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*Zira Gorilla, born free in Africa, now living at Granby Zoo,
Quebec, Canada*

SPECIAL REPORT:

GORILLA TRADING, THE NIGHTMARE THAT WILL NOT GO AWAY

U.S. ZOOS APPLY TO IMPORT GORILLAS

Gorillas have always been a popular zoo exhibit, although demand for the pet and laboratory trades has been relatively low. During the 20th century, hundreds of baby gorillas have left their African homelands for foreign zoos. Many die on the way, many die without producing offspring, and new zoos are being started all the time. Hence the demand for baby gorillas seems to be never-ending.

It seemed like the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (in 1975), and of protective legislation in many gorilla habitat and gorilla-user countries would bring this traffic to an end. Unfortunately, this has NOT been the case, and, at the present time, three U.S. zoos, (Memphis, North Carolina, and Columbus), are attempting to get permission from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to import 7 wild-caught gorillas from the Cameroun. The gorillas are in the possession of the French expatriate animal dealer Robert Roy of Sangmelina, a small town close to the Camerounian borders with Gabon, the Congo Republic, and Rio Muni.

BERNEY LETTER TO IPPL

IPPL first learned of the proposed transfer of the 7 gorillas from a surprising source, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). In a letter to IPPL dated 22 December 1983, Mr. Jaques Berney, Assistant Secretary-General of CITES, requested IPPL's "comments and suggestions" regarding the "use of 7 gorillas" owned by a French couple living in Sangmelina, Cameroun. The couple, Berney stated, were NOT animal dealers. Their names were Mr. and Mrs. Roy.

Berney stated that the Roys had "adopted" the 7 gorillas as babies when their mothers were killed by "local people" for their meat. The Roys had owned the animals for several years and were "anxious to separate from them." Camerounian wildlife officials were willing to allow export of the animals, on the grounds that they had been removed from the wild before the Cameroun joined CITES in 1981.

According to Berney, the planned transfer of the gorillas to Wroclaw Zoo, Poland, had collapsed for "financial reasons." (Wroclaw Zoo claims to "specialise" in gorillas, and reportedly uses Belgian and Dutch dealers as its source, see **Strange Goings-on at Polish Zoo**, this issue).

Berney informed IPPL that he had learned from Richard Parsons of the U.S. Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (an animal traders' association), that a U.S. company named "Zoo Fauna" was interested in getting the gorillas for three U.S. zoos, which Berney identified as Dallas, Texas; Memphis, Tennessee; and North Carolina, Asheville. Later, Dallas Zoo withdrew from the transaction and was replaced by Columbus Zoo, Ohio. Berney provided IPPL with the Post Office box number of the Miami-based dealer, but **not** with his name or street address. Berney also stated that he was negotiating with a European zoo, which he failed to identify, to take the gorillas, should plans to send them to the United States collapse. (IPPL learned that the CITES Secretariat was also looking into a Japanese zoo as a home for one gorilla).

Berney stated emphatically that the CITES Secretariat had concluded that, "These animals have to be exported as soon as possible," because there were no facilities for them in the Cameroun and "the return of the animals to the wild is absolutely impossible for several obvious reasons," (which were not specified). Berney requested IPPL's "comments and suggestions" in light of "the above."

Berney did NOT state that he had personally observed the gorillas or mention any price to be paid to "Zoo Fauna" for the gorillas.

IPPL had the impression that our "comments and suggestions" were not really wanted; rather, it appeared that IPPL approval of the transaction was sought! Nonetheless, we took the request for "comments" seriously and began to gather information, which was furnished to CITES.

IPPL INVESTIGATION

IPPL was surprised that the CITES Secretariat appeared to be endorsing commercial trade in gorillas. The preamble to the Convention states that:

Wild fauna and flora in their many beautiful and varied forms are an irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the earth which must be protected for this and the generations to come.

and notes "the urgency of taking appropriate measures to this end."

Trafficking in gorillas would appear to be contrary to the goals of CITES, since the gorilla is listed on Appendix I, which identifies the most endangered wild animals. The intention of CITES, and those who worked hard for so many years to make it a reality, is surely to prevent just the type of carnage which brings young gorillas into captivity and which has been a major factor in causing gorillas to be threatened with extinction. To obtain baby gorillas, mothers are shot. Baby gorillas are NEVER found wandering around the forest in search of human "rescuers." Not only is a mother carrying a young baby shot; any adults who stay to protect the mother and infant will be shot too. These often include the silverback male group leader. Experience has shown that, once the leader of a gorilla group is killed, his group is in great peril.

ERRORS IN BERNEY LETTER

Berney's letter contained several misstatements such as his statement that the Roys are not animal dealers, and omissions, such as his failure to discuss the price of the animals, mention his later-to-be-revealed association with the Roys, or provide full details of the U.S. dealership involved.

It is a fact that the Roys have been exporting gorillas, chimpanzees, and other fauna from the Cameroun for over two decades. As early as 1967, Dr. Robert Cooper, a veterinarian currently working with gorillas and other primates at a Primate Center in Gabon, visited the Roys' compound in the Cameroun. In a letter to Berney dated 13 January 1984, Dr. Cooper stated:

I visited Mme. Roy at her animal compound in Sangmelina in December of 1967. At that time she was the largest dealer in young apes in Cameroun. It is my recollection that she had on hand, **and available for sale**, at least 10 chimpanzee and 5 gorilla infants . . . there is no mistaking the fact that Mme. Roy was for many years one of the largest commercial exporters of young apes (and possibly the largest of gorillas).

In 1970, an attempt was made by the Rare Feline Breeding Compound, an animal dealership in Center Hill, Florida, U.S.A., to obtain permission to import 8 gorillas from the Roys. In support of his permit application, Robert Baudy, Compound Director, informed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in a letter dated 29 June 1970:

All of the [gorillas] were collected and conditioned for our exclusive purpose in the Camerouns . . . and some have been paid for in full . . . Following is a list of the specimens involved showing sex, weight, and country of origin with the names and addresses of our hunters and suppliers. Five males, 42, 32, 26, 12, 12 pounds; three females, 18, 14, and 14 pounds; shipper, Mr. Robert Roy, Sangmelina, Cameroun. . .

Baudy added that,

We have been importing gorillas for several years for resale to zoological institutions and are in fact furnishing the United States National Institutes of Health, together with a few private collectors.

Baudy added that,

Some of the above animals are extremely young and will have to be weaned before shipment.

He noted that he had paid the "net cost" of \$21,575.00 for the animals.

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IPPL would have been happy to have provided a copy of this letter to Berney if we had been contacted prior to CITES endorsement of the proposed shipment. We have since provided this letter for the use of the CITES Secretariat; however, it has apparently not changed anyone's minds.

In 1971, another U.S. dealer, the International Animal Exchange of Ferndale, Michigan, U.S.A., applied successfully to import 4 young gorillas from the Roys.

Tom Hunt, Vice-President of the International Animal Exchange, told the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a letter dated 18 May 1971 (reproduced on this page) that Mr. Roy personally captured the gorillas he trafficked. It is only in recent years that stories of "natives" eating gorillas have been widely circulated by animal dealers. Such an argument sometimes overcomes any qualms of conscience a gorilla buyer might have about possibly being responsible for the death of wild gorillas. Dr. Francine Patterson of the Gorilla Foundation, Woodside, California, justified her purchase of 2 baby gorillas, one of whom, a female, died shortly after arrival in California, by stating that the parents had been "eaten," (**The Education of Koko**, Holt, Rinehart, Winston, 1981). Although eating of gorillas does occur in the Cameroun and other parts of Africa, the extent of this practise appears to be being deliberately exaggerated to the extent that one would get the impression that no gorillas are ever caught by the usual method of shooting the mother to get her baby. However, with the world price of gorillas having soared to close to \$75,000, and with gorilla meat being worth about \$2 per pound, we can be sure that people who are NOT hungry will attempt to acquire infants for sale, thus **compounding** the problems of gorilla predation.

RECENT GORILLA SHIPMENTS

In recent years, gorillas shipped from the Cameroun have turned up in Japan, Poland, Belgium, Canada, and other countries. The legality of these shipments is unclear.

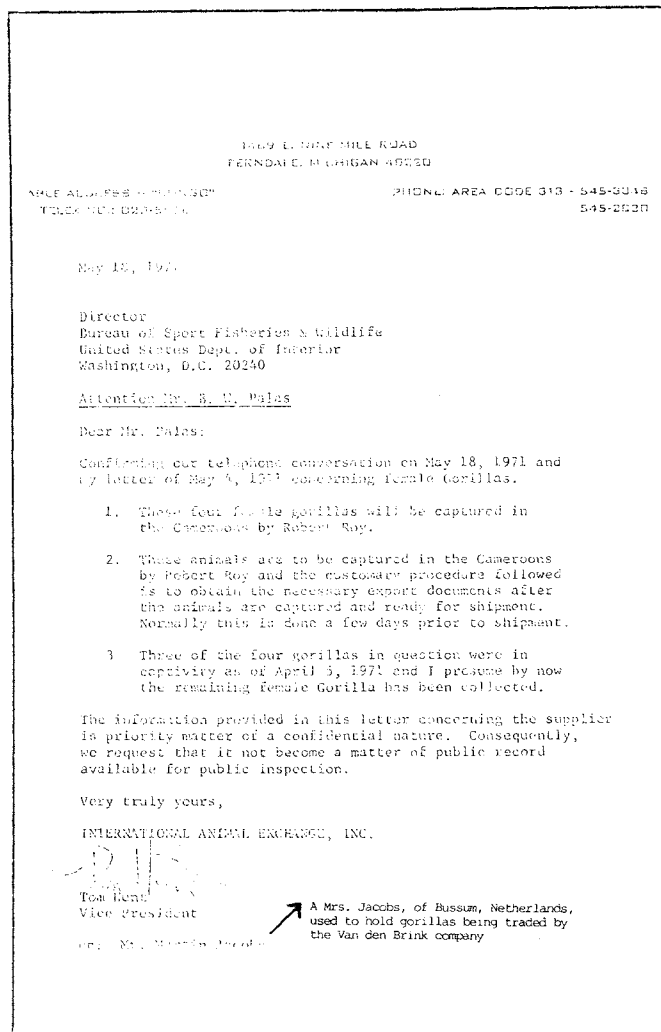
In October 1979, an extremely small gorilla shipped from the Cameroun was seized at Heathrow Airport, London, England. The infant was on his way to Japan. British authorities seized the animal pending an investigation into the legality of the exportation. Unfortunately, it was confirmed that the Government of the Cameroun had issued an export permit to the notorious Austrian animal dealer Heini Demmer to ship the animal to the Keijin Choju Company in Japan. Later, the company sold the gorilla to the Shizuoka City Zoo in Japan. Officials at London Airport were distressed at having to let the gorilla proceed in trade and were horrified that such a young animal should be shipped half-way round the world, especially since gorillas in Japanese zoos suffer high mortality, two fresh imports having died of pneumonia in 1972.

In 1980, five gorillas were shipped from the Cameroun to the "Zoo St. Martin-la-Plaine" in France. This small zoo, whose stationery carries the logo "Alexis the Baby Gorilla," owned two male gorillas and was anxious to expand its gorilla collection. The owner, Mrs. Thivillon, went to the Cameroun to pick up five female gorillas being held by Mr. and Mrs. Roy. She justified her acquisition of these animals by stating that, although she was "totally opposed to the capture of wild animals for captive living," she had nonetheless accepted the Roys' gorillas because:

Their parents, like so many others, had been killed and eaten by Africans. Fortunately, a French lady gathers them up and, after a few years, she has to separate from them. In 1979, this lady had too many babies and had to refuse 4 orphans who were killed on the spot and eaten.

In this scenario, the Africans are always the "sinners" and "barbarians," and the Europeans the "saints," never instigating or practising gorilla-killing.

The Thivillons have always claimed that they never paid one cent for the five gorillas. However, there are so many ways to transfer money that one can never verify any claim of non-payment, although, in general, animal dealers are in the business for profit and not for sentimental reasons!



Although Berney at the CITES Secretariat knew about this shipment of 5 gorillas to France, it evidently did not arouse any suspicion in his mind that the Roys might be animal dealers. In a letter dated 21 January 1982, Pierre Pfeffer, formerly an official of World Wildlife Fund (France), had informed Berney that the gorillas had been imported to France with the approval of French Convention authorities, and justified CITES approval by stating:

I was one of those favorable [to the import application] because Mrs. Roy was coming back to France for good and wanted to bring back her protegés [the 5 gorillas] . . . this group of 5 females was donated at no charge to the Zoo St. Martin-la-Plaine . . . our refusal would have condemned these 5 baby gorillas to be dispersed and sold at random. Mrs. Roy was known for adopting and mothering gorillas brought in by African hunters.

