)  
University of the Witwatersrand,  
Johannesburg.

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Palaeontological Society of South Africa appears to be emerging from a relatively quiet period, and with the appearance of the Newsletter in its new form and circulars advertising the next conference in Pretoria, things seem set for a time of renewed and, hopefully, sustained activity and growth. I am fairly sure that, as would be the case with the fossils we study, the Society suffered no decay during its brief period of dormancy.

I believe there were two main reasons for the "suspended animation" situation which appears to be ending now. One was the move by Jacques van Heerden, our present Vice President and previous Editor of the Newsletter, to a new post at Fort Hare University. Jacques was thrown straight into a full teaching programme and, through no fault of his own, time for Society affairs became very limited for a while. In addition, loss of the Society membership list (our unique apomorphy!) and other records, plus material for the Newsletter, were major setbacks, as explained by Mike Raath in the previous issue. Jacques joins me in a vote of thanks and congratulation to Mike and his team at the BPI for the laudable effort they have put into the most recent Newsletters,

and urge all members to help Mike in his task by providing material for publication in the Newsletter.

Secondly, I think the long time lapse between conferences had a detrimental effect on the PSSA - the last conference was in Bloemfontein in 1979. Conferences were originally planned for every two years, but through unavoidable circumstances the meeting scheduled for 1981 had to be postponed into the present financial year. In the process we have brought ourselves out of a recurring conflict with two other societies which also meet biennially but on odd-number years. While this is an obvious improvement, I nevertheless believe that it is important that the Society conference not be allowed to lapse again; the Society, after all, consists of members, and one of its main objectives is the provision of opportunities for those members to meet and exchange latest ideas on our subject. Happily, we now seem assured of a successful meeting as guests of the Geological Survey in Pretoria in July.

What of the long-term future of the PSSA? Perhaps it will only be on some occasion when all those who are actively involved in palaeontology, 'professionals' and 'amateurs' alike, meet together that it will become apparent to everyone just how wide the field is that is being covered in South Africa. At present,



many palaeontological activities are confined to small groups of workers, sometimes collaborating together on an informal basis, but the broader significance of some of these projects is seldom presented before a more general audience of people working in the same geographical and sometimes even the same stratigraphical sphere. Given this situation, and the added fact that palaeontological research as a whole appears to be on the increase in South Africa, I am convinced that the PSSA has a potentially vital, but as yet not fully realised, role to play in our branch of science. As the only general palaeontological society in the country, it should be serving actively to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and information between, for instance, those studying vertebrate and invertebrate fossils, comparative anatomy, palaeobotany, stratigraphy, micropalaeontology and the principles of classification. I am equally convinced that this role can be filled by our Society: it is only up to us, the members, to ensure that we grow towards achieving this goal.

Let me conclude with three suggestions as to how we members can best ensure that the PSSA's *quo vadis* becomes the direction I have outlined above:

1. Pay the very modest subscription fees prompt-

ly when these fall due, and advertise Society activities among non-members who may become interested in joining. The Society can achieve little if it is continually hamstrung by a backlog of overdue subscriptions.

2. Provide material for the Newsletter:

publishing the Newsletter is currently the main function of the Society between conferences, and to help it to provide a useful service we need items of both general and specific interest from members.

3. Make every effort to attend Society conferences. The biennial conferences are the highlight of Society activities, and hopefully also occasions where members can expect value for their money. A lot of effort has gone into the preparation of the Pretoria conference - as I explained earlier it took an extra year to arrange! - and I think we can expect a very worthwhile meeting.

See you there in July!

M.A. Cluver  
PRESIDENT

## SOCIETY EMBLEM COMPETITION

A big "Thank you" to all who put in the effort to design something to submit. We now have 17 designs submitted by nine people.

### JUDGING

Judging of the emblem competition will take place at the Conference in Pretoria in July. If you will be at the Conference, you can cast your vote there. If you will not be at the Conference, please send your written vote to Mike Raath, BPI (Pal), University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. The competition will have to be decided by the number of valid notes *in the hands of the judges* at the moment of judgement. Votes still in the post or undelivered for any reason will not qualify. Therefore, please get your vote in straight away.

When you vote please give the following information: Your name; the name of the person(s) whose entry you vote for; the particular individual design if that person has entered more than one design (multiple entries are distinguished by letters), and *sign your vote.*

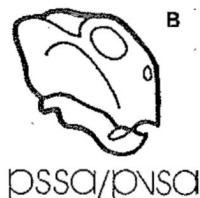
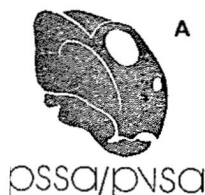
These are the final entries in the Society Emblem Competition:

1. Ione Rudner (drawn by Linda Kray)

The two-version design by Ione and Linda has the following motivation:

"The choice of subject is that of Fred Grine and Juri van den Heever (see *Pal News* vol. 2 (4) of December 1981), with their knowledge and with due acknowledgement to them; their reasons are sound and I cannot think of anything better. The *Lystrosaurus* is stylized, as a logo should be (the tusk requires some further work). The logo is more important than the lettering; therefore light, lower case lettering is used.

The outline drawing is probably the better from the point of view of printing hassles with black".



2. Imogen Chesselet

Imogen's design carries the following motivation:

"The Ginkgo leaf represents the palaeobotanists.  
Karoo palaeontologists are symbolised by a di-  
cynodont humerus, geologists by their implement,  
invertebrate palaeontologists by an ammonite,  
and the head-hunters by Mrs. Ples.

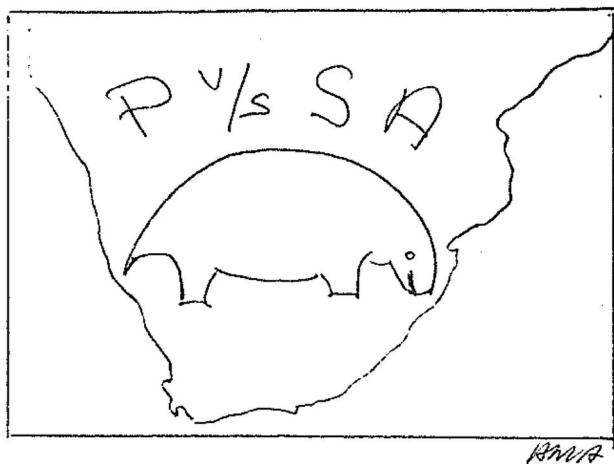
The rather piratical aspect of the design refers  
to palaeontology's rather piratical past."



