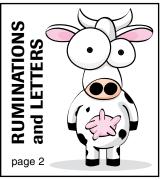
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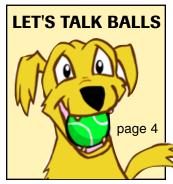
ISSUE NUMBER 118, SPRING 26 AZ



page 3 CENTRAL BANK of the PARK









Park Issues Travel Advisory

MAMMALIAN DAILY HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORTER

or the first time in Park history, the Department of Well-Being and Safety (DWBS) has issued a travel advisory to Animals who plan to journey outside The Park in the coming months.

The advisory, which was issued on 21 Myrodia, warns Animals to exercise "extreme caution" when travelling to areas outside The Park "where there may exist hostile feelings toward Animals in general or toward Park Animals in particular or where there is a history of harmful or aggressive treatment toward Animals."

In explaining its decision to issue the advisory, the Department cited a number of factors, including several recent occurrences of kidnapping, murder, and what it termed, "enforced domestication."

At a press conference held last Friday, DWBS Director of Public Relations, Cornelius Kakapo, confirmed the rumour that certain species have become particularly vulnerable to aggressive treatment outside The Park. Feral Cats, he warned, appear to be at greater risk of enforced domestication than many other species. For this reason, the DWBS "strongly advises" that Feral Cats use products such as FeralNoMore™ and other scent-masking agents prior to undertaking any journey outside The Park. These products can be found at local Park shops.

Other species the DWBS has placed on its "Vulnerable" list include Raccoons, Mice, Rats, and Ants and other members of the Insect population. The Department advises these Animals to be aware at all times when they are outside The Park and to keep family and friends informed of their travel schedules, whenever possible.

Kakapo also confirmed that the DWBS has set up a hotline to aid Park Police in tracking



the whereabouts of Animals who have gone missing. In addition, he said, the following "helplines" have been launched to facilitate

communication between the Department and Park Animals and to assist them in dealing with the present crisis:

Park Travel Advisory Updates: 1-899-87285243 Feral Cat Helpline: 1-899-33725228 Assaulted Animals Helpline: 1-899-27728583 Missing Animals Registry: 1-899-64774642 Missing Family Members Report: 1-899-32645966 Youthline (Kittens, Puppies, Cubs, etc.): 1-899-96884546

Interspecial Summer Games

Tunnel to undergo repairs before Summer Games

MAMMALIAN DAILY SPORTS REPORTER

The Park's famous 2-kilometre tunnel will undergo extensive repairs between 30 Myrodia and 1 Azafran.

According to a spokesanimal for the Department of Well-Being and Safety, a team of experts examined the tunnel after the Groundhog Day celebrations. The team recommended a complete overhaul in order to ensure its safety for use at the 26 AZ Interspecial Summer Games.

The tunnel was built to commemorate the tenth anniversary of zoocracy in The Park. Since its inauguration, it has been closed twice for repairs.

Park retail establishments do "brisk" business on first Groundhog Day opening

MAMMALIAN DAILY BUSINESS REPORTER

ark retailers reported doing a "brisk" business when they were allowed to open their doors this year on Groundhog Day.

According to a merchant survey conducted by the Park Association of Shops and Services (PASS), the holiday opening made a significant difference to the bottom lines of retailers who had been feeling the yearly pinch of the hibernation-related economic slowdown.

The last two Winters have seen the worst sales in Park history, according to Wellington Whistlepig, the current president and founder of PASS. It is not surprising, then, that the merchants received a sympathetic hearing when they took their concerns to the Archons last Summer.

"The Park's economy relies, in great part, on trade. When we tell them [the Archons] that we need to stimulate the economy,

they are inclined to listen to us, because we [the vendors] are on the front line in this battle," said Whistlepig.

The result of that Summer meeting was a commitment from the Archons and from The Park's Finance Office to allow retail openings on Park holidays for the fiscal year 26 AZ. The idea is to make The Park's retail community more attractive to Human visitors as well as to non-resident Animals.

While many merchants were delighted by the opportunity to expand their market, other Park residents were outraged by the decision. Park holidays have traditionally been "non-trading" days and many, including some long-time business owners, were wary of the Archons' decision

"It's a slippery slope, isn't it?" said Randolph Otter, owner of Broad Head Aquatic Outfitters, one of The Park's oldest shops. He had intended to keep his shop closed on Groundhog Day but, eventually, he bowed to pressure

from The Park's business community. While Otter admits to seeing his sales spike during the first few days of Barnabus, he says that he would be willing to ride out the slow season for the sake of preserving what he sees as traditional Park life.

"Park life has its ups and downs and I'd rather go with that flow than change the natural rhythm for the sake of a few Ftoo," he said.

Others, who agree with Otter about the erosion of Park life, are also concerned about the extra Ftoo coming from those who have no stake in The Park's future.

"If you ask me," said Adelina Podengo, "I honestly don't believe that the Humans [who were here] had any real idea of what kind of celebration they were attending. So, how do we know that they'll even come back? We need a better, long-term solution," she said.