Mr. Pfeffer's reference to the Roys' permanent departure from the Cameroun is puzzling. Mrs. Thivillon picked up the gorillas herself in the Cameroun: there is no indication that either Roy left the Cameroun at all. Four years have passed since Pfeffer's 1980 assurance that the Roys were leaving, yet they are still in business!

In his 22 December 1983 letter to IPPL, Berney stated that the Roys had owned the gorillas they planned to export since 1978-79, which calls into question the credibility of claims the Roys ever intended to leave the Cameroun. If they had done so, they would have been abandoning their pets to the "tender mercies" of the Africans for whom their scorn appears apparent. A February 1984 cable from the U.S. Embassy in the Cameroun to the State Department reports the Roys' comments to the effect that:

The local tribe around Sangmelina does not like animals and is particularly antagonistic to and fearful of primates. Their language contains no equivalent for the word "animal," only for the word "meat."

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It appears strange to IPPL that the CITES Secretariat does not seem to have files on known or suspected animal dealers, especially dealers as well-known and long-established as the Roys. Even though IPPL existed before CITES did, we have never been invited to contribute data to CITES files.

Naiveté on the question of who is or is not a dealer is simply inexcusable on the part of the CITES Secretariat, leaving the organization open to manipulation by animal dealers. Neither did the CITES Secretariat seek information on the Roys from the many distinguished scientists on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Primate Specialist Group, even though CITES and IUCN are headquartered in the same building in Gland, Switzerland.

ZOO FAUNA

The name of the company Zoo Fauna was unknown to IPPL. Yet, according to its attorney, it had "outbid" a Polish zoo and its supplying dealer (Van den Brink) for the Roys' gorillas. IPPL was able to learn that the company was newly-formed in October 1983, and that it is operated by Matthew Block of Miami and his parents Irwin and Gertie Block. Block, who is 22 years old, already owns Pet Birds Inc. which specialises in South American birds, and Worldwide Primates, which imports primates for laboratory research and has supplied monkeys for military experimentation.

IPPL was also able to learn that the asking price for the gorillas was around \$72,000 from Les Shobert, Curator of Mammals at the North Carolina Zoo. This figure was said by Block to be "in the ball park" (i.e. approximately correct) in a 21 January 1984 article in the Miami *Herald*. This appeared to IPPL to be a horrendous price for a wild-caught gorilla, one guaranteed to encourage further trading.

IPPL had been informed by Berney that the attorney representing Block in the transactions is Rick Parsons. Parsons, formerly Director of the U.S. Federal Wildlife Permit Office, left government in 1983 to work for the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC), the animal dealers' lobby and trade association. Such changes of "hat" are common in U.S. government circles. Frequently, military officers who negotiated multi-million dollar procurement contracts, leave to join the industries they favored. Public interest groups look cynically at such changes, wondering whether the new jobs are "rewards for past services" or ways for the employing company to get superior access to government contacts. It is certain that Mr. Parsons "knows his way" around the Department of the Interior and what loopholes exist in laws and how they can be exploited.

GORILLA REHABILITATION

At present, there are no rehabilitation projects for gorillas, although projects exist for orang-utans and chimpanzees. The lack of such a project is cited by Berney as a justification for the exportation of the Roys' gorillas to the United States. Unfortunately, the same argument could be used to justify further shipments by the Roys and others. Law enforcement is impossible if there is no place to send confiscated animals.

IPPL has therefore put into wide circulation a statement entitled "On the Need for a Gorilla Recovery Service." It has been well-received. Dr. Emanuel Asibey, Chief Administrator of the Ghana Forestry Commission, expressed his support for IPPL's statement and noted that he had ended the chimpanzee trade in Ghana by seizing every chimpanzee that he found in private hands on the grounds that the animal was "state property," belonging to the nation, not animal-dealers. Dr. Asibey states emphatically, "Get the dollar out of the system and the entire balloon will deflate."

Rehabilitation schemes contributed to the end of large-scale illegal trafficking in orang-utans smuggled from their homelands to Singapore from the 1950s to the 1970s. Rehabilitation schemes are providing a home in the 1980s for chimpanzees confiscated from smugglers. The existence of such schemes (regardless of the problems inevitable to new projects based on new concepts) helps secure the habitat area where the project is located. Excellent local and international staff are attracted to such projects and many work in them for many years, often enduring difficult conditions. The

centers have great educational value and attract funds to conservation because of their high visibility. Most of the centers organise educational programs for young people and adult residents of the areas where they are located. Slowly, the hearts and minds of local people living close to protected areas are won over to the cause of conservation, which is sometimes hard to grasp in the abstract.

IPPL RESPONDS TO CITES

IPPL was deeply concerned on receiving Berney's letter, which was clearly designed to win IPPL's support for the proposed shipments of gorillas to U.S. zoos. There is no way IPPL will condone commercial trade in gorillas under any circumstances and no matter how many highly-placed people approve of or tolerate it. We also felt that Berney had been duped into believing that a known animal dealer was not a dealer and that he should have discussed the situation with Camerounian scientists before deciding in favor of the commercial export option for the gorillas.

We at headquarters spent long hours delving into back IPPL files to retrieve papers that proved beyond a doubt that the Roys were dealers. We contacted people with knowledge of West Africa for their comments. We learned the price to be paid for the animals, and cabled CITES as new information was developed, following up our cables with letters and documents.

But we received no replies to these letters.

Instead, we received a letter dated 27 January 1984 from Eugene Lapointe, the French-Canadian Secretary-General of the Endangered Species Convention. Lapointe came to Berney's defense, stating that he was "fully satisfied that the principles and spirit of CITES have been respected in this matter," and adding, in a threatening tone, "Any further attempt to discredit . . . the Secretariat [position]" would be considered as "a very serious matter which would require an immediate reaction."

On receiving this letter, IPPL again contacted the Secretariat to reaffirm our total opposition to any commercial trafficking in gorillas, regardless of any "extenuating circumstances." IPPL has always strongly supported the Endangered Species Convention: we do not wish to see misguided positions (taken with insufficient advice and input from member nations) open the organization to criticism. Simply put, allowing wild-caught gorillas to be shipped around the world with a \$72,000 price-tag will make the world a very unsafe place for any baby gorilla, and for his family group, and for any wildlife ranger trying to protect gorillas from poachers' bullets. We think CITES was designed to prevent the terrible carnage that has marked the trade in live apes ever since it began, and don't want to see it manipulated to serve any other purpose. As an IPPL member familiar with these events commented, "I thought CITES was supposed to be one of the 'good guys' - not a facilitator of animal dealers and trade in endangered species!"

SUMMARY

Far too often, Western wildlife conservationists who seek to compromise on animal trafficking issues don't take into account that they are endangering not just animal life but human life. African park rangers trying to prevent the carnage of elephants and rhinos are out-manned and out-gunned by highly mobile and mechanised poachers. IPPL sees no reason why the Roys or any animal dealer in Miami or anywhere else should make one cent profit from the slaughter of wild gorillas, whether the slaughter took place a week, a month, a year, or several years ago. If the gorillas absolutely cannot be kept in Africa, then the very best possible recipient institutions should be chosen and invited to contribute the cost of the animals into a Gorilla Trust Fund that could sponsor a holding center for any further gorillas falling into dealers' hands and that could also sponsor patrols to protect gorilla habitat to ensure that the number of new "gorilla orphans" drops.

STOP PRESS: It appears that the CITES Secretariat's enthusiasm for the Zoo Fauna-Roy gorilla deal may be lessening under pressure. Eugene Lapointe, Secretary-General of CITES, cabled the Fish and Wildlife Permit Office on 27 February 1984 that, "Should it be established that commercial interests are involved, Secretariat recommends that import permit be refused."

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THE GORILLA PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Under the United States Endangered Species Act, applications to import endangered species are published in the *Federal Register* and the applications are open to the public for comment for a period of 30 days. Naturally, the applicants to import the gorillas were not thrilled at the idea of submitting their applications to public scrutiny in view of potential opposition to the applications.

In an effort to get the "public comment period" waived, Richard Parsons, Block, and the zoos sought an "emergency permit" from the Federal Wildlife Permit Office, claiming that the Roys' gorillas were getting too big for their cages! Parsons noted that he had talked with Mr. Berney of CITES on 9 February 1984 and that Berney stated that he had recently paid a visit to the Roys, and learned that Mr. Roy was afraid that the gorillas "would escape from the night-time enclosures and do great damage or even physically harm him or his wife during their sleep." (Could this be the Gorillas' Revenge?) Parsons noted in his request that Berney "was actively assisting Mr. Roy in trying to find a zoo or zoos which would take the gorillas." This appears to IPPL a highly unusual and inappropriate activity for a CITES official.

Parsons claimed that an effort had been made to send the gorillas to Israel for holding, but that the Cameroun refused to issue an export permit since it did not have diplomatic relations with Israel. This statement is in dispute as IPPL has been informed that an Israeli import permit was requested and summarily refused by Israeli wildlife officials. Unsuccessful efforts had also been made to ship the gorillas to the Bahamas and Panama. (IPPL also learned that Haiti was also considered as a destination for the animals). Parsons reported that the Roys were keeping the gorillas in "abominable" conditions. The Fish and Wildlife Service, unconvinced that a real emergency existed, did not issue an "emergency permit." Issuance, of course, would be an unfortunate precedent, since that would encourage dealers to maintain vile and filthy facilities, thus creating an "emergency" situation.

The requested "emergency waiver" of the public comment period was refused. In a letter to Parsons dated 22 February 1984, T. J. Parisot, Chief of the Federal Wildlife Permit Office, stated that:

I find that I must deny your request . . . There are actions that the owners, who have full responsibility for the safety and welfare of the animals, can take to improve the animals' security during the time it takes the Service to complete its review of these applications.

Parsons, exasperated, responded that the Roys were unable or unwilling to take such steps and demanded "immediate issuance of the necessary permit," regardless of any "controversy" about, or "public interest" in, the applications.

NORTH CAROLINA ZOO APPLICATION

The North Carolina Zoo, Asheboro, North Carolina, requested permission to import two female gorillas. It claimed that the animals were "taken from the wild by local natives who killed the parents for meat." Mr. Berney's letter to IPPL endorsing the shipment of the gorillas was enclosed as "corroboration" of this "fact." However, since Mr. Berney had not been present at the "feasts," he had presumably received his information from the Roys, hardly an objective source. The zoo provided as "population data" on the gorillas of the Cameroun what it called "anecdotal information from Mrs. Roy that a research group from Japan [unnamed] recently estimated the population at 2,000 animals." The zoo reported owning two gorillas, one male and one female, presently housed at the Metrozoo, Miami. However, it planned collecting these and the new animals together in North Carolina in the spring of 1984.

The *curriculum vitae* of the North Carolina Zoo Director was attached to the application. Robert Fry was described as having "attended" (there is no mention of graduation) Ohio State University where he studied "commerce," prior to joining the United States Marine Corps, from which he retired in 1978, becoming Zoo Director later that year. While the lack of any background in wildlife should not necessarily disqualify Mr. Fry from managing a zoo, it

should disqualify him from making ignorant statements to the press such as the one reported in the *Greensboro News Record* (29 January 1984) that, "There have been no successful reintroductions to the wild with any apes."

The zoo did admit to one complication: its male, Ramar, had shown no interest in breeding and no sperm had been found in semen samples obtained by electro-ejaculation! Hence, the zoo would have to resort to "artificial insemination" or acquire a "stud male."

The application noted:

The current population of gorillas in captivity in North America is not sufficient to maintain them . . . additions to the gene pool will be necessary to reverse the current annual 3% decline of this species in North America.

Nonetheless, the application continued, somewhat immodestly:

The data gained by [the zoo's] gorilla program can be extrapolated to animals in the wild . . . [this] will enhance their opportunity for survival.

Since wild gorillas have existed for thousands of years before zoos were invented, do they really need the "help" of the North Carolina, or any other, zoo? Surely, zoos can learn more from wild gorillas than they can offer to animals that have evolved successfully over millennia.