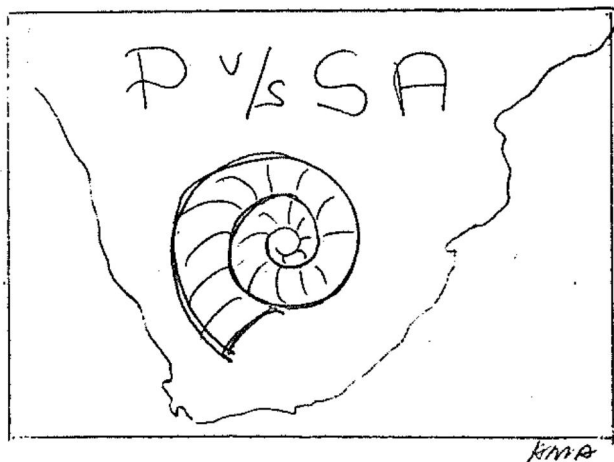
3. Heidi Anderson

Heidi suggests one of the following, which are rough working sketches.

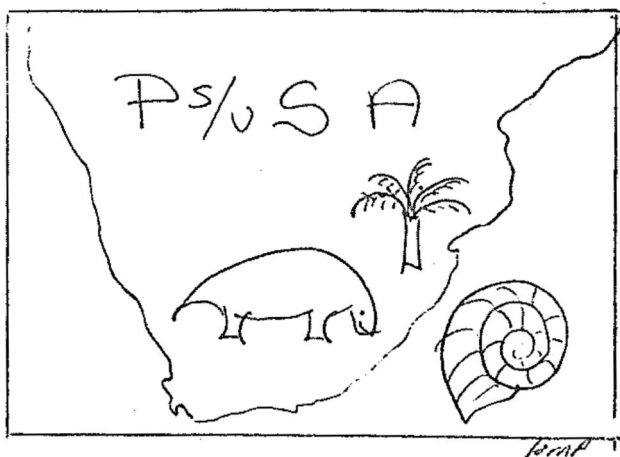
A



B

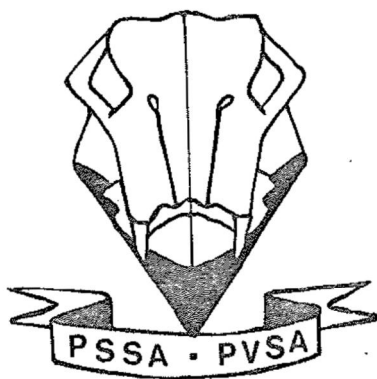


C



4. Jacqueline McLean (whom we welcome heartily as a new member).

Jacqueline has submitted the following six designs (behold! we have a veritable plague of *Lystrosaurus*!!)



A



B



C



D



E



F



## SECOND PSSA/PVSA CONFERENCE

5-9 JULY 1982

DIDACTA, SKINNER STREET, PRETORIA

All those who will attend this Congress are urged to react promptly to the second circular posted out some time ago from which statistical analyses must be made. Orders must be placed soon, especially with caterers who will handle the braai function, the congress dinner etc., and we must know the exact numbers involved.

There are apparently those who find the congress fee analysis unclear. The first column applies to all *contributors* (i.e. all those who are presenting a paper) and it is also applicable in full to all *Members of the Society*. The second column applies only to those attending who are not contributing and are not members, and they pay only for the items they attend. The third column applies to wives/husbands/or other guests. The fourth applies only to students/children (and student members of the Society).

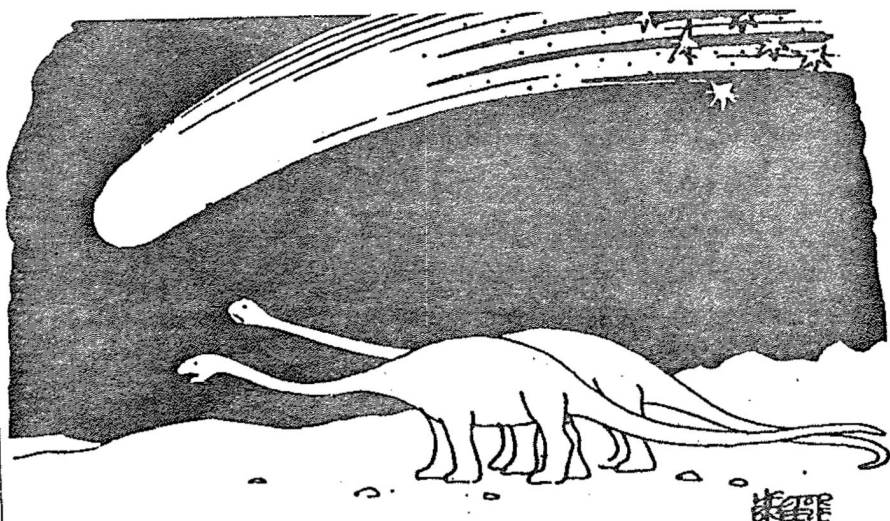
There are those who omitted to cross one of the two spaces under accommodation. It is then interpreted that other arrangements are being made. If an oversight, please write in and submit a request for hotel accommodation.

There is not yet a final *yes* or *no* from Prof. Tartinov, but we feel optimistic. If definitely *no*, we would have been told so long since. It's clear with our Department of Foreign Affairs for a visa and the CSIR has promised generous financial assistance for his accommodation. Strings are still being pulled also by the Dept. of Russian at UNISA through the Russian Ambassador to Botswana.

We are quite sure of Dr. G. Edward Lewis from Denver, Colo. U.S.A. Bloemfontein, stand by! He is very keen to see *Tritylodontoides*.

(All correspondence to: A.S. Brink, Geol. Survey of S.A., Private Bag X112, Pretoria. 0001).