That solution may be in the works, some believe, as The Park's Joint Economic Council convenes

continued on page 2

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The Mammalian Daily

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> The Mammalian Daily was founded in 9 AZ www.mammaliandaily.com Vox Animalorum Vox Mundi

A WAKE-UP CALL **FOR ALL**

t seems that some of our proudest and most venerable citizens received a nasty wake-up call this Spring and their outraged response should come as no surprise.

When the Park's hibernators awoke to the chilling realization that their way of life had been blamed for our economy's sluggishness, they protested vocally, calling for a Park-wide boycott of shops and services. They said they weren't going to take this lying down.

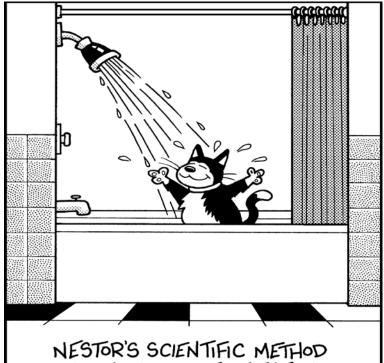
And, so, they shouldn't.

Whether or not the economy was in a state of torpor, it is not clear what led The Park Finance Office and the Park Association of Shops and Services (PASS) to declare it a "hibernation-related economic slowdown." And even if such a thing were the case, what led them to believe that holiday trading would be the

To be sure, there has always been a slowdown in the retail sector during the heart of Winter, just as there has always been a significant "bump" in trade at Spring thaw. We have always assumed that the one balanced out the other. It seems prudent to suggest that more financial data be studied before we declare that that is not the case. Otherwise, how will we know whether Winter trading - and, specifically, holiday trading -- increases retailers' bottom lines or simply serves to smooth out the path

If the idea was to inject new blood into the economy in the form of trade with the outside world -- an idea worth pursuing -- why did PASS and the Finance Officers choose to lay blame for the past, instead of simply moving forward to the future? And, the question must be posed, why did they lay that blame at the foot of a segment of our population - The Park's hibernators instead of at the idea of an economy that restricts itself to trade within Park boundaries?

Such behaviour erodes the foundation on which our zoocracy was founded. This incident should serve as a wake-up call for



STEP THREE: EXPERIMENTATION

Nestor nets pair of prestigious prizes

or the first time in Park history, two prestigious prizes for work in two different fields of endeavour have been awarded to the same Animal.

Nestor P. Cat, whose groundbreaking research on the flow of water has gained worldwide attention, was awarded the Eureka Prize for pioneering research and innovative experimentation. The prize is awarded each year by the editorial board of the prestigious scientific journal, Eureka. The results of Nestor's investigation, which was funded by the independent scientific agency, The Four Ws, were published in the Alepou 25 AZ issue of the journal.

Nestor was also the recipient of the 26 AZ Cornucopia Poetry Prize. The Cornucopia Prize, which is valued at 5,000 Ftoo, is awarded annually to the poet "whose artistic achievement has resulted in the best body of work or single book of poems in a given year." In awarding the prize, the Board of Directors particularly praised Nestor's, A Poem Of Love Inspired by Water, declaring it an "inspiring work of Park poetry."

Through a spokesanimal, Nestor issued a statement of "humble gratitude" for both prizes. The Cat, who served as 26 AZ Keeper of the Nut, was last seen in public at the Ceremonial Return of the Nut on 20 Barnabus.

Our Readers Respond ...

Re: Animal Sterilization (Winter 26 AZ)

I guess the fix is in, so to speak.

But, is there anything we can do about it?

L.T.R. Cat, The Park Watch what you eat!

A dear friend of mine who lives

open 31 AZ

abroad swears that her fertile days came to an end after she ate some grains that were set out under a tree. As unlikely as it sounds, she and many others believe that Humans spiked the food with some contraceptive substance.

Is there no end to their desire to control the world?

Sabina Squirrel, The Park

Re: Nestor to stand for Keeper of the Nut (Autumn 25 AZ)

Congratulations to Nestor on the birth of a third career. I don't know why anyone was surprised. After all, it's just a hop, skip, and a jump from scientist to poet to politico.

W. Rabbit, The Park

Re: Newspaper War (Winter 26 AZ)

As far as I'm concerned, undercover reporting is the only reliable kind of reporting. These days, you can't trust anything anybody tells you.

Raymond Cuttlefish, The Park

No newspaper in The Park is beyond criticism, so The Mammalian Daily shouldn't act so morally superior just because it doesn't print the species of its reporters.

Linus Rooster, The Park

What we want and what we need in our newspapers is more investigative reporting and more analysis. Don't just tell us what's going on – tell us why!

Gwendolyn Bubo, The Park

PARK RETAIL

continued from page 1

next month to discuss long-term plans for The Park's economic growth. In the meantime, Spring appears to have thawed the purse strings of many a Park Animal and merchants report a 25% increase in sales over last year.

Park to regulate catnip farming?

MAMMALIAN DAILY AGRICULTURE REPORTER

s that a whiff of regulation in the air?

That could well be the case, according to Park agriwatchers who met this week to discuss possible changes in The Park's farming policy.