THE MEMPHIS ZOO APPLICATION

The Overton Park Zoo, Memphis, Tennessee, noted that, "It is possible that Mr. Roy will have the animals moved to a better holding facility in another country [Emphasis added] during the processing of this permit." It requested one male and two female gorillas, and attached Berney's letter to "prove" that the animals were "leftovers" from "native meals" rescued by the Roys! The zoo admitted to importing three gorillas, two males and one female, in 1960 and 1961. A female was acquired from another zoo in 1978. However, although mating occurred, the Memphis male who was mating was found to be sterile. An attempt at artificial insemination in 1980 succeeded: however, the resulting baby died at 5 days of age, his mother having exhibited "poor maternal care" caused partly by "severe arthritis." Another, and more likely, cause of poor mothering by captive female gorillas is the fact that they do not learn the skills from their own mothers as wild gorillas do, since their mothers have been shot.

The zoo reported that, in its eagerness to acquire gorillas, it had sought the assistance of "multiple animal broker companies." The application also emphasized that the captive population of gorillas is not "self-sustaining" since older females are dying off or becoming "post-reproductive" faster than they are being replaced. This could, of course, constitute a rationale for continuing gorilla imports for many years.

THE COLUMBUS ZOO APPLICATION

The Columbus Zoo, Ohio, applied to import one male and one female gorilla. It attached Mr. Berney's statement to its application, as did the other zoos.

The Columbus Zoo started its gorilla collection by acquiring a pair of wild-caught specimens in 1951. In 1956, this pair produced the first baby gorilla born in captivity (even though gorillas had been exhibited for decades).

Other animals were acquired over the years, and more offspring were born. The zoo's application notes, however, that its first breeding male gorilla, Macombo, has lived alone since 1976 when his mate died. Since gorillas are sociable animals, these must have been 8 lonely years.

According to the application, several of the zoo's gorillas are currently housed in the zoo's Animal Hospital pending completion of the construction of a new gorilla facility, where the zoo hopes to house "ten or fifteen adults with multiple juveniles and infants." Twin gorillas were born at the zoo in October 1983. The zoo stated that the purpose of its acquisitions would be to "infuse new genes" it

into its gorilla colony and that "the future of the gorilla may lie only in the arks that we call zoos." (Emphasis added). The zoo expressed its dedication to "increased utilization of the gorilla in Scientific Research." (Capitals as in original).

Autopsy reports on 3 dead gorillas aged 5 days, 2 weeks, and one year were attached to the application.

COMMENTS

It appears that these zoos were chosen, or chose themselves, to receive these gorillas on the sole basis of their willingness to pay astronomical prices for gorillas. It is not clear that they would be the most appropriate homes, should the seven gorillas be shipped to the United States. The choice of the best homes would best be made by the active members of the Gorilla Species Survival plan team of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums.

STATE DEPARTMENT HELPS DEALERS

Readers familiar with the U.S. State Department's efforts to force Bangladesh to export monkeys will not be surprised to hear that the Department has been helping Block in his attempt to export gorillas from the Cameroun. The Department is sending him cables at the taxpayers' expense as well as contacting Camerounian wildlife officials on his behalf.

Three State Department cables were among the documents provided to IPPL by the Federal Wildlife Permit Office, along with other documents related to the permit applications.

Cable from State Department, Washington, D.C. to U.S. Embassy, Yaoundé, Cameroun, dated 27 January 1984: The cable noted that Block had requested State Department assistance in facilitating the shipment of 7 gorillas from the Cameroun to the United States. Block informed the Department that the gorillas had been raised on a "private farm" by the Roys. (Berney had stated that the gorillas were kept at the Roys "general store.") Block reported having talked with Jaques Berney of CITES who supported his statements. Block noted that permits to export the gorillas had been requested from David Momo of the Camerounian Department of Fauna. He complained that, "Normally, there would be no problems obtaining the permits" - but that he feared that, "Dr. Shirley McGreal of the International Primate Protection League intended to write Mr. Momo giving 'incorrect information' about the gorillas." The Department stated approvingly that Block was "a regular trader in wild life" and asked the Embassy to contact David Momo about the status of Block's application, instructing the Embassy to "pass on to him our understanding that the gorillas were raised in captivity." It appears odd that the State Department in Washington, D.C., thousands of miles from the Cameroun, should be sending messages to Momo about the status of gorillas maintained just over 100 miles from Yaoundé!

The cable went on to ask the Embassy to cable Block immediately about the status of his application.

IPPL is outraged at the contents of this cable. We sent (and paid for) a cable to the U.S. Embassy in the Cameroun requesting that it cease immediately providing assistance to would-be gorilla traffickers.

Cable from U.S. Embassy, Yaoundé, Cameroun, to the State Department, Washington, D.C. dated 31 January 1984: The Embassy reported that it had contacted David Momo on Block's behalf and commented that, "while noting that the issue is controversial since he has received a letter from Dr. McGreal, he [Momo] sees no problem with the export."

Cable from U.S. Embassy, Yaoundé, Cameroun, to Block, dated 31 January 1984: The Embassy wired Block that, "By now, you should have received telex from David Momo which states that all is in order and that the gorillas are ready for export." The cable was signed "Richard Sherman, U.S. Embassy, Yaoundé,

Cameroun."

Besides the State Department cables, IPPL has a copy of a telex sent by Ibrahim Wadjiri of the Camerounian Fauna Department to Block. The telex, dated 31 January 1984, confirmed that an export permit for the gorillas would be granted to the Roys "in less than four days." This seems quite a speedy procedure since issuance of a CITES export permit usually takes some time since input from both a country's Scientific and Management Authorities is required.

IPPL also obtained a copy of a letter dated 25 November 1983 from David Momo of the Camerounian Fauna Department to Block. The letter "written in response to your letters of 7 and 21 October 1983" noted Block's request for more information about the gorillas. Surprisingly, David Momo referred Block to Robert Roy for information that he apparently did not have at the Fauna Department. Nonetheless, Momo expressed his willingness to issue a "special export permit."

On hearing that the "emergency permit" requested by Parsons had been rejected, Momo contacted the U.S. Embassy to make a protest. According to Embassy sources, Momo stated that the proposed deal was not a "trade within the meaning of CITES because it is not a case of capture and sale in a short period of time." Momo stated that conservationists protesting the proposed shipments were "out of touch with reality." He had high praise for Jaques Berney, noting that "The Secretariat of CITES itself fully supports the gorillas' exportation." Momo stated that "Keeping the gorillas in the Cameroun is out of the question." However, he added that he did not want to give the impression that he was "countenancing Roy's past animal dealings or trade by anyone in endangered species." Unfortunately, the arrival of a baby gorilla from the Cameroun at Granby Zoo in Quebec, Canada, in January 1984, raises questions about Momo's attitude to gorilla traders and trading.

The cable describing this conversation stated that Momo said that he had not yet issued an export permit for the Roy gorillas, and would only do so when a CITES import permit had been obtained from the importing nation.

In a cable dated 10 February 1984, the State Department asked the Embassy to convey to Momo that, "The U.S. Government appreciates your taking the position that Cameroun export permit for gorillas will be granted only on receipt of valid U.S. CITES import permit."

Three days later, the Embassy cabled the State Department that it had not passed on the message because "We learned that Cameroun has already granted an export permit to Mr. Roy."

IPPL has protested the State Department's actions to date: following our protests, the Department appears to have adopted a more neutral stance on the gorilla issue and to have become a little puzzled at Mr. Momo's inconsistencies.

THANK-YOU

Donations to the International Primate Protection League's Jubilee Fund have totalled just over \$10,000, which we have transferred to an interest-bearing account. This will provide us with \$100 per month to help cover operating expenses. Our heart-felt thanks go to everyone who contributed to the success of this appeal. If you haven't made your donation to the Jubilee Fund yet, please consider making one in the course of this year.

GRANBY ZOO RECEIVES CAMEROUNIAN GORILLA

The credibility of statements by David Momo of the Camerounian Wildlife Department that the Roy gorillas must be exported because they constitute a "special case" that cannot occur again are called into serious question by the recent arrival of a baby gorilla from the Cameroun at Granby Zoo, Quebec, a zoo whose unsavory dealings in orang-utans were reported in the *IPPL Newsletter*, (September 1976).

The gorilla, a female between 1 and 2 years of age, was clearly neither born nor held captive before Cameroun joined the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Under no circumstances should her export have been allowed, and under no circumstances should Canada have issued an import permit.

The gorilla was presented at Douala Airport on 6 January 1984 by Benjamin Onawa. However, British Caledonian Airways, much to its credit, refused to load the animal because the shipper had no export permit. However, the next day, an export permit "mysteriously appeared" and the gorilla left for London on a Cameroun Airways flight. She was transferred to Air Canada and reached Granby Zoo on 8 January, Canadian government quarantine requirements having been waived. Fortunately, the animal did not catch pneumonia in the bitter cold of the Canadian midwinter, as did so many gibbons during the scandalous series of gibbon shipments that reached Canada in 1973-74. At the present time, the gorilla, named Zira as the result of a public "naming contest," lives all alone in a cage. The zoo's only other gorilla, an adult male, lives all alone in another cage and behaves in a neurotic manner (as you, the reader, would do in similar circumstances).

However, Zira may not be alone for long: a young male gorilla now living free in the Cameroun is doomed to reach Granby soon. According to the January 1984 issue of Granby Zoo's newsletter *Le Perroquet*, "The hunter Mony Anawa and his men were scheduled to leave in search of a male at the beginning of February." The newsletter notes that the zoo will pay \$32,000 for the pair of gorillas. The high price is explained by the fact that, "It would seem that the capture of these animals is quite complicated because the parents are intensely protective of their young."

The arrival of the young gorilla at Granby was covered in an article in the Montreal newspaper *La Presse* (7 February 1984). The reporter noted that the zoo had obtained a real "bargain" in getting gorillas so cheaply, because of the "difficulty" and "danger" of catching gorillas. The reporter commented that the directors of



Zira

the world's "most prestigious zoos" had been phoning Granby to ask how it had accomplished such a spectacular "tour de force." Zoo Director Germain Couture explained his triumph by stating that the citizens of Granby had at one time collected \$50,000 for the construction of a well in a Camerounian town, thus proving that the people of Granby "had their hearts in the right place" and thus presumably deserved a gorilla to grace their community. More to the point, Couture noted the assistance received by the Canadian Ministry of External Affairs. Couture did not mention the "kindness" of John Heppes, of the CITES (Canada) Management Office. Heppes had condoned the massive illegal trade in gibbons, lion-tailed macaques, orang-utans, and other rare species that occurred before Canadian membership in CITES and appears to maintain his friendly attitude to wildlife traders still. He had been responsible for issuance of a gorilla import permit to Granby Zoo that had expired and been re-instated several times.

It is unclear at this time what role, if any, Eugène Lapointe, Secretary-General of CITES, played in the shipment. Lapointe is a French-Canadian himself and Granby is right "in his back-yard." A former Canadian official, Lapointe became Secretary-General of CITES after heavy Canadian lobbying on his behalf, when Peter Sand left CITES in 1981.

The gorilla keeper at Granby was quoted in *La Presse* as commenting that "Zira" would no doubt become "one of the great attractions at Granby Zoo." Unfortunately, residents of the Montreal area will probably flock to Granby when the zoo opens this spring. Public interest in captive gorillas has always fuelled the slaughter of wild gorillas.

IPPL does not wish to see "Zira" live alone, and we wish even less to see a male hunted as a cage-mate for her. We have therefore proposed that the young gorilla be moved to Toronto Zoo, which has a group of young gorillas. This would not be an ideal solution, but under no circumstances should a zoo's owning a single gorilla be used as a rationale for removal from the wild of further gorillas.



Overweight orang-utan at Granby Zoo

ZIRA WELCOMED AS GRANBY'S NEWEST ATTRACTION

by Francisco Martin

IPPL member Francisco Martin recently visited Granby Zoo near Montreal, Canada, to investigate reports of the arrival of a baby gorilla. His unedited comments follow.

Zira's ordeal began in Cameroun, her native land. She is a baby female gorilla caught by a hunter to become an added attraction at Granby Zoo, in Quebec. Her arrival at Granby in January was a celebrated event. But for Zira, having lost her mother, her freedom, and the reassuring contact of her kind, there was little to rejoice about or look forward to, other than the trauma and frustration of a life in confinement.

I met Zira in her room, at the zoo, soon arousing her curiosity as she approached to study my camera and to touch my face and hair with her fingers, while her inquisitive and penetrating eyes seemed to express her loneliness and bewilderment at my presence.

Perhaps because of her charm, her youth, or potential to attract new visitors, Zira has been pampered by zoo standards. Besides parallel bars, her room contains a rope hammock, a straw basket, and toys. Yet, watching her lying on her stuffed doll, holding or caressing it after her almost constant brief forays around her limited physical world, is a moving but sad experience, after realizing that her toys will never replace the loss of her mother nor the freedom of her forest habitat.