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"Still, the Jurassic period was all right while it lasted"

## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Again only a few members have responded to the call for news on what they are doing. We are grateful to the following members for keeping in touch

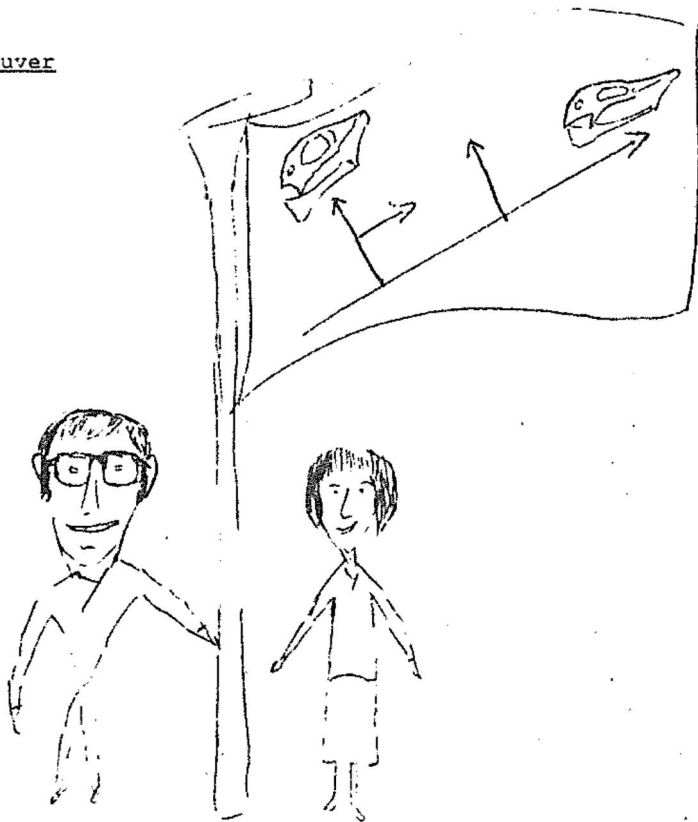
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### South African Museum, Cape Town

Mike Cluver (SA Museum) and Gillian King (Oxford) have completed a generic-level revision of Permian dicynodonts and a manuscript has been submitted for publication. The revision includes a reassessment of original Owen, Huxley and Broom types, as well as descriptions of additional specimens of the Ecca dicynodont *Eodicynodon*, first described by T.H. Barry. The phylogenetic relationships existing between the recognized Permian genera are analysed along cladistic principles, and a classification, which departs from standard cladistic principles in several respects, is presented. Taxa which cannot be adequately diagnosed are kept *incertae sedis*; the classification makes provision for later incorporation of these and future new forms. Triassic dicynodonts, which have recently been reviewed by Keyser and Cruickshank, are not dealt with in any detail; they are regarded as a monophyletic group related to *Dicynodon*.

Even if it is somewhat radical, our classification does bring some order into the picture, and we will remind critics that a radical solution was necessary to sort out the notoriously muddled dicy-nodonts. We hope to see the paper out later this year.

M.A. Cluver



## Transvaal Museum, Pretoria

Dr. A. Turner has recently joined the Transvaal Museum as Palaeontologist, and he kindly sent in the following introductory report:

My research has been concerned with the palaeoecology of British Upper Pleistocene large mammals, particularly the predators and especially the cave hyaena which is extremely well represented there.

My first degree was in prehistoric archaeology but my doctoral research placed more emphasis on palaeontological matters, although man too was considered as part of the large predator community.

For the past two years I held a research fellowship at the University of York, U.K., making a biometrically-based analysis of change over time in Viking and Medieval-age cattle and pigs from archaeological sites in the city. Although outside my main research interests in terms of subject matter, the biometrical aspects of the study are of general relevance to palaeontological work.

At the Transvaal Museum I hope to continue my interests in large predator palaeoecology while increasing my familiarity with early hominid material. I would also like to make some comparisons between

European and South African cave assemblages, in terms of features such as species size, anatomical parts present and the extent and manner of bone destruction. In addition, I am interested in Pleistocene mammal dispersals, with particular reference to hominids and large predators.

Dr. A. Turner

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#### PLUMBING THE DEPTHS OF SWARTKRANS

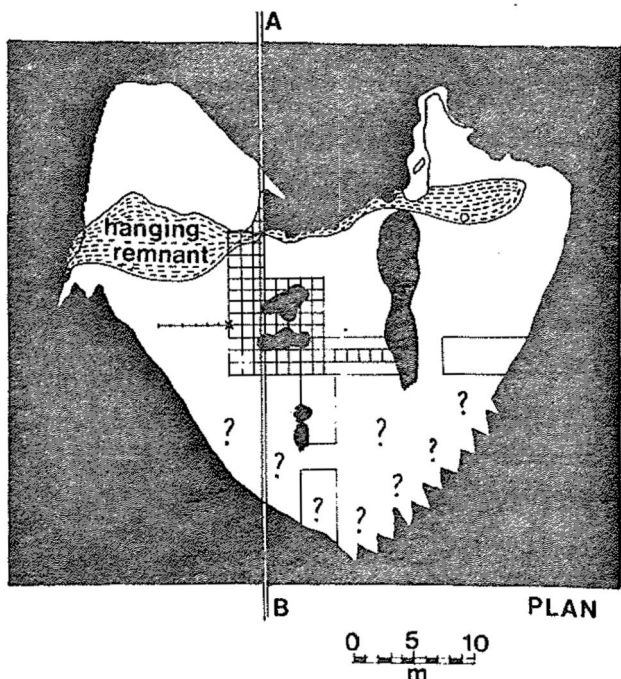
The focus of palaeontological attention at Swartkrans has always been in a narrow zone close to the north wall of the ancient cave. It was here that bone breccia, outcropping on the natural surface of the hillside, was first seen and exploited by Broom and Robinson in 1948, and it was from this narrow zone that the very large and important sample of early hominids, obtained between 1948 and 1953 was derived. Broom died in 1951 but Robinson continued work in the breccia against the north wall until 1953. In one of the last dynamite blasts of this period of work, a hole appeared in the bottom of the excavation, suggesting to Robinson that he had broken through into a lower cavern. What had actually happened only became clear about 20 years later.

Swartkrans lay fallow from 1953 to 1965 and, in the interim, Robinson moved to America. In 1965, when I returned to the Transvaal Museum from Zimbabwe, a new period of excavation started that has continued to this day. For 10 years we did little else but sort through miners' rubble that filled the Swartkrans cavern system to a depth of over 20 metres. We found that Swartkrans had been mined twice, - once in the 1930's when the activity penetrated deep into the Lower Cave, and again in 1949-50 during the period of the Broom/Robinson excavation, when a massive and very beautiful stalagmite which largely filled the Inner Cave was removed.