Following the Proto announcement that the Archons are looking at ways to maximize The Park's food-producing lands, a group of concerned farmers and other citizens formed the Society of Concerned Park Cultivators, Planters, Growers, and Farmers (SCPCPGF). The Society intends to act as a "policy watchdog" to ensure the fair administration of any legislated restrictions on farming.

Until now, Park farmers have been free to grow whatever they wished. Experts warn, however, that this may have to change, due to The Park's rapid population growth and the rising cost of importing food. SCPCPGF members say they want to make certain the Archons do not unduly restrict the freedom of Park farmers in their attempt to ensure the equitable production and availability of food.

"We realize that some regulation may be necessary," said SCPCPGF spokesanimal, A.P. Civet. "We just want to make sure that the reasons [for regulation] are sound."

Particularly vulnerable to changes in policy are farmers who grow non-food commodities, such as Catnip and other herbs and flowers that are used only in products such as fragrances and cosmetics. Producers of Catnip, a perennial herb of the mint family, may be especially susceptible to regulation, the Society says, because of the herb's high use of space and its tendency to overcrowd nearby plants.

Thus far, Park Archons have made no official statements regarding any action they might take to maximize food growth in The Park but, at the Agrarian Jubilee, the annual celebration that marks the beginning of The Park's growing season, Archon Irma Beetle made this assertion:

"We have seen the results of the [agricultural] mistakes that have been made outside The Park and, I can tell you, we are determined not to let that happen here. If we are to be a proactive farming community, we will have to nip this [problem] in the bud.

PARK MUSEUM



For more information, log onto our web site at:

www.parkmuseum.info

Spring Issue Number 118 The Mammalian Daily Page 3

YOUR FTOO and YOU

Marine Mammal Bank of The Park posts record gains in first quarter of 26 AZ

MAMMALIAN DAILY FINANCE REPORTER

he Marine Mammal Bank of the Park (MMBP) has reported record firstquarter gains for 26 AZ, thanks to the performance of its personal banking division.

The Park's third largest bank reported an increase in deposits of 150% over the same period last year. The bank now estimates earnings for 26 AZ at twice those of last year. That figure was revised upward from a previous estimate of 160%.

According to Park law, banks



that do business solely in The Park are not required to report their earnings in exact figures. Traditionally, Park banks have made public reports in earnings percentages, reserving exact figures for The Park Finance Office.

The growth in deposits to the MMBP is a result of the bank's aggressive recruitment of funds from non-traditional sources, according to the bank's Chief Executive Officer. Alphonse Dolphin said the bank is finding new and "innovative" ways to increase its clientele, including reaching out to new immigrants and to estivating species, in par-

"This idea of reaching out to other species and to new citizens and responding directly to their particular needs and concerns... it's a new idea in Park banking, he said. "I'm sure it will become the norm in short order; we just happened to dive in ahead of everyone else."

According to Park financial analyst and bank watcher, Veronique Jackal, the MMBP has done a "complete turnaround" in their priorities and it stands to gain significantly from this

"Unlike other [Park] banks, the Marine Mammal has decided to concentrate on personal banking, offering new customers interest at significantly higher rates [than other banks], as well as services that are geared to encouraging savings. This [strategy], coupled with their decision to reach out to the immigrant population and, in particular, to estivators - Animals that, historically, have been savers but who have not, traditionally, used the services of banks - will result, I believe, in massive gains for them [the bank] in the coming years.'

Other Park bank watchers agree, predicting that the MMBP is poised to overtake The Monotreme Savings Bank this year and sneak into second place behind the behemoth Founding Families Financial Corporation.

lishments on Park holidays.



NOREEN

Kiss Me Quick!

Dear Noreen,

I was adopted a year ago by a pair of Humans. Almost everything is perfect, but one thing puzzles me. From the beginning, these Humans have had the strange habit of placing their lips on the top of my head. This action lasts only a second and it culminates in a soft, smacking sound. Now, I am not a puppy; I have been sniffed, chewed, nuzzled, and licked, but I have never had anyone plant their lips on me. Can you tell me what the significance of this gesture is? Should I be worried about

Perplexed

Dear Perplexed:

Park's economic stimulus plan

draws criticism from hibernators

The action you describe is known as "kissing." (This is not to be confused, of course, with "hissing," which is something else altogether, especially when performed by our Feline friends.)

Kissing is a holdover from days gone by and, in the Human world, it serves no other purpose than to transfer a feeling of affection from one individual to another. Though it seems primitive to us (not to mention downright useless), Humans make quite a thing of it. They've even developed a number of different forms of kissing and their pride in that achievement has led them to write long treatises on the subject and to fill whole stanzas of poetry with recollections of their kissing

There's no need to fret, though; the gesture, itself, is entirely harmless. But, only you can decide whether it is right for you.

As for my personal tastes, anyone who reads this newspaper regularly knows my opinion of Humans: they're lovely to look at it, but I wouldn't want to live with one...or be kissed by one,

Dear Noreen (noreen@mammaliandaily.com) appears in every second issue of The Mammalian Daily and alternates with Ask a Poodle (askapoodle@mammaliandaily.com). Please e-mail your questions to