Zira and a baby male gorilla scheduled to become her mate, being hunted now in Cameroun, have been bought for \$32,000, a bargain price considering their endangered status; the rarer the animals become, the greater is the demand, as regulations aimed to

protect them are often ignored for political or monetary reasons.

Watching Zira it becomes harder to understand why gorillas have been so consistently persecuted by human beings, given our common ancestry, yet few animals have enjoyed a worse reputation or suffered greater injustice than gorillas, portrayed in more than sixty films as bloodthirsty and vicious animals and described, until recently, in travel books and hunting stories as "fierce and diabolical beasts," perhaps so as to justify their slaughter.

Field studies undertaken during the last two decades have dispelled the myths surrounding them, but, paradoxically, their present endangered status is now contributing to their extinction, since for each young gorilla arriving at a zoo, several others are either killed or die in transport.

Inside Zira's caged environment, it became easier for me to identify with the tragedy of the capture and confinement of gorillas, as I realized, watching her stereotypic movements and experiencing her boredom, that the need and love of freedom is universal.

To protect and save the gorillas we must fight poaching where it begins, by actively boycotting zoos where they are exhibited, and alerting the public to the grim reality of the heavy toll in animal suffering and loss of life that their traffic involves.

Can we, supposedly Zira's more intelligent cousins, for the sake of our misguided curiosity, continue to ignore their plight?

STRANGE GOINGS-ON AT POLISH ZOO

Poland is not a member-nation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. In recent years, there have been many reports of smuggled primates reaching Poland, including large numbers of chimpanzees shipped to the Medical Academy of Warsaw.

Poland has also been deeply involved in gorilla trafficking. Wroclaw Zoo, Poland, lists its speciality as "gorillas" in the *International Zoo Yearbook*.

The 1974 *Yearbook* listed Wroclaw Zoo as owning 1 male and 3 female gorillas. By 1976, the number had grown to 4 males and 8 females, a growth-rate impossible to explain except by acquisition of animals by purchase, since gorillas only produce young every 3-6 years. By 1977, 4 males and 7 females were reported. It is not clear whether the missing female was exported or died. A big drop was reported in 1978, down to 2 males and 3 females. Again, it is not known whether the 6 missing gorillas died or were sold. By 1980, the zoo owned 10 animals, 4 males and 6 females, reflecting the acquisition of 5 animals. However, by 1981, the number had dropped again, to 2 males and 3 females. The current number of gorillas owned by Wroclaw Zoo is unknown. However, the fluctuations reported here are totally abnormal and require some explanation. Apparently, this zoo works closely with the Dutch

animal dealer Van den Brink, who used to be a major trafficker in poached orang-utans.

Mr. Van den Brink visited the Cameroun, accompanied by his wife, in late 1983, to pick up the Roy gorillas for Wroclaw Zoo. Permits for the gorillas to be shipped by road from Zurich to Poland had been obtained from Switzerland's CITES Management Authority. However, Mr. Van den Brink returned empty-handed, having apparently been "outbid" by Zoo Fauna.

One major loophole in the Endangered Species Convention is that captive-born Appendix I animals, including gorillas, can be shipped around as if they are Appendix II animals (i.e. with only an export permit from the exporting nation). If information reaching IPPL is correct, Wroclaw/Van den Brink would resell some of the Roy gorillas as "captive-born."

IPPL considers the activities of the Wroclaw Zoo to be a major scandal and threat to wild gorilla populations. We have cabled a strong protest to the zoo's director, Antoni Gucwinski. It appears that Wroclaw Zoo serves as a "front" for dealings in wild-caught gorillas. Van den Brink and other Dutch animal dealers can no longer move animals through the Netherlands, since that country now has a strict Endangered Exotic Animals Act. Hence, the notorious Dutch animal dealers now ship animals through countries that are less strict.

PLANNING A MOVE?

To make sure you receive your IPPL Newsletter promptly and without interruption, please let IPPL know as soon as possible what your new address will be.

If you move, the Post Office will not forward your IPPL Newsletter as it is mailed Third Class. It is either discarded or the

back page is returned to us with your new address, for which we have to pay the Post Office a fee of 25 cents (US). We then have to mail you a new Newsletter (production cost \$1) and pay 35 cents to mail it. This is a waste of money which could be better spent on helping the primates. So, please don't move without letting us know your new address.

COMMENTS ON GORILLA PERMIT APPLICATIONS

IPPL has circulated copies of the applications filed with the U.S. Federal Wildlife Permit Office by three U.S. zoos in association with their supplying dealer and his attorney to many people with a special interest in gorillas and wildlife trafficking in general. Many have made statements to the Federal Wildlife Permit Office, as well as to the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

Most statements oppose commercial movement of the gorillas, favoring other options, including rehabilitation, non-commercial transfer of the gorillas with the recipient zoos making donations to gorilla conservation, or outright donation of the gorillas to the zoos with no commercial angle. The only support of the transaction as a commercial activity came from Pierre Pfeffer, some of those comments we present in the interests of balance.

Extracts from some of the statements follow.

The stand I took on chimp issues in Ghana was that whether they will survive in the wild or not I was to confiscate all baby chimps, habituate them and try to release them at the earliest opportunity. I set up the centre. I did not have the resources to follow up released chimps but I feel that I obtained the result that I desired: baby chimps never appeared in the streets and villages of Ghana. One may say that the trade went underground or they managed to submerge and reappear in Togo or Ivory Coast or Sierra Leone. The important point is that, as far as our knowledge goes, it became unprofitable to deal in chimps openly in Ghana. I had no time for courts. I simply confiscated the animal as state property. I cared less how one came by the animal and I was not interested in any other thing besides taking the animal away.

*Emanuel Asibey, Chief Administrator,
Ghana Forestry Commission, West Africa*

I seriously question the motives of the zoos involved. While claiming to be interested in conservation, they are in fact encouraging continued depredation of wildlife for commercial purposes. It is true that there are no adequate facilities in Cameroun at the moment to hold the gorillas and other confiscated animals for eventual return to the wild. If organizations such as the importing zoos were willing to engage in constructive conservation policy by donating their \$72,000 plus for the purpose of developing such facilities, however, this would no longer be the case. Such an undertaking would provide jobs and revenue in the country of origin; while this might be on a small scale, it would certainly be better than placing that same money in the pockets of people who will continue the illegal trade in animals. At the very least, the idea that people in the U.S. tell the Camerounians that we will look after their natural heritage and resources by removing them to this country smacks of cultural imperialism. Nor should the idea that confiscated gorillas can be returned to the wild be scoffed at; there has been a successful reintroduction of a mountain gorilla made at the Karisoke Research Centre, in Rwanda.

Finally, I urge again that the zoos involved in this trade spend their money on conservation of the animals and their habitat in Africa, and that CITES consider making such conservation efforts mandatory for anyone wishing to import protected species. It is incumbent on those of us in the developed nations of the world to provide much of the resources and incentives for conservation in less developed nations. If, instead, we continue to provide people in those nations – well intentioned as well as unscrupulous people – with financial incentives to continue trading in protected species and to continue habitat destruction, there is little hope. When respected and authoritative international conservation organizations give the appearance of condescending in these initiatives, it can only undermine such respect and authority and bring into question the purpose of the organizations.

*David Watts, Director,
Karisoke Research Center, Rwanda*

We feel that issuance of import permits may gravely endanger both U.S. credibility and the gorillas of West Africa. Specifically, there is good evidence that the Roys are professional animal dealers who consider this a profit-making venture; due to indigenous hunting in Cameroun, infant gorillas will undoubtedly become available in the future regardless of CITES, thus creating more "humanitarian" export justifications; and finally, it is by no means clear that difficulties breeding captive gorillas have been overcome

or are based on lack of genetic variability. Thus, importation of these animals would very likely support existing trade in endangered primates and create a dangerous precedent. While the rescue of individual orphans may be laudable, care should be taken not to encourage the creation of more orphans.

*Faculty members and graduate students of Harvard University,
including:*

James Moore
Irven DeVore
David Pilbeam
Sarah Blaffer Hrdy
Mark Leighton
Terence Deacon
Peter Ellison
E. O. Wilson

One argument used by the zoos to justify the importation of the gorillas is that the mothers were killed and eaten. Regardless of the fact that this is standard for poachers, it will set a dangerous precedent in that any endangered or threatened species that is edible would be subject to "justifiable" exportation.

Another argument put forth by the zoos is that the importation of these seven gorillas would improve the gene pool for the zoo populations. The importance of zoo breeding programs is to help preserve endangered and threatened species. Have these zoos considered what the importation of wild-captured gorillas does to the gene pool of the wild populations? After all, wild gorilla troops do not have "breeding loans" nor ISIS [International Species Inventory System] to locate appropriate individuals for breeding loans from a national as well as international pool.

If the zoos' concern is truly for preservation of "the Gorilla" then they should be donating those monies to establish a gorilla rehabilitation center in Cameroun. If such a center were established it would put the poachers out of business thus helping to preserve the wild population and providing an invaluable resource in regard to a gene pool through breeding loans from such a center.

Such centers have been successful in proving that great apes can be reintroduced to a wild state. For example, one of my own students, Janis Carter, was successful in reintroducing a twelve year old female chimpanzee who had been entirely home reared by humans from two days of age.

*Roger Fouts,
Director, Friends of Washoe*

As early as 1967 I published in my book *The Apes*, chapter 12, the outline of a plan to ensure the survival of the great apes. This involved the maintenance of such animals in protected areas in their country of origin. IPPL today is pressing for a similar solution to the gorilla problem. As you probably know, there are at the present time rehabilitation centres in Asia for orang-utans, and in West Africa for chimpanzees. The gorilla remains the only Great Ape for which no rehabilitation centre exists. The Cameroun could enormously increase its reputation and international significance as a conservation area if it were to set up a gorilla rehabilitation centre. All possible funds should now be directed towards this solution to the gorilla problem.

*Vernon Reynolds,
Oxford University, England,
IPPL Adviser*

Apr 1984

The argument that the gorillas are needed to meet the problem of the declining population of gorillas in captivity is a dangerous one that could be used by any zoo wishing to import gorillas. The fact that gorillas do not breed well in captivity cannot be overcome by importations. Thousand of gorillas have already been imported over the years, yet the captive population is still not self-sustaining. Draining the wild will not solve the problem; it could be solved only by a breakthrough in captive breeding methods.

*Henry Heymann,
IPPL Member*

It is my conviction that fresh dangers for the remaining wild gorilla populations not only of Cameroun, but also of Gabon, the Congo Republic and Rio Muni must ensue, if permission to import these seven animals in the U.S. is granted.

Conservation authorities in Cameroun do not confiscate illegally captured gorillas because the state cannot provide for their maintenance. The enterprise of the Roys' stepped in to support the animals on a private basis. It gained momentum because it was able to make profit. Profit depended, however, on continuing supplies of fresh, illegally caught gorilla babies.

As the wild gorilla populations became decimated, the profit to be gained internationally from illegally caught gorillas increased. The greater part of the commercial value of the permit under review, approximately \$500,000 in the U.S., is profit which Mr. and Mrs. Roy and the dealer who negotiated the animals' placement in American zoos, would claim. The important point is that the permit would sanction open, international trade with illegally captured apes, an action which does not conform with the spirit of the 1975 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. . .

I would like to ask that the CITES endorsement for the seven gorillas involving this party be withdrawn and that an investigation of the financial arrangements concerning all parties involved be attempted. Otherwise CITES, the existence of which is due to the dedication of conservationists who worked for decades to overcome the immorality of wildlife traffic, might be looked upon as an organization easily manipulated by individuals whose business is profit derived from protected species, whose activities endanger these species and whose money contaminates the morality of individuals charged with wildlife protection.

*Barbara Harrison, IPPL Advisory Board.
Founder, Orang-utan Recovery Service*

Such importation would run counter to the spirit if not the law of the whole CITES apparatus. The gorilla is a striking, even glamorous, form about which much conservation publicity has been generated in recent years. To allow Western zoos to resume trafficking in gorillas will make the consumer countries look like hypocrites in the eyes of the countries of origin.

Such hypocrisy, plus the temptations of the large sums of money involved, would lead to further 'exceptional' cases being made, following the precedent which would be established here. This would erode the years of progress made by many conservationists, both Western and African, toward the goal of ending the removal of great apes from the wild.

In this context, the fate of 7 captive gorillas is of much less significance than the prospective fates of many, many more gorillas presently living in the wild, which would then be subject to exploitation and death through inevitably fatal capture techniques.