Following this period of rubble removal, it was possible to start extending the excavation area Southwards and interesting insights into the structure of the original cave and its filling were soon forthcoming. It became obvious that the mass of fossiliferous breccia excavated by Broom and Robinson was an isolated one, clinging to the north wall and showing an eroded under-surface decorated in places with secondary stalactites. Below this undercut surface of the "hanging remnant" of Member 1, as this part of the deposit has become known, were a variety of spaces and a complex of younger deposits.

It was through the bottom of the hanging remnant and into one of these spaces below it that the Broom/Robinson excavation had broken. On penetrating downwards through the younger deposits however, we came upon remnants of a "lower bank" of Member 1 preserved among the stalagmites on the floor.

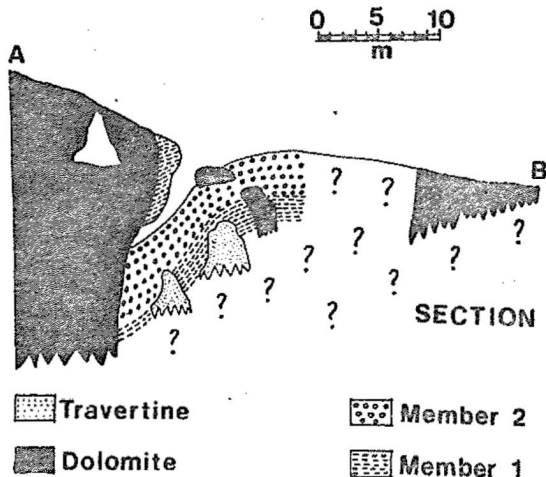
The interpretation of this "stratigraphic sandwich", with a filling of various younger deposits, has proved most perplexing. It is now clear that, following the original accumulation of a Member 1 talus cone perhaps 1,5 million years ago, a period of erosion cut a slot out of the middle of this cone, leaving





a "hanging remnant" and a "lower bank" with a gap between. The gap was subsequently filled with sediments of various ages collectively known as Member 2.

It is in the structure of the early part of the Member 1 "lower bank" that clues to the original structure of the cave's entrance, long since removed by erosion, must lie. It is essential to know where the southern wall of the cave was and what the stratigraphic structure of the early deposits against it was like. But this is easier said than done. The southern wall has disappeared under



the natural hillside surface, usually to a depth of three or four metres. It has also been covered by several very extensive dumps of broken rock that we put there years ago, thinking that we would never have to investigate *that* part of the hillside. Those dumps have just been moved and we are laboriously removing the hillside soil over what remains of the cave's southern wall.

Somewhere, beneath all that overburden, lie the remnants of the lower bank of Member 1 and, perhaps, the oldest fossils that Swartkrans has to offer.

Where the excavation of the last two years has penetrated the lower bank close to the north wall, it has yielded hominid remains as well as some bone tools of considerable interest. The problem there was that the stratigraphy of the ancient talus cone was inclined at about 45 degrees and the layers were extremely difficult to follow. Further to the south, in the area now being uncovered, the layers were almost horizontal and the stratigraphy should be comparatively easy to read. Once the superficial soil has been removed, the permanent metal grid can be extended over this part of the cave as well. Selected parts of the deposit can then be excavated on the same basis as before - according to a quarter metre horizontal grid and in 10 cm thick vertical

spits. In this way it should be possible to reposition every specimen of interest within the reconstructed stratigraphy of the cave.

This project, seemingly endless, yet rewarding, is only possible with the generous consent of the Director and Board of Control of the Bernard Price Institute for Palaeontological Research. It would not be feasible without the financial support of the C.S.I.R.'s Research Grants Division.

C.K. Brain



Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria  
Publication

After much backache and heartache the Molteno Palaeoflora Volume I part I Introduction and part 2 *Dicroidium* goes to the publishers (A.A. Balkema, Rotterdam) in early June and should be available in September. The volume consists of 110 pages text and 108 plates of photographs. Camera ready copy has been produced in the institute with the excellent assistance of Mrs. Brink, our typesetter, under John's meticulous eye.

This launches the Palaeoflora series and we look forward to similar contributions from fellow palaeobotanists on floras of other ages.

### Current Research

Work is in progress for Volume 2 of the Molteno Palaeoflora (Cycads & Ginkgos etc). As a follow up to our AETFAT Congress paper we are preparing a Prodomus on South African floras ; this will give an updated review of the plant fossils from the Devonian to early Cretaceous.

### Field Work

- 15 - 19 Feb 1982 - Mkuzi, Lower Cretaceous age
- 4 - 17 March 1982- Cape Fold Belt & Dordrecht, Devonian & Triassic age.
- 23 - 30 May 1982 - Aliwal North & Molteno - Triassic age

### Congress:

AETFAT 1982: The 10th Congress of the Association Pour l'Etude Taxonomique de la Flore d'Afrique Tropicale (AETFAT) was held at the CSIR conference centre from 18-23 January 1982. The congress was presented by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Botanical Research Institute) and organized by the AETFAT Secretariat and the South African Association of Botanists with the assistance of the Symposium Secretariat, CSIR.

In the keynote address, Dr. P. Raven (USA) reconciled the theory of past continental movements and plate tectonics with present day flora distributions particularly of the southern Hemisphere. By this means

trans-oceanic affinities and discontinuities between Africa and Australia and South America can be explained. The unicellular organisms of the Pre-cambrian fossil flora were discussed by Dr. H.H. Knoll (USA), the pteridophytes and gymnosperms of the Silurian to Cretaceous periods by Drs. J.M. and H.M. Anderson (RSA) and the angiosperms of the Tertiary by Dr. J.A. Coetzee (RSA) and Prof. E. Boureau (France). The angiosperms of the Quaternary in southern Africa were dealt with by Prof. E.M. van Zinderen Bakker (RSA) and north-tropical Africa by Dr. J. Maley (France). Dr. J. Vogel (RSA) dealt with isotope methods for obtaining evidence for past climates and vegetation in South Africa.

#### Visitors

Garry Gianning and Paula Wiens from Colorado College, U.S.A. came looking for a project during the AETFAT Congress. We enlisted them to help with the rather neglected lower Cretaceous flora. They spent a month collecting from Zululand to the Cape in our old Volkswagen beetle and then processed the material and helped prepare a m/s.

#### Heidi and John Anderson

## Universiteit van Stellenbosch

Chris Potgieter en Burger Oelofsen is steeds besig met spoorfossielwerk in die Peninsula-Formasie.