According to the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums' own data, the current American zoo population of gorillas (N = 230) is spread over 42 zoos. Forty percent of these zoos have only 1 or 2 individuals. This sort of distribution is clearly inefficient and self-seeking, and makes suspect the conservationist claims of the application. It also hardly supports the case for founding yet another small gorilla colony at North Carolina. American zoos might be better employed at putting their own houses in order, in seeking to live up to their claims regarding their concern for the welfare of gorillas.

*William McGrew,
IPPL Adviser*

My credentials for writing are that since 1971 I have been studying wild gorillas; in 1979 and 1980 I was Coordinator of the successful Mountain Gorilla Project conservation programs in Rwanda; and in 1981-1983 I was Director of Rwanda's only field research station and in this last post had to advise the Government on what to do with infant gorillas confiscated from poachers.

The advice of myself and my colleagues, and the decision of the wildlife authorities of the country was that however legal the export and even if no money changed hands, it would be an extremely dangerous precedent and would undoubtedly lead to an increase in trade in this endangered species. The reasons were simple. First, legal niceties would be lost in the generally perceived message that endangered species could be easily traded. Second, even if the export were a loan agreement with the Government, gorillas can fetch such enormous sums that nobody would believe that no commercial profit was involved. Gorilla trading would therefore be seen as financially advantageous.

In sum, any export is a demonstration that trade is possible and an implication that it is profitable. Therefore any export, however well-intentioned, will encourage capture from the wild and so is a danger to the species. I don't see how one can escape from this conclusion.

*Alexander Harcourt,
Cambridge University, England*

I would like to recommend that the Permits should be considered by the Office and either (a) rejected or (b) issued under the most stringent conditions: these should include the following stipulations:

- although three zoos could be the nominal owners of the gorillas, all seven should be placed in a single zoo;
- no money whatever be permitted to be sent to either the dealer, M. Roy, or the importer, Mr. Block: the importing zoo should pay transport and handling costs throughout;
- the amount that was to have been paid, which I believe is U.S. \$72,000 per gorilla, should go not to the dealer or importer but to Cameroun, to assist the maintenance of a reserve where gorillas occur (such as the Dja Reserve) or to set up a Cameroun Ape Survival Centre, which should in future receive any "rescued" ape infants (such as M. Roy claims the present seven to be).

*Colin Groves,
Australian National University,
Canberra, Australia, IPPL Adviser*

From Mr. Roy's past involvement and experience with this greater anthropoid ape species, it is quite evident that when he received the 7 gorillas at present in his possession, he would have been totally aware of the accommodation difficulties that they would eventually cause him. From the case history presented, one can only conclude that Mr. Roy was confident that he would eventually be able to glean financial reward if he could through an animal dealer in a recipient country exert sufficient pressure on the 'powers that be'.

*Jeremy Mallinson,
Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust*

I have the impression that "Sherlock McGreal" is creating a detective story out of a perfectly common-place story lived by people who have travelled and had the opportunity of buying young animals brought in by hunters. The Roys are rich merchants, not notorious animal dealers, but Mrs. Roy can't say "No" to hunters bringing her a baby gorilla whose mother they have killed. . . She adopts them, and mothers them in a ridiculous and excessive way (baby clothes, little beds etc.). That costs her a lot, and, when the "babies" grow up, she tries to place them in zoos. . . I find it perfectly normal if she tries to recover her expenses. . . Mr. and Mrs. Roy are old and are genuinely considering leaving the Cameroun for good, but, first, they have to liquidate their business.

*Pierre Pfeffer,
National Museum of Natural History, Paris, France.
former official of World Wildlife Fund, France*

DIAN FOSSEY DENOUNCES GORILLA TRADE

Dr. Dian Fossey has informed IPPL of her strong opposition to any traffic in wild gorillas. In a letter to Dr. Shirley McGreal, dated 4 March 1984, she stated:

I am 100% behind IPPL's sound advice of a Gorilla Survival Center to be located in West Africa. Under no circumstances should these [the Roys'] animals be allowed to leave the Cameroun.

Dr. Fossey has seen the tragedy of procurement of wild gorillas for the zoo trade at first hand. In 1969, she took care of 2 young Mountain gorillas caught for the Cologne Zoo, which had promised a Land Rover and a free trip to Europe for the Conservator of the Parc des Volcans, Rwanda, in exchange for the animals.

The two gorillas were cared for over several months by Dr. Fossey. The female, Coco, was caught by a notorious gorilla poacher hired by the Conservator. Ten members of Coco's group died in the process of her capture. The male, named Pucker, was caught at the cost of 8 gorillas' lives. Dr. Fossey fought to keep the animals in Rwanda, but the Conservator threatened to kill more gorillas if Coco and Pucker were not shipped. The unfortunate little gorillas were shipped to Cologne Zoo, where they lived in a bleak cage until they both died in 1978, never having produced any offspring. Such is the reality behind zoos' attempts to procure gorillas to "conserve" them.

Readers interested in more details of the story of Coco and Pucker may find them in Chapter 5 of Dr. Fossey's wonderful book *Gorillas in the Mist* (Houghton Mifflin 1983).

A young Mountain gorilla arrived in late 1983 at the Antwerp Zoo, Belgium. Zoo officials told a tale of the animal's being "rescued" by white people from Africans who were treating it badly in a village. A more likely tale is that the little gorilla was caught just the way Coco and Pucker were. Five gorilla corpses were found around the time the little ape was "rescued."



Dian Fossey with the late Pucker Puss
Copyright: National Geographic Society

LETTERS FROM THE GABON

Among the letters reaching the U.S. Federal Wildlife Permit Office and IPPL Headquarters in regard to the attempt by Zoo Fauna, its attorney Richard Parsons, and three U.S. zoos, to import wild-caught gorillas from the Cameroun, were two from the Gabon, a Central African nation known mainly for the hospital established at Lambarené by Dr. Albert Schweitzer, but which is now becoming recognized for its increasing efforts to protect its native fauna and forests.

Dr. Caroline Tutin, who has been studying the gorillas of Gabon for several years, considers that rehabilitation of gorillas would be far easier than rehabilitation of other apes.

In a letter to Dr. Shirley McGreal, Chairwoman of IPPL, dated 29 January 1984, Dr. Tutin states (in part):

When I was in Franceville last week, Bob [Dr. Robert Cooper] showed me your article **On the Need for a Gorilla Recovery Service**. I think that your statements and ideas are excellent and I'd like to do anything appropriate to help. On talking things over with Bob we think that gorilla rehabilitation is not only feasible but may well prove easier and more successful than is the case for other great apes, for the following reasons:

- 1) the cohesive and relatively stable social group provides a basic unit into which juveniles (3 to approx. 6-7 years) could be introduced;
- 2) adult male-juvenile interactions are relatively common among gorillas compared to other apes, and the limited observation of orphans and the one introduced youngster at Karisoke, suggest that juveniles are accepted by the group and that the silver-back male will direct appropriate care-taking behaviours to them;
- 3) young gorillas in contact with humans appear to become less dependent on and attached to their human caretakers than do chimps - this will perhaps facilitate release

and rapid re-adaptation to freedom (provided the period in captivity has not been too prolonged nor traumatic).

If gorilla rehabilitation could be achieved by introducing each youngster to a different wild group then it would be relatively cheap - in terms of manpower - quick, and most important, 100% successful.

Dr. Robert Cooper, Veterinarian at the International Medical Research Center in Franceville, Gabon, submitted a detailed statement to the Federal Wildlife Permit Office in opposition to any reopening of commercial trade in gorillas. Dr. Cooper shares Dr. Tutin's positive attitude to the prospects of successful rehabilitation of gorillas. We reproduce his comments at some length because of Dr. Cooper's long experience in Africa and his hands-on experience with gorillas and the problems of gorilla poaching. (The Franceville laboratory does NOT experiment on gorillas, in spite of its name).

I visited Cameroun in 1967 as the Project Director of a National Cancer Institute contract, "Experimental Breeding of Nonhuman Primates" for the Zoological Society of San Diego. NCI was interested in finding a supplier of Talapoin monkeys, a small and plentiful species in Western Equatorial Africa. The Pan American Airlines freight agent in Douala, Cameroun, directed me to his three major animal dealer customers. I visited each of them, including the Roys in Sangmelima, in the company of the U.S.I.A. chief from the U.S. Embassy in Yaoundé.

Mme. Roy (who conducted the animal business) dealt mainly in infant chimpanzees and gorillas, though she also had several antelope, a large eagle and some parrots available for sale. She was not interested in supplying Talapoins, as the financial rewards were insufficient as compared to her business dealings in young apes. There is ample evidence that this lucrative trade of Mme. Roy's has continued

until very recent years (1982), and that its curtailment has been a function of CITES implementation rather than her metamorphosis into a "zoo" or any sort of noncommercial, public-spirited enterprise.

The forces which have been mobilized by the financial rewards (perhaps \$500,000 or more) at stake in these 7 young gorillas are rather awesome. And this is quite aside from the 3 zoos involved and the various U.S. Government and international agency employees who, it must be assumed, are assisting for better reasons. If this money and influence is allowed to "talk", where will it stop? If these permits are approved, the eyes of the zoo world will again turn to Cameroon for young gorillas (the San Diego Zoo reportedly has some lined up already) -- or to Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Gabon or Congo-Brazzaville. And each new permit request will be another heart rending "special case".

We have been offered two gorillas within the past two weeks. Both were healthy infants of between one and two years old and in captivity only briefly (orphaned by hunters). One was brought personally by a member of the National Assembly. We explained, as always, that it is against the laws of Gabon to kill gorillas (and chimpanzees) or to buy or sell them. We offered to accept them as donations (so long as we have the space) and then watched as they were driven away to suffer inadequate care and death within a month or two. It is **fortunate** for the gorillas of Gabon that (at present) there is no one as "saintly" as Mme. Roy is painted by those who stand to benefit from her dealings, to buy these orphans and contact an animal importer (activating lobbyists, attorneys, interested zoos, etc) and produce the next "special case" gorilla import license request to reach your desk (or perhaps

that of your counterpart in another country fortunate enough to have the equivalent office).

The place to protect and save gorillas is in their natural habitat. Even if one agreed that (in theory) an endangered species could be "saved" in captivity, the experience of the world's best zoos over the past 27 years (since the birth of Colo in 1956) does not hold great hope for gorillas in this regard. And whatever stimulus to mutual cooperation among zoos has been produced by CITES (and the attendant drying up of gorilla supply) will be lost as soon as hopes of acquiring them from nature are rekindled through the issuance of import permits. If it were simply a question of (a final) seven more gorillas being imported by the U.S. via **noncommercial** channels, I would not bother your office with this plea. But from this end of the world the battle to save gorillas and the complex ecosystem of which they are but a part is **deadly serious**. There has been tremendous advance in the past few years, but the pressures which can be exerted by a world market price of \$75,000 per gorilla may be impossible to contain. Please don't open a hole in the dike.

As to the fate of Mme. Roy's gorillas, I can tell you that release of young gorillas in nature is perfectly feasible. In contrast to chimpanzees, which typically attack strange animals, wild gorillas (and particularly adult males) have been demonstrated to be affiliative and protective. And in our experience here (we have seven gorillas, including the first born in captivity in Africa) even young gorillas raised by humans very quickly come to prefer the company of other gorillas to that of people. Mme. Roy's are **perfect** candidates for release.

LIFEFORCE OPENS NEW CAMPAIGN

The Lifeforce Foundation, directed by Peter Hamilton, plans to continue its strategy of focusing attention on the plight of individual experimental animals, including monkeys, as part of its campaign to help all laboratory animals. The selected monkeys become symbols of the plight of thousands of monkeys held in experimental laboratories world-wide.

Currently, Lifeforce is working to save the life of Martha, a 12-year old Rhesus monkey housed at the Letterman Army Institute of Research, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.

In its campaign named "Free Martha, a Prisoner of War," Lifeforce is attempting to secure Martha's release and her transfer to a sanctuary, or to freedom in India.