Inligting vanuit die spoorfossiele dui daarop dat bogenoemde formasie jonger is as wat algemeen aanvaar word.

Chris, Kobus Swanepoel en Dick Ravé het as 'n span 'n veldbesoek gebring aan die Borgmassivet in Antarktika. Dit was 'n baie interessante belewenis, en alhoewel hulle nou geen fossiele kon vind in die Voorkambriese sedimentêre gesteentes nie, het daar tog belangrike sedimentologiese en stratigrafiese inligting na vore gekom.

C.D. Potgieter

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### r. Studiereis:

Gedurende my periode van Studieverlof in 1982 het ek in opvolging van my werk oor die Mesosauridae van Suider Afrika, museums in Europa, die V S A en Brasilië besoek om materiaal van die Brasiliaanse vorme te bestudeer. Groot versamelings materiaal in Tübingen en in Stockholm wat oorspronklik deur von Huene en Wihman bestudeer is, is deur-

gewerk en tipe eksemplare in kleiner versamelings  
 soos in die Paryse en Britse Museums is na gekyk.  
 In die Senkenberg Museum in Frankfurt is 'n baie  
 goeie nuwe versameling *Stereosternum* materiaal be-  
 studeer en deur bemiddeling van Dr. G. Plodowski  
 het ek toegang gekry tot die grootste en beste ver-  
 sameling van *Stereosternum* materiaal aan my bekend,  
 die eksemplare in die voorraad van 'n handelaar in  
 fossiele in Frankfurt. Drie en twintig prageksemp-  
 plare waarvan bykans almal volledig is. Prys, van  
 ± R200 tot ± R4 000, afhangende van die grootte en  
 toestand van die eksemplaar. Die tragedie is dat al  
 die eksemplare uitgesmokkel is uit Brasilië ten spyte  
 van wetgewing en dat geen instansie binne Brasilië  
 naastenby so 'n goeie versameling materiaal besit  
 nie. Die wee van die Kapitalisme is voorwaar ver-  
 basend, en wonder 'n mens maar net wat van ons af  
 op dié wyse die handelaars bereik.  
 Tydens my besoek aan Stockholm was ek gelukkig ge-  
 noeg om Gotland vir 'n tydperk van 5 dae onder die  
 bekwame leiding van Mike Basset van die Museum van  
 Cardiff en Lesley Cherns van die Sweedse Geologiese  
 Opname, te besoek. Gotland, in die Baltiese See, is  
 die tipe lokaliteit vir die Ordovicium/Siluur en vir  
 'n Suid Afrikaner wat nie elke dag met Kalksteenrif-  
 afsettingsfacies te doen kry nie was die besoek 'n  
 opvoeding.

Die hoogtepunt van alles egter was die ongeveer twee maande in Porto Alegre by Mario Barberena van die Instituut vir Gondwana studies. Ook hier was ek gelukkig om op 'n veldekskursie van 4 dae die Gondwanaformasies van die Paranákom te kon sien. Uit wat ek gesien het van die Paranákom het my begrip van die Karooskome oneindig meer perspektief gekry.

Vir voornemende besoekers aan Brasilië die volgende raad. Moet onder geen omstandighede die suidelike staat "Rio Grande do Sul" misloop nie, veral nie die "Churrascarias" of braairesturante nie. Vra maar vir James Kitching en André Keyser hoe oorvloedig die vleis bedien word. Die Suid Afrikaanse Paleontoloog het al 'n reputasie daar opgebou as mense met 'n gesonde eetlus (my bydraes ingesluit!).

Die data wat ek ingesamel het word tans verwerk en sal hopelik, na intergrasie met die data oor die Suid Afrikaanse Mesosauridae, binnekort publiseerbaar wees.

## II. Besoekers: A Max Hecht & Sam Tarsitano

Tydens my studiereis het ek kennis gemaak met Dr. Sam Tarsitano, wat op daardie stadium in Tübingen gewerk het. Ten spyte van die feit dat hy as Amerikaner aanvanklik met my in Duits wou kommunikeer het ons later saam begin "broei" aan idees oor die funksionele redes vir die ontstaan van die verskillende tipes



temporaalvensters. (Die kommunikasie in Duits spruit uit die feit dat Tarsitano ook vir Herbert Klinger in Tübingen leer ken het en as gevolg daarvan onder die indruk was dat alle Suid Afrikaners Duits magtig is).

Uit die ontmoeting met Tarsitano het 'n besoek aan Stellenbosch deur hom, Max en Bessie Hecht gespruit. Max stel o/a baie belang in *Eozenopoides* tipe padda-fossiele wat in die Kimberlietkaldaras voorkom.

Besoekers : B Charles Waterston

Teen die einde van 1979 tydens die verkenning van die terrein waar Bruce Rubidge op daardie stadium sy Hons projek sou doen, het ons toevallig op 'n reuse ( $\pm$  1,25 m) Merostomaat in die Witteberg afgekom. Die korrespondensie wat daarop met deskundiges gevoer is het Charles Waterston geïnteresseerd gemaak en na 'n besoek aan hom in Edinburg deur Roy Oosthuizen besluit hy dat hy die fossiel moet sien. Hy skryf as volg aan my. "I am sure all this convinces you of the key importance of the South African specimen. I am so excited about it that I would love to have the opportunity of seeing your specimen myself since it appears to have the answers to so many questions which I have been wrestling with for 25 years!" So, "Ex Afrika -----."

Ek en Roy Oosthuizen sien albei baie uit na Charles Waterston se koms einde Mei en hoop om baie van hom te leer in die maand wat hy hier gaan wees.

Addendum: Op 'n veldeskursie met Niles Eldridge, Mike Cluver en Roy Oosthuizen is die volgende maklike tegniek om blinde trilobiete in die Bokkeveld te identifiseer "ontwerp". Dit werk baie eenvoudig. Die sleuteleienskap om voor op te let is dat die blinde trilobiet se gids brachiopod altyd in assosiasie aangetref word.