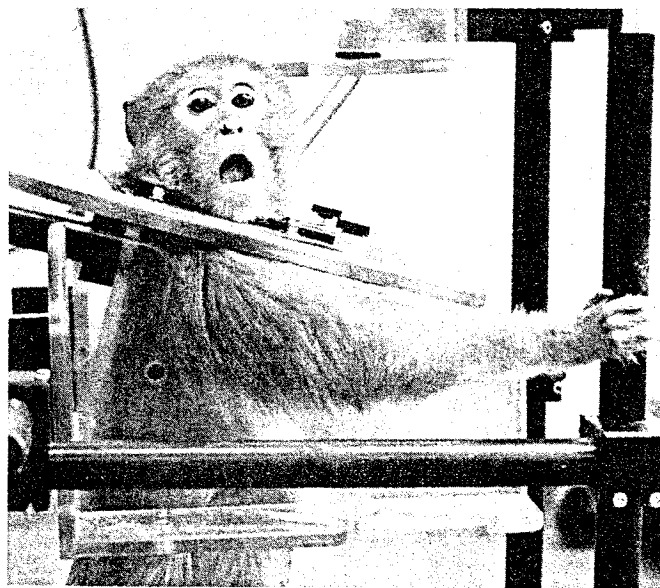
Martha has had difficulty adjusting to military life and has started to "self-mutilate." As a result, she has been placed in a "restraint chair."

Both Colonel Zuck (Director of Letterman) and Colonel Fruin (Deputy-Director) have refused to grant a "pardon" to Prisoner Martha, who was recently assigned to a laser experiment.

IPPL encourages readers to contact the U.S. Secretary of Defense, requesting that Monkey Prisoner-of-War Martha, housed at the Letterman Army Institute of Research, be freed from further involuntary "military service" and be placed into a caring environment, where she can enjoy some well-deserved years of decent monkey living. Twelve years of military service is surely enough for a monkey!

Address:

Caspar Weinberger, Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20305



*Martha: Prisoner-of-War
Copyright: Hamilton, Lifeforce*

We also recommend the fine work of the Lifeforce Foundation to our members: the Foundation is based in Vancouver, Canada (Box 3117, Main Post Office, Vancouver, V6B 3X6, BC, Canada).

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The Town of Summerville has a new Post Office. Unfortunately, the new Office does not have lettered boxes, so there is no more Drawer X. Please note our new address and zip code.

INTERNATIONAL PRIMATE PROTECTION LEAGUE
P.O. BOX 766
SUMMERVILLE, S.C. 29484, U.S.A.

THE BOHOROK ORANG-UTAN REHABILITATION CENTER

by Suharto Djojosedharmo

Dr. Djojosedharmo is Director of the Bohorok Orang-utan Rehabilitation Center, North Sumatra, Indonesia

Today orang-utans, the greatest of the Asian arboreal apes, are restricted to primary rain forest areas on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. However, remains of prehistoric orang-utans were found in Stone Age excavations between Peking and Java. Competition with Man, predation, and habitat destruction may have contributed to the extinction of the orang-utan on Java and confined its range to small areas on Sumatra and Borneo. Today, a few thousands of these greatest of the arboreal apes of Asia remain, an alarming figure considering that there were probably at least half a million remaining in the first century, B.C.

Until the end of the 19th century, many scientists went to Sumatra and Borneo to gather more knowledge about the only Asian representative of the family of great apes. At that time, this meant mainly shooting as many animals as possible for dissection and for museum collections.

Schlegel and Muller, in their excellent monograph published in 1844 *Natuurlijke Historie van de Orang-oetan* stated that orang-utans are rarely encountered, a statement confirmed by most naturalists and collectors until the 1960s. Yet Wallace was able to shoot nine orang-utans in one location in Sarawak during May and June 1855. This number does not include animals fatally wounded whose bodies were not recovered.

Early in the 20th century, the number of orang-utans had decreased drastically. Circuses and zoological gardens started to exhibit the species around this time, thus encouraging their capture for export. Most of those surviving the capture operation died during transportation (by ship), and, of those which reached a zoo safely, barely 20% survived their first years in captivity.

During the 1960s, surveys by naturalists only confirmed the rarity of the once-common orang-utan. Density estimates based on nest counts were in the order of less than one orang-utan per square kilometer. Although the resulting estimate of the entire orang-utan population (4,000 individuals) erred in being too low, nonetheless, this figure elevated the orang-utan into the ranks of highly endangered species and led to the establishment of measures for its protection, including a world-wide ban on trade.



Cito learning to climb



Orang rehabilitants at Feeding Station

Up till the present, orang-utans are still obtained by the shooting of the mother to seize her clinging baby. Apart from the high loss of infants, the killing of reproductive females has a disastrous effect on the population. Moreover, it is easy to shoot orang-utans. These heavy arboreal tree-dwellers are slow and careful in their movements so provide an easy target. Orang-utans do not have natural enemies, and this may cause their low flight tendency. However, hunting is not the only threat to the orang-utan. The activities of large timber companies and villagers destroying its natural habitat take their toll. Fast and effective action is required if the orang-utan is to survive into the 21st century.

REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation can be a means of managing an endangered species, thereby contributing to its survival. If the survival of a particular population is threatened by habitat destruction, some of the animals could be transferred to a new habitat. This has been accomplished successfully with elephants and rhinos in Africa, as well as fish, amphibians, reptiles, and plants. Rehabilitation centers provide a home for confiscated animals and thus provide an incentive for law enforcement.

The first step towards rehabilitation is locating an illegally-kept ape. Next he/she is confiscated and taken to the center: after that, the animal is checked for parasites and treated if necessary. After at least two months of quarantine and careful medical evaluation, the orang-utan is introduced to a group of fellow-rehabilitants. Once released, he/she is provided with a feeding regime determined on the basis of his physical condition and assessed dependence on provisioned food.

Special training, such as teaching the animals what kinds of food are edible, does not appear to be necessary for orang-utans. Newcomers learn from the more experienced rehabilitant apes, while many wild-caught animals may well remember some of the food-plants they ate in their youth in the wild.

CONTROVERSY OVER REHABILITATION

Critics of rehabilitation have drawn attention to possible problems for the released animals and the wild population they join. Among identified problems are: food-gathering problems, stress, and the possibility that released animals might carry disease to wild populations. If the wild population were at carrying capacity, food competition and aggression might occur.

BOHOROK REHABILITATION CENTER

The Bohorok Center is located on the eastern edge of the Gunung Leuser National Park in the province of North Sumatra. The nearest large city is Medan, about 90 kilometers away to the east. Most of the park is steep and mountainous with elevations between 200-1,200 meters in the eastern section. The center is reached by a 2½ hour drive from Medan. A concrete road leads over to Binjai and Kuala as far as Bohorok, from which point a gravel road in poor condition leads the visitor to Bukitlawang, 10 kilometers away.

At this point, the Bohorok River, clear as glass, rushes over boulders not far below the roadhead to delineate the natural boundary which separates the neatly-tended world of rice paddies and rubber and palm oil plantations from that of the virgin tropical rain forest which rises dark and mysterious on the opposite bank about 50 meters across the river.

From this point, a 20-minute walk along a narrow foot-path edging the Bohorok River leads to the Center. The river is crossed by a "perahu," a local dugout boat. No bridge has been built to ensure the privacy of the center and the containment of the fauna.

The two wooden guest-houses, the game warden's house, the Information Center, and the manager's house, are built on a small flat peninsula formed by a bend in the river and are accessible only by crossing the river. The five orang-utan quarantine cages are situated close to the manager's house.

The feeding station for the semi-wild oranges is well removed from the houses and is a bamboo platform built about halfway between the forest floor and the treetops. To avoid contact between the orang-utans and visitors, the feeding area is separated from the jungle track by a tough fence of lianas.

The Center, established in June 1973, was sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund but financially supported by the Frankfurt Zoological Society. It was pioneered by the Swiss zoologists Monika Borner and Regina Frey. Later, management of the station was taken over by Conrad and Rosalind Aveling from England. In 1979, the station came under the full management of the Indonesian Government which maintains a field manager [Suharto Djojosedharmo, author of this article] and staff on the site.

The Orang-Utan Rehabilitation Center welcomes visitors – up to a maximum of 50 per trip. Visitors may only cross the river to the center at 8.00 and 15.30 each day, when, accompanied by the game ranger, they can walk through the forest to watch the feeding of the semi-wild orang-utans. Visitors are not allowed to take food, drink, radios, or weapons into the forest. However, taking of photographs is encouraged.

The Bohorok River in front of our camp, with its clear water forming deep pools, offers unique opportunities for swimmers and divers. Clear water from a nearby waterfall and the cool agreeable climate complete the idyllic environment of the center.

THE WAY BACK TO INDEPENDENCE

The orang-utan has enjoyed full legal protection in Indonesia since 1931. Hunting, trading, possession, and export of orang-utans are strictly forbidden, although special licenses may be issued by the President of Indonesia. It is the assigned task of the Nature Conservation Department to confiscate illegally-held orang-utans. This does not constitute a problem if the owners are villagers, who are sometimes the poachers of the animals. However, once the orang-utans are sold to powerful and influential people, often high Army officials, the situation becomes more difficult. We explain to them the aims and purposes of the project and about nature

conservation in general. Some eventually donate their animals, and even help us locate others. Many try to get money for their animals by using every type of trick. As a matter of principle, we never pay anything for animals.

On arrival at the Rehabilitation Center, animals are often in bad health, underfed or wrongly fed, or suffering from a variety of diseases. Newcomers immediately enter quarantine for two months of observation and medical screening. Their blood and feces are examined and they are tested for and vaccinated against tuberculosis and poliomyelitis. As long as they remain in the cages, they are fed twice daily on bananas, milk, etc. with vitamins and iron when appropriate.

The caged animals are offered fresh branches twice daily to allow them to practice nesting. Although the basic elements of nesting behavior appear to be inborn, some animals take quite a long time to develop their abilities.

The cages are cleaned twice daily with water and disinfectant. The floors of the cage-platforms are built one meter above the ground to prevent contact with the soil below.

Next, the animals are put in the trees surrounding the manager's house to allow them to practice movement through the trees. According to their health and abilities, the animals are then released step by step into the forest. The released animals are fed bananas twice daily on the platform, which is 3 meters from the ground, to get them used to staying up high and not descending to the ground. A diet of bananas is very monotonous for orang-utans accustomed to an enormous variety of fruit and leaves in the forest so this should encourage the animals to look for more interesting food items in the forest. When they become fully independent, they sometimes leave the center on their own. Sometimes we release them deep in the forest. This last step is not taken until the orang-utan is fully independent and can move and make nests in the trees and no longer needs supplementary feeding.

Formerly, most orang-utans entering the Center came from the pet trade. Today, however, we increasingly receive animals from timber and oil concessions, plantations or shifting cultivation areas. Of the total of 143 orang-utans received at Bohorok, 52 were infants and 66 juveniles. The young age of the animals supports the theory that almost all animals in captivity were captured by the shooting of the mother. In the 10 years of the Center's operation, about 90 orang-utans were introduced into the forest.



Mas, now fully independent

Visitors are allowed to see the animals at feeding times only. They are forbidden to touch the orang-utans. Only the staff have contact with the animals. In some respects, tourism might appear contradictory to rehabilitation. However, it is extremely important for conservation education.

DISCUSSION

During the past decade, orang-utan populations have been affected by the increasing rate of deforestation. It is universally agreed that the most important function of any ape rehabilitation center is propaganda and conservation education. An increasing number of tourists, both local and foreign, visit the project which offers a splendid opportunity for conservation education. The station provides a clear example of hands-on wildlife conservation in action, a concept often difficult for local people to comprehend in the abstract.

In addition, the station provides a place for confiscated animals. Without such a place, the animals might be killed or placed in local or overseas zoos. The existence of the orang-utan rehabilitation centers has led to a great decline in the number of orang-utans illegally held or exported. The station accepts rehabilitants to help enforce wildlife protective legislation.

In addition, the Bohorok Center has achieved some success in halting forest destruction in and around the reserve in which it is situated, as have the other rehabilitation centers in other parts of

Borneo and Sumatra. Through the Rehabilitation Center, Indonesians at every level – from local villagers to high officials – can be made aware of the issue of forest conservation. The focal points for the Center today are: 1) law enforcement, 2) propaganda, 3) education and, to some extent, tourism and research.

The possibility of rehabilitated orang-utans introducing disease into wild populations can be minimized by prolonged quarantine, including thorough medical screening (medical laboratory facilities are available in Medan) and careful treatment, in the course of which animals undergoing treatment are kept completely isolated from other animals.

During the short feeding times, the visitors are kept at a distance from the orang-utans. The feeding site for semi-wild rehabilitants is far enough away from the station to prevent rehabilitants coming near the housing area and quarantine cages.

Because of the danger of upsetting the balance of wild populations, animals will in future be released where possible in areas where orang-utans are no longer found, but which provide an appropriate habitat. After surveying Kerinci National Park, a large new national park (approximately 14,000 square kilometers), I concluded that the park had 1,200 square kilometers suitable for orang-utans. I have already proposed to the Nature Conservation Department of Indonesia that a new station should be situated in the province of West Sumatra, at about 2° South and 101° East.