B.W. Oelofsen, Dept. Soölogie,  
Universiteit van Stellenbosch



#### SOMETHING ON INVERTEBRATES : A STUDY TOUR

R.D.F. Oosthuizen

Recently I had the good fortune to visit the British Museum of Natural History where I intended to examine their South African and South American trilobite material, but I was disappointed to find that, with the exception of a few isolated specimens, all of it was on loan in the U.S.A. But nonetheless it was a rare experience for me to see their unbelievable display of invertebrates. I soon realised that Europe is a collector's paradise because of its many limestone deposits. I even

found flint echinoids (upper Cretaceous) on Brighton Beach - trampled underfoot by thousands of bathers!

I met Dr. Charles Waterston of the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh (he is one of the very few Eurypterid experts) where he showed me his material and we had some very interesting discussions. After showing him a small but critical fragment of the giant Eurypterid from the Witteberg on which I had been working, he seemed so excited and convinced of its importance that he is probably coming to South Africa later this year to see it for himself.

I was also able to visit the Natural History Museums of Oslo and Vienna and in both cases they have wonderful Palaeozoic invertebrate collections, all beautifully displayed. Unfortunately time was a limiting factor as usual. I came away sadly reflecting on how much of our own wonderful Palaeozoic material lies hidden away in museum storerooms, some of it almost impossible to trace for study (e.g. Alex du Toit's South American Devonian invertebrate collection) and the general lack of interest in invertebrate fossils here in South Africa.

- - - -

(How can we overcome this apparent apathy? Ed).

★ ★ ★

ABOUT MY COLLECTION OF FOSSILS FROM THE BOKKEVELD  
BEDS

A.H. de Vries

I have now sold my farm in the Barrydale area to my youngest son, and my wife and I have now settled at 14 Van Riebeeck Street, Montagu, 6720.

A rather awkward problem arose in connection with my fossils, as I have no suitable place here to display them. The Afrikaans proverb: "Ver van jou goed is naby jou skade", was prominent in my mind after the disappointment I have had with the S.A. Museum in Cape Town in connection with fossils from me they handled. So I approached the management of the Montagu Museum about my fish and plant fossils from the Bokkeveld beds in the Barrydale area. They were impressed by the specimens I showed them and gave me their wholehearted support. They referred the matter to the Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation and soon afterwards Dr. C. Loedloff, Mr. W.O. Morsbach and Mr. A. Visser visited Montagu. They also inspected other projects of the Museum and also had a look at my fossils, which impressed them. The Museum is now waiting for a reply about the money arrangement they had discussed. My new plant fossil was described by Dr. Edna Plumstead, who worked for a week on the farm at it. She named the type specimen after me as *Zosterophyllum de-vriesii*

sp. nov. and the other species she called *Zosterophyllum bokkeveldensis*, "to record its position in South African stratigraphy".

Then the South African Museum came with a publication in which the same fossil plant was named after Dr. Plumstead, by Dr. W.G. Chaloner of London.

(It was however corrected by an "Addendum added in Press"). Dr. Chaloner further says: "After preparing this manuscript for publication, the authors received (August 1979) an offprint of Plumstead's (1977) account of *Zosterophyllum de-vriesii* and *Z. bokkeveldensis*."

I cannot understand why information about Dr. Plumstead's account was not passed to Chaloner et al. sooner. Now there are two names for the same plant fossil: *Zosterophyllum* (Plumstead) and *Archaeosigillaria* (Chaloner)!

My fish fossil from the Bokkeveld beds, which generations of experts suspected to be there but which no one could find until it was discovered by me, was NOT named after me in the paper published by the S.A. Museum, but after Dr. J.N. Theron, my friend and collaborator, who showed me correspondence in which he tried to have the fossil named after me, the finder. He told me he felt very unhappy about the matter.

Note by Editor

The South African Museum was asked to comment on Mr. de Vries' report. Their reply is:

The South African Museum administered the loan of a collection of fossil fishes and plants, donated to us by Mr. de Vries, to specialists at the University of London and British Museum for study and description. Although the resulting paper, dealing with both fishes and plants, appeared in the *Annals of the South African Museum* (1980: vol. 81, part 3), Museum staff were in no way involved in its preparation. The authors of the publication were for their part entirely dependent on South African sources for locality and collection data, and cannot be held responsible for any omissions, or the nomenclatural duplication that occurred. The South African Museum was from the start led to believe (incorrectly, it now seems) that the original collector wished to remain anonymous.

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## BPI (Palaeontology), Johannesburg

News from Judy Maguire (Bernard Price Institute for Palaeontological Research).

### Current Research:

Three of us - Ian G. Stanistreet of the Geology Dept., University of the Witwatersrand, Friedemann Schrenk of the Geologisch-Paläontologisches Institut, Darmstadt, West Germany and myself have been having a close look at the stratigraphy and sediments of the Makapansgat Limeworks, particularly the red muds. We will be reporting on some of our findings at the forthcoming PSSA meeting in Pretoria. This research has involved several enjoyable field trips to Makapansgat. Dr. G.J. Hennig, Institut für Kernchemie, Universität Köln, West Germany has performed Uranium Series dating and ESR tests on travertines from the Makapansgat Limeworks. I have the correspondence and initial results : anyone interested?

We have all enjoyed the collaboration and the insights which our various backgrounds, training and outlook have provided.

Friedemann and myself have embarked upon what we consider to be a comprehensive analysis of the Makapansgat Limeworks grey breccia fossil bones. A computer programme was designed and was shown to work very effectively ..... but we had problems defining

"damage categories". For example, there are striations and striations ..... we would say that a set of striations was attributable to hyaenas, another colleague would suggest that they were not hyaena tooth marks at all but "preparator damage" while yet another colleague would suggest "rotational scarring due to use"! Friedemann and myself will be giving a paper on this problem of attributing specific causes to observed damage at the forthcoming PSSA conference.

Recent publications (J & B Maguire)

Maguire, J.M., Pemberton, D. and Collett, M.H.

(1980). The Makapansgat Limeworks Grey Breccia : Hominids, Hyaenas, Hystricids or Hill-wash? Palaeont. afr., 23:75-98

Maguire, B. (1980): Further observations on the nature and provenance of the lithic artefacts from the Makapansgat Limeworks. Palaeont. afr., 23:127-151

Maguire, B. (1980). The potential vegetable dietary of Plio-Pleistocene Hominids at Makapansgat. Palaeont. afr. 23:69

Peters, L.R. and Maguire, B. (1981). Wild Plant Foods of the Makapansgat Area : A modern ecosystems analogue for Australopithecus africanus adaptations J. of Hum. Evol., 10 : 565-583



Forthcoming Conferences:

News of an interesting forthcoming International Symposium and Workshop on Late Cainozoic Palaeoclimates in the Southern Hemisphere, particularly Southern Africa: Your attention is drawn to the separate advertisement on LATE CAINOZOIC PALAEOCLIMATES OF THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE an International Symposium which will be held in Swaziland from 28th August - 2nd September, 1983 with pre- and post Symposium excursions. A specialist workshop on the evidence for Climatic Change in Southern Africa will be held after the Symposium. Principal topics for discussion at the International Symposium will include the following:

1. Major hemispheric features and trends

- + Development of the Antarctic ice sheet
- + Southern Ocean palaeotemperatures and circulations.
- + Past atmospheric circulations
- + Late Cainozoic vegetation changes
- + Development of the western deserts - Attacama, Namib and Western Australia.
- + The Last Glaciation in the Southern Hemisphere.

2. Regional evidence for climatic change

- + Palaeobotany and Palynology
- + Palaeozoology
- + Archaeology
- + Palaeopedology
- + Isotopic variations
- + Geomorphology
- + Sedimentology
- + Palaeontology

3. Regional palaeoclimatic models

- + South America
- + Southern Africa
- + Antarctica
- + Australasia

The Specialist Workshop on Evidence for Climatic Change in Southern Africa will be organized as far as possible within the following framework:

- a) To review the current situation with regard to research on palaeoclimates and climatic change that has been done to date for southern Africa i.e. What has been done and what is being done?
- b) To examine the evidence for climatic change: What are the parameters? On what basis have claims concerning climatic change been erected? i.e. What evidence is there? e.g. palynology, geomorphology, palaeontology, sedimentology.

- c) Interpreting the evidence: its validity, degree of reliability, short-comings, alternative interpretations.
- d) Corroborative evidence: reconciling claims for climatic change with corroborative evidence derived from different disciplines, reconciling claims for climatic change from different localities of similar age, etc. i.e. cross-checking.
- e) Critical review of the dating of climatic events.
- f) Review of the theories and possible mechanisms for climatic change.
- g) Ultimately, inter-continental corroboration.

If you are at all interested, could you please address your enquiries to me, to the address given in the official advertisement or to Dr. J.C. Vogel, N.P.R.L. (Nat. Isotopes) C.S.I.R. P.O. Box 395, Pretoria, 0001.

Judy Maquire



Telling it like it is!

"Scientists are humans, and tempted to think their discoveries explain *everything* instead of *something*".

T. Dobzhansky.

## OBITUARY

Dr. Sidney Henry Haughton

1888 - 1982

Professor Sidney Henry Haughton, the Grand Old Man of South African geology and palaeontology, and an honorary member of our Society, died in Johannesburg on May 24th after a short illness at the age of 94. With his passing an era has ended.

Members know that it has for some years been our wish as a Society to honour Dr. Haughton by issuing a special publication of invited papers dealing with what he knew as the "Stormberg Series", as a tribute to his geological and palaeontological contributions over many, many years. This will appear as a special issue of *Palaeontologia africana* towards the end of 1982, but its sad purpose now will be to commemorate a great man who is no longer among us.

Dr. Haughton's career in South African geology spanned seven decades, starting at the South African Museum, Cape Town, in 1911, through his years in the Geological Survey, and ending with his long association with Bernard Price Institute in Johannesburg. He rendered his adopted country and his profession outstanding service at home and abroad. He spent 28 years in the Geological Survey, 14 of them as

Director. He retired in 1948 and, at a time when most men contemplate the rest and tranquility of the beach or the rose garden, Haughton's career in science continued at an undiminished pace. In particular his output of his own written works and his incisive reviews of the work of others increased, much to the benefit of all South African and other geologists. During his long career he held many high offices in the service of geology, and he served with great distinction on the governing bodies of several statutory organisations and learned societies. He was honoured by many of them with their highest awards for service, and he was one of a very select few in South Africa who have received that singular honour, Fellowship of the Royal Society of London (FRS).

At the time of his death Dr. Haughton held the posts of Honorary Editor and Honorary Consultant to the Director of the Bernard Price Institute for Palaeontological Research. He visited the Institute regularly right to the end, to sort through his voluminous mail and to pass on to the Institute Library (named the S.H. Haughton Library in his honour years ago) the many publications that flowed in from institutions and colleagues around the world. He never lost his scientific interests; he was always eager to take part in any discussion of matters geologi-

cal or palaeontological. Although his memory for recent events was beginning to fade, his memory for remote events remained razor sharp; he was particularly clear and amusing about the personality quirks of some of his colleagues of yesteryear, many of whom have themselves passed into the colourful history of South African science.

A single adjective to describe him? I think "regal" would probably come closest; or "serene". His tall, slim build, proud and upright bearing, immaculate formal attire and silver hair gave him a presence and dignity that one could not fail to note. Over and above these outward signs, his great personal integrity shone through in all he did and it quickly earned him the respect and admiration of all who knew him and worked with him.

South Africa owes much to this impressive man. We of the palaeontological fraternity of this country can feel privileged to have counted him one of us. He was at once our grandfather, father, brother, colleague, and mentor, deeply interested in our science and in us, the people engaged in it. We mourn his passing. It truly marks the closing of the most significant pioneering chapter in the unfolding story of the geological interpretation of this country.

Dr. Haughton leaves his wife, Edith, whom he married in December 1914, his daughter Joan, his son, Leslie, and their respective families. Our thoughts go out to them all at this time.

M.A. Raath



NOTICE.....NOTICE .....NOTICE

LATE CAINOZOIC PALAEOCLIMATES OF THE SOUTHERN  
HEMISPHERE

In September 1983 there will be an International Symposium on the theme of LATE CAINOZOIC PALAEOCLIMATES OF THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE. This will be held in Swaziland under the auspices of SASQUA, the affiliated society of INQUA concerned with Quaternary studies in Southern Africa. The first circular is available and enquiries should be addressed to :

Dr. David Price Williams,  
S.A.R.A.  
Swaziland National Trust Commission,  
P.O. Box 100,  
LOBAMBA,  
Swaziland,  
Southern Africa

## RECENT BOOKS

Two books have recently been published by eminent South African palaeontologists.

- 1) THE HUNTERS OR THE HUNTED? AN INTRODUCTION TO SOUTH AFRICAN CAVE TAPHONOMY.

by C.K. Brain, of the Transvaal Museum.