We hope our efforts will contribute to the continued existence of the wonderful orang-utans of Island Southeast Asia.

RECOMMENDED READING

The March 1984 issue of *Smithsonian* magazine features an article about the work of the International Primate Protection League, concentrating on the activities at Headquarters with its constant activity schedule of animal care and campaigning for primate welfare. The article was sensitively written by Pat Curtis and illustrated with beautiful photographs taken by Linda Bartlett. Friends of Arun Rangsı Gibbon will be glad to see a close-up photograph of their little friend in a relaxed mood.

Michael Bean, Chairman of the Wildlife Program of the Environmental Defense Fund, is the foremost authority on U.S. wildlife law, as well as on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Mr. Bean's superbly-researched book entitled **THE EVOLUTION OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE LAW**, originally published in 1977, has now become available in an updated and expanded second edition. The book may be obtained from the Sales Department, Praeger Press, 521 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017, U.S.A. The cost is \$12.95 (paper-bound) and \$29.95 (cloth-bound). This book is invaluable to all interested in the law as a tool to protect wildlife and we strongly recommend that

you obtain a copy.

Read **Agenda**, the independent bi-monthly newsmagazine of the animal rights movement. **Agenda's** 25 contributing editors and activist readership throughout the U.S., Canada, England and Australia keep you in touch with the news and views of this rapidly growing international movement. Past issues of **Agenda** have covered psychologist Donald Barnes' defection from primate military research to primate protection, the famed "Silver Spring 17" trial and conviction of Dr. Edward Taub for cruelty to primates in his Maryland laboratory, the Mobilization for Animals' rallies at U.S. primate centers (from the earliest planning stages, and follow-up coverage continues), and numerous other events and developments affecting primates as well as animal life in general.

Address:

Agenda
Animal Rights Network
Box 5234
Westport, CT 06881 U.S.A.

PRESIDENTIAL INVESTIGATION IN ZAIRE

The IPPL *Newsletter* (August 1973) revealed Belgium's shocking role in the smuggling of endangered Pygmy chimpanzees from Zaire, as well as chimpanzees. Hundreds of IPPL members wrote the requested protest letters to President Sese-Sese Mobutu of Zaire,

To the best of our knowledge, only one member, Mrs. Mary-Evelyn Davis of California, has received a reply. In a letter to Zaire's Department of the Environment dated 22 December 1983, Avi Kimfuena Nkoma, Private Secretary to President Mobutu, asked for an explanation of how Pygmy chimpanzees were leaving Zaire despite the export ban. The Department of the Environment promised to investigate and asked Mrs. Davis to send further details of the shipments. These have been provided by IPPL headquarters staff and our Belgian Representative, Dr. Roland Corluy.

Belgium, along with other European countries not yet members of CITES, became a party to the Convention on 1 January 1984,

when the European Economic Community joined CITES as a bloc. Belgian dealers were given 90 days to register their stock. Unfortunately there was a last-minute rush of importations of rare and endangered species into the country. These included 29 Golden-headed lion tamarins smuggled to Belgium from Brazil via Bolivia in November 1983. The animals are now on the premises of the Belgian smuggler René Corten. The Government of Brazil has demanded that they be confiscated and returned to Brazil.

Apparently, more Golden-headed lion tamarins had been successfully smuggled from Brazil earlier. Three were offered for sale by a Japanese dealer in September 1983, and acquired by the Hong Kong Zoological Gardens in November 1983 (after the zoo had discussed what to do with the holder of the species studbook). In addition, a private collector of rare animals, Dr. Quinque of Paris, France, was found to have acquired 13 animals of the species in late 1982 and early 1983.

CRUELTY TO PRIMATES AT SOUTH CAROLINA ZOO

A recent incident involving a gibbon family that used to live at the Riverbanks Zoo, Columbia, South Carolina, typifies the more inhumane aspects of the new "management-consciousness" in American zoos. Officials of the Riverbanks Zoo separated a mated pair of gibbons from each other and their two offspring. A baby, far too young to be separated from his mother, died as a result. Zoo officials have not expressed one word of regret over the death of this infant gibbon.

Nonetheless, this zoo was identified as one of the ten best in the nation in a recent *Parade* magazine article sponsored by the "Humane Society of the United States."

On taking up residence in South Carolina in 1977 (after 7½ years in Asia), Shirley McGreal, Chairwoman of IPPL, visited the Riverbanks Park Zoo, where she noticed that two young gibbons caged together belonged to different species. The male was a Mueller's gibbon and the female an Agile gibbon. Considering that it might be wise for the animals to be placed with mates of their own species, Ms. McGreal drew the attention of zoo officials to the situation. However, these officials insisted that both animals were Agile gibbons, and left them together. Later, two delightful babies were born: they were the pride of the zoo: the mother loved to show her babies off to visitors.

However, in 1982, the zoo learned of the infallibility of its "expert biologist," Allan Shoemaker. The "pride of the zoo" apparently became an embarrassment. Nothing was said to IPPL. We only learned what had happened on seeing an advertisement in the *Laboratory Primate Clearinghouse*, announcing the availability of two young gibbons, a 3-year old male and a one-month old unsexed baby, (*Clearinghouse*, 7 and 28 June 1982). The gibbons were described as "hybrids."

IPPL organized a state-wide protest in which South Carolina members participated. The plan to break up the family was put on the "back-burner" – temporarily.

It was not until December 1983 that IPPL learned that zoo officials had split up the family, sending the parents to separate zoos and the babies to Alan Mootnick, a private collector of gibbons in California. Mootnick told IPPL that the baby "did not survive quarantine."

IPPL at once contacted Palmer ("Satch") Krantz, Director of the Riverbanks Park Zoo. Ms. McGreal asked Krantz about how the gibbons were doing, and where they were. Krantz replied that the parents were in different Texas zoos and that the babies had been sent to a "private party" in California, where both were "doing fine": in fact, he said, he'd just talked with the gibbons' new owner a couple of months ago. When asked whether being dead constituted "doing fine," there was an audible silence on the end of the line. Krantz said he would look into the matter.

IPPL again contacted South Carolina members, asking them to address protests to the Chairman of the Riverbanks Park Commis-

sion. The protest was made more difficult because the major Columbia newspaper the *State* apparently considers criticism of the local zoo as an act of sacrilege!

Ms. McGreal requested permission to address the Riverbanks Park Commission about the situation, and drove to Columbia on 23 January to present a statement. The experience turned out to be most interesting – and totally unproductive. The Commissioners were mainly what is known in South Carolina as "good old boys." The meeting began almost half an hour late since somebody did not show up on time, so there was no "quorum." Commissioners chatted about sports events, business, and almost every imaginable topic, except animals.

Finally, the latecomer arrived and the meeting began. A Mr. Crocker was called on for a prayer and, oddly in the zoo environment, prayed for "humankind," not even mentioning the zoo animals.

The praying finished, Chairman Lawrence Johnson told Ms. McGreal she could make a statement, but, "Please restrict yourself to 5 minutes because the agenda is so crowded!" (There would have been more time if the meeting had begun on time!).

After pointing out that the dead gibbon had suffered for a lot more than 5 minutes, Ms. McGreal read a hard-hitting statement, beginning:

I am here to express my members' grief and sorrow at the break-up of the Riverbanks Zoo's delightful gibbon family and the subsequent death of a baby gibbon. I would have preferred not to be here today and would not have been here if I had heard one statement of regret or remorse from any official of Riverbanks Zoo.

Under the constant glower of "Satch" Krantz, Ms. McGreal described the events leading to the break-up of the gibbon family, and suggested that, even if it were necessary to separate the parents, a gibbon baby under a year old is **far too young** to be separated from his mother.

As soon as the statement was completed, a Commission member, who had yawned repeatedly during the 7-minute statement, said, "Since this matter concerns a personnel action, I vote we move it to Executive [secret] session." Everyone agreed. Ms. McGreal was "invited to leave." Her efforts to ask questions about the circumstances of the baby gibbon's death horrified Commissioner Johnson, who commented, glowering, "You are asking questions! THAT IS NOT ALLOWED HERE!"

IPPL has not heard a word from the Commission since that moment. No doubt the baby gibbon whose life was so senselessly and callously cut short was "buried again" – in Executive session.

NOTE: IPPL has obtained a copy of the Minutes of the Riverbanks Park Commission's 28 November 1983 meeting. Among the subjects of discussion were "the purchase price of the zoo's new telephone system," and "proposed changes in the Zoo's gift shop . . . in an effort in increase souvenir revenue."

ANIMALS LOSE OUT

Two recent cases in which the wishes of deceased animal-lovers to help animals appear to have been subverted draw attention to the importance of proper estate-planning by people wishing to provide for animals or animal charities. It is very dangerous to place too much discretion in the hands of attorneys and others who may "butter up" to one during one's lifetime, pretending to care about animals, and do a turn-around after one is "out-of-the-way." Wills leaving money to animals and animal charities appear more likely than other wills to be challenged by relatives of the deceased.

Hans Mannheimer, the successful inventor of such products as tearless baby shampoo, had a passion for primates. He maintained over 100 animals of several species at his luxurious waterfront estate in Toms River, New Jersey. The animals lived in super-luxury.

Never once did Mr. Mannheimer permit any harm to come to a primate in his care. As Mr. Mannheimer lay dying of cancer, he watched his primates on closed-circuit television. His deep love for primates has been confirmed to IPPL by many who knew him.

Mannheimer left the money flowing in from his patents to a trust which was to fund the Mannheimer Primatological Foundation, which was to care for the animals at a new location in Florida after Mannheimer's death. After temporary holding at an animal dealer's compound, the remaining animals were moved to a site in Homestead, Florida. The new facility gradually became a fully-fledged research and breeding facility associated with the University of Florida in Miami. Foundation funds were used to build cages for the University's Perrine Primate Center. The Foundation also

entered into a working relationship with Imperial Chemical Industries in England, which uses primates, including some supplied by the Mannheimer Foundation, in toxicology testing. Thus it appears that Mr. Mannheimer's money is being used to harm rather than help primates – the opposite of his intentions. The attorneys managing the estate have expressed their strong support of primate experimentation and seem quite satisfied with the situation. One wonders what Mr. Mannheimer would think. . . .

Thelma Doelger died in July 1983 at the age of 83, to the great regret of everyone who loved this warm-hearted lady who gave so generously to so many animal charities and who had opened her large property in Healdsburg, California, to a host of abandoned and abused animals, including many primates. Mrs. Doelger had even constructed cages to receive the monkeys involved in the Taub cruelty case, if their release could ever be assured. She knew each of these monkeys by name and it is tragic that she died before meeting them. When Mrs. Doelger's will was read, it was learned that

she had left large sums of money to three SPCAs in the California Bay area, and \$1.5 million (U.S.) over a 50-year period to a primate sanctuary in New Hampshire. This seemed somewhat strange since the sanctuary operator is a lady in her 70s. So far, she has not seen one cent of her inheritance. Mrs. Doelger's adopted son, Michael Doelger of Palo Alto, California, was not satisfied with his \$200,000 share of the estate, and has challenged the will, claiming that his mother must have been "out of her mind" to leave most of her estate to animals and animal charities. It is doubtful that such a challenge would be issued if the money had been left to the American Cancer Society. Unfortunately, people who leave money to animals are all too often accused of being "insane" and judges and juries all too often agree and overturn the will.

These illustrations point to the extreme difficulty of using one's estate to continue helping animals after one has left the scene. We hope to run an article in a future *Newsletter* about how to write a will that can stand up to challenge and not be open to subversion.

THANKS FROM BANGLADESH

As long-term members of IPPL know, our organization has worked very hard for many years to help Bangladesh maintain its ban on the export of Rhesus monkeys, which was established in 1979, when a U.S. animal dealer who had managed to obtain an export contract for over 70,000 monkeys was expelled from Bangladesh.

Since that time, the impoverished nation has had to face U.S. government threats to cut off "aid" unless monkeys were exported, as well as a \$15 million (U.S.) dollar lawsuit from the disgruntled animal dealer.

IPPL officers and active members have worked closely with Bangladesh wildlife protection organizations to see that the primates of Bangladesh continue to receive full legal protection. We have also worked closely with Attorneys for Animal Rights, which has helped defend Bangladesh in the Oregon courts.

We were delighted to receive from our friends in Bangladesh a copy of the following resolution passed by the Wildlife Society of Bangladesh at its 8 January 1984 meeting:

The Council of the Wildlife Society of Bangladesh expresses its satisfaction at the rejection of the MOL lawsuit against the Bangladesh Government in connection with the so-called monkey export contract.

The Council expresses its thanks to the Bangladesh Government, particularly to the Honorable Minister for Agriculture, Forests, and Fisheries, Mr. Obaidullah Khan,

for not yielding to the direct and indirect pressures of the unholy alliance of the vested interests and for upholding the ban on monkey exports as per the wildlife preservation policy of the Government.

The Council places on record its deep sense of gratitude to the IPPL, particularly its Chairwoman Dr. Shirley McGreal and other officials, for leaving virtually no stone unturned against tremendous odds to safeguard the interests of the Bangladesh monkeys, and to uphold the rights of the Bangladesh Government. The Council also thanks the "wildlifers" of the world for their valuable moral support. We hope such united support would always be available whenever needed in future.

We are delighted to share this appreciation with our many members who have written letters in support of the Bangladesh monkeys, as well as to organizations such as the Animal Protection Institute of America, Attorneys for Animal Rights, the Animal Welfare Institute, and other groups that have lent their support to this battle. We also salute the efforts of our Bangladesh Representative, Dr. Zakir Husain, and the Wildlife Society of Bangladesh, the Zoological Society of Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Society to Conserve our Nature and Environment, and members of the Department of Zoology of the University of Dacca, including Dr. Reza Khan, who have worked so hard on this issue.

THE PET INDUSTRY PARTY FOR CITES

During August 1973, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) held a Western hemisphere seminar in Washington D.C. for wildlife officials from North, Central, and South America.

One of the social highlights of the seminar was a party offered to delegates by the U.S. Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC), a trade association which represents U.S. animal dealers trading in mammals, birds, reptiles, tropical fish etc. PIJAC works hard to prevent legislation materialising that might restrict the sale of exotic animals as pets; recently, it fought to defeat a proposed North Carolina law to ban the importation, sale and possession in the state of "any animal not native to North Carolina which has a history or potential of being dangerous," including "reptiles of such size and nature as to be dangerous to Mankind." PIJAC also tried to block measures to bring all parrot species under the control of CITES. Many large parrot species (such as macaws and cockatoos) are being traded to extinction.

PIJAC has always maintained a highly visible presence at conferences of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. The organization was severely criticized for



Richard Parsons, lobbyist for gorilla trade, with Ray Arnett of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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sponsoring the presence at the 1979 CITES Conference in Costa Rica of David Mohilef, an animal trafficker operating out of Singapore. A visitor reported to IPPL seeing no less than 36 baby orang-utans on this dealer's premises in the late 1960s, and he has also exported to the United States gibbons shipped to Singapore from neighboring countries that ban gibbon traffic. This dealer's activities were filmed by a crew from "Nova," the excellent television program shown in the United States. The program, entitled "The Business of Extinction," focused on Singapore's trafficking in rare birds such as cockatoos, the Rothschild's mynah, etc. Many wildlife chiefs felt that this person's attendance at the conference of an organization established to combat illegal wildlife trafficking was inappropriate. Since that time, however, PIJAC has been represented by its attorneys rather than active dealers. Marshall Meyers and Richard Parsons (who is handling the gorilla permit application of PIJAC member Matthew Block) attended the CITES conference in Gaborone in 1983.

The 3 August 1983 PIJAC reception to "honor" CITES was written up in the September 1983 issue of *Pet Business* magazine. A luxury buffet was served at the Sheraton Carlton Hotel in Washington D.C.

Among those present were (from the U.S. Government), Ray Arnett, a "big-game hunter" now Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Robert Jantzen, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Clark Bavin, head of the Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Division. CITES officials in attendance included Eugène Lapointe, Secretary-General, and John Heppes, Vice-Chairman of the CITES Standing Committee (who recently allowed the importation of a wild-caught gorilla to Canada). Dealers' attorneys present included Marshall Meyers and Richard Parsons (former Chief of the Federal Wildlife Permit Office). Dealers present included Bern Levine, who owns pet orang-utans and used to import gibbons via the "Singapore Connection" (bringing in 18 siamangs and 11 gibbons in 1973 alone) for which the U.S. Customs (NOT Bavin's division) attempted to prosecute him, and Matthew Block, now seeking to re-open the world trade in gorillas. Also represented were the World Wildlife Fund and the Safari Club, which, in 1978, had the gall to apply to the Federal Wildlife Permit Office to import 5 gorillas, 5 orang-utans, plus a variety of other endangered wildlife (including cheetahs, jaguars, clouded leopards, tigers, white rhino, and ocelots) in the form of "hunting trophies."

While it is perfectly legitimate for animal dealers to seek to influence CITES, IPPL feels that, especially in the case of the Roy gorillas and the gorilla recently imported to Canada, CITES has been far too easily manipulated.



Marshall Meyers of PIJAC (left), with animal dealer and Eugène Lapointe, Secretary-General of CITES (right).



Animal dealer Bern Levine with Clark Bavin, chief "cop" of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE GORILLAS

1) Write to the Honorable Charles Caccia, Minister of the Environment, Parliament Building, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, protesting the importation of a baby gorilla by the Granby Zoo, Quebec, and requesting an investigation of the circumstances of issuance of an import permit by the Canadian CITES Management Authority. Request that firm action be taken against any party found guilty of wrong-doing. Request that Canada allow no further importation of wild-caught gorillas and that it cancel any import permit currently held by any party for the importation of gorillas.

NOTE: IPPL has just learned that a male gorilla was caught for the Granby Zoo, but that the unfortunate animal died, which is why a replacement animal is now being hunted in the Cameroun.

2) Write to His Excellency General Wojciech Jaruzelski, (Head of State), Urząd Rady Ministrów, Warsaw, Poland, protesting Poland's participation in the international traffic in gorillas and chimpanzees. Request that the Wrocław Zoo be prevented from making further gorilla importations, and from re-exporting imported gorillas under the pretense that they are "captive-born." Request that Poland become a member of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and join the international effort to save the world's wildlife from extinction.

Send a similar letter to His Excellency Tadeusz Hutałowski (Minister of the Environment), Administracji Gostodarki, Terenowej i Ochrony Brodowiska, Warsaw, Poland.

Overseas air mail costs 40 cents per half-ounce.

3) Please write President Paul Biya, President's Office, Yaoundé, Cameroun, requesting that the Cameroun cease exportation of gorillas, and that it declare these wonderful animals to be fully protected and enforce such protection. Express your support for the removal of all gorillas held in private hands and their placement into a Gorilla Survival Center.

4) Contact IPPL Headquarters if you are willing to circulate our "Save the Gorillas" petition, which many of you have already received in the mail.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BABOONS DIE IN TEXAS COLD

Fourteen baboons died in December 1983 at the Southwest Foundation for Research and Education, San Antonio, Texas, U.S.A. Temperatures dropped to near-zero on Christmas Eve.

The deaths were blamed on a faulty electrical heating system.

The Southwest Foundation houses 2500 baboons, as well as large numbers of chimpanzees and other primates. It is funded from the Slick oil fortune and other sources and is a socially "chic" charity among San Antonio's "super-rich." A luxurious conference center considered by many to be totally unnecessary was constructed recently at massive cost. Meanwhile, the animal facilities lack back-up heating, and the chimpanzees live in some of the worst chimpanzee housing in the United States.

On hearing of the deaths of these baboons, IPPL at once contacted the Department of Agriculture proposing that it investigate whether the Foundation was in violation of the requirement of the Animal Welfare Act that animals be provided proper shelter from heat and cold. We have not had the courtesy of a reply. An investigation into the death in 1979 of a chimpanzee as the result of a failure to provide required weekend care to the Foundation's apes was dropped, with no action taken.

It is especially appalling that an institution **with access to so much money** does not take proper care of its animals. The rich lady members of the "Southwest Forum," the foundation's fund-raising auxiliary, love to organize \$200 a ticket balls and fashion shows but appear to have no pity for the animals whose incarceration and exploitation they are making possible.

IPPL TESTIFIES BEFORE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE

Dr. Shirley McGreal, Chairwoman of IPPL, testified before the Committee on Counties of the Massachusetts State Legislature on 28 February 1984. The Committee was hearing testimony on a bill to outlaw invasive experimentation on primates in the State of Massachusetts.

Dr. McGreal discussed all aspects of primate experimentation and care. She offered committee members samples of "monkey chow," which none would try. Several of the committee members were **horrified** to learn that they are primates.

IPPL members Annette Pickett and Christopher Roof also testified in support of the bill.

Members residing in Massachusetts may submit comments on the bill to their state legislators. The bill number is H-5359.

DOGS AND CATS SAVED, MONKEYS MAY DIE

In September 1983, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) learned of plans by the United States Department of Defense to shoot dogs, cats, and other animals, at a new "wounds laboratory" about to be established at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland.

The animals would be placed in slings, shot, and their wounds would then be treated by medical students.

A public outcry followed PETA's disclosures. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger immediately suspended plans to start the experiments. Hundreds of doctors, including combat surgeons, signed a petition stating that such training was not necessary for military doctors. Others suggested that the crime-ridden city of Washington D.C., just a few miles from Bethesda, is a "combat zone," with hundreds of wounds victims treated daily in the city's emergency rooms.

Congressmen sympathetic to animals introduced into the 1984 Defense Appropriations Act a proviso forbidding such use of animals. However, the proviso was modified at the request of Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, the result being that only cats and dogs were exempted from wounds research, leaving the way open for the shooting of monkeys, goats, pigs, and other animals.

Wound experiments on monkeys are being conducted at the

super-secret Porton Down laboratory run by the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defense. Monkeys are shot at a range of 5-10 yards to study human brain injuries.

Britain's "Animal Liberation Front" has threatened to raid Porton Down in the hope of rescuing animals from wounding and other war experiments conducted at this facility.

MONKEYS SAVED

According to the London *Standard* (26 January 1984), sixteen animals were recently seized from the kitchens of Hong Kong's "jungle restaurants." The reprieved animals were shipped by road to Canton Zoo, China.

The animals consisted of 6 macaques (their brains are considered a gourmet and health-giving food), one adult brown bear (bears' paws and gall-bladders are much in demand), one eagle, four tortoises, and four crocodiles.

UPDATE ON BEAU AND CAPTAIN

The August 1973 issue of the IPPL *Newsletter* described the plight of two monkeys, Beau and Captain, Rhesus monkeys held by Steven Lisberger, a physiologist-experimenter at the University of California at San Francisco. The experimental protocol involved implantation of electrodes in the monkeys' brains, chair restraint, and killing. Readers, touched by Peter Hamilton's moving photographs of the monkeys, held by chains in small cages, with gadgetry protruding from their skulls, sent letters to the President of the University of California, asking that Beau and Captain be allowed to live.

It is with regret that we report that Lisberger and his associates have already "executed" Captain and plan to go ahead and "finish off" Beau soon. He may be dead by the time you read this article.

One wonders how many monkeys will die in the furtherance of Lisberger's career, as the preface to his "research protocol" describes him as an "outstanding YOUNG investigator." Since he has no medical degree, one suspects he will have a long career in primate experimentation. The protocol describes how monkeys move "happily" into their restraint chairs. However, they are moved using a pole **attached to a chain ATTACHED TO A COLLAR.** "Happy" though the monkeys are, the experimenters do this as a "precaution against unexpected monkey behavior," which presumably means a well-placed bite to Lisberger or his associates! "Happy" though the monkey may be in his chair, the protocol also comments that the neck plate of the restraint chair must be "adjusted" so that "the monkey cannot slip his head out and escape."

STUPID STUNT

According to the Vero Beach *Press-Journal* (27 January 1984), Larry Tetzlaff, also known as "Jungle Larry," recently perfected the "ultimate" animal-training feat . . . teaching a chimpanzee to ride beside a lion on an elephant's back! The trick was described as a "harmony act" between a chimpanzee and "both his enemies!"

A picture accompanying the article shows "Jungle Larry," dressed in safari suit and sun-hat, posing alongside the animals.

According to the *Press-Journal*, "visitors to Jungle Larry's "African Safari Park" in Naples, Florida, can see this act "three times daily," thus learning "how animals are humanely trained for circuses, TV, and movies at this attraction."

Visitors to Florida are urged to boycott this demeaning, nauseating spectacle.

THE TRUTH ABOUT ERIC ORANG-UTAN

Recently Eric, a six year old orang-utan housed at the Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, surprised zoo officials by having a baby. As a result, plans to send Eric to a Chinese zoo to mate with a female orang-utan were cancelled!

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