Published by Univ. of Chicago Press (1981),

See the review by Bernard Campbell in *S.Afr.J.Sci.*,  
78(3), pp 133-134.

Prof. Karl W. Butzer of the University of Chicago said of this book : "I was stunned by the wealth of data in this book, which will revolutionize much of palaeontological interpretation. I recommend Brain's book with unreserved enthusiasm."

- 2) LANGEBAANWEG : A RECORD OF PAST LIFE

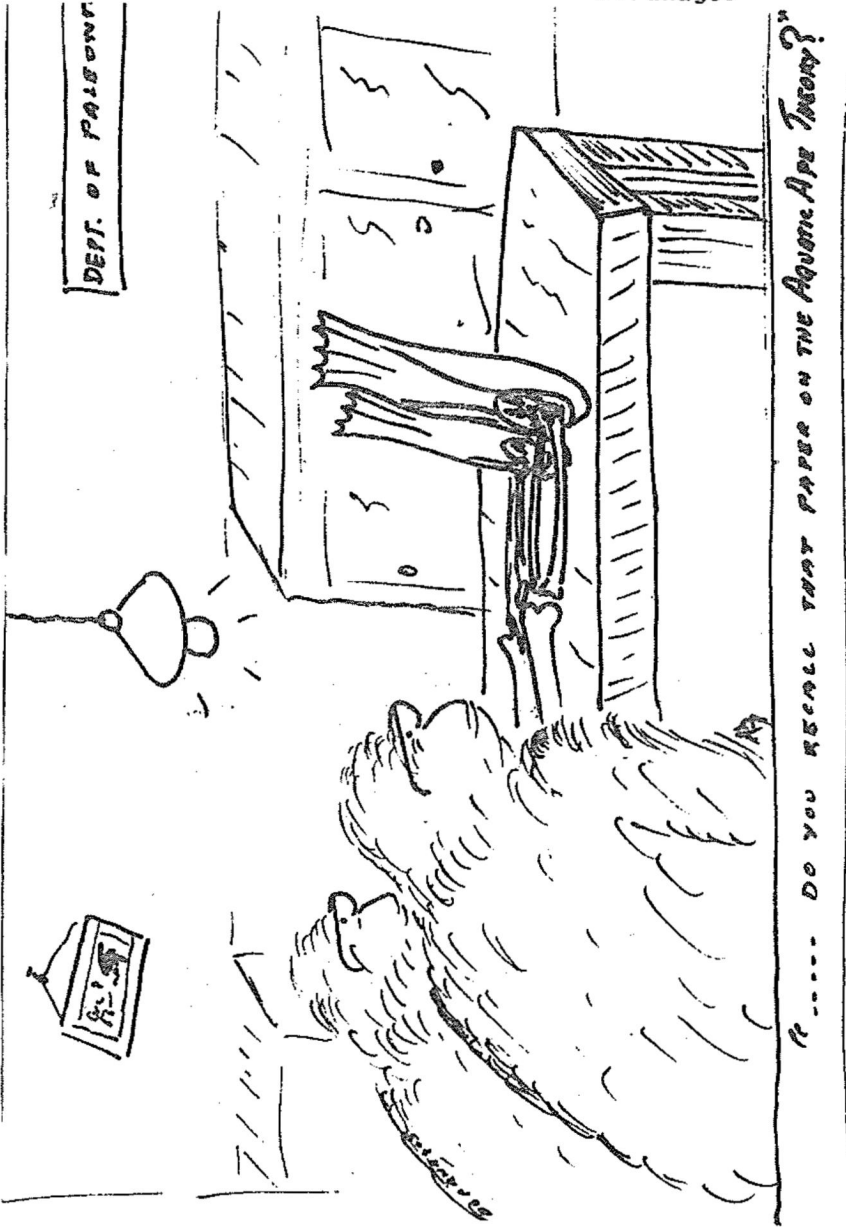
by Q.B. Hendey, of the South African Museum.

Published by the South African Museum (1982).

This is a short, illustrated paperback (71 pp., 63 figs) that is intended as an introduction to the rich late Tertiary fossil occurrences at Langebaanweg, Cape Province. It deals with both the geology and the recorded fossil faunas, particularly of the Early Pliocene Varswater Formation, and includes a comprehensive bibliography. Cheques of R5-50 should be made payable to the South African Museum and sent to P.O. Box 61, Cape Town 8000.



D. Panagos



## HIGHLIGHTS

### 1. EXCELLENCE : Part I - ELDREGE

Symposium on Evolution held at the Transvaal  
Museum in March 1982.

Those who were privileged to attend this Symposium will know what a memorable occasion it was. Dr. Niles Eldredge was the special guest, and he lived up to all the expectations that we held. Congratulations to the Transvaal Museum - especially Elisabeth Vrba - for organising it.

### 2. EXCELLENCE : Part II - GOULD (wait for it!)

If any of you are in the vicinity of Johannesburg on any of the following dates

August 16th, 8.00 p.m.

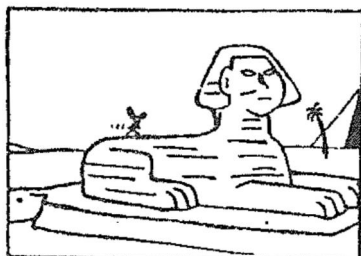
August 18th, 8.00 p.m.

you must make sure that you come to Wits University.  
Why?

Because on both those evenings Prof. Stephen Jay GOULD will be delivering public lectures at the University. Details will be advertised in the Press. Keep your eyes open! This sort of opportunity won't happen again easily.

He will also be in Cape Town from August 23-25, and

in Grahamstown on August 27th. His visit to South Africa has been arranged by the Students Visiting Lecturer's Trust Fund of the University of Witwatersrand.



## ADRESSES?

Can anyone please help with the current addresses of any of the following members? :

Mrs. M. Carr, formerly of Pretoria

Mr. R.C. Freeman, formerly of Pretoria

Mnr. E.F. Oosthuizen, van Noordbrug

Mary-Ann van den Nieuwenhof, formerly of Bloemfontein.

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## SUBSCRIPTIONS?

Very few members have paid their subscriptions for 1982 as yet. Please do so soon, as the Society depends on its membership subscriptions to meet its running expenses. Please make cheques payable to PSSA/PVSA, and cross them.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION PER ORDINARY MEMBER : R5.00 p.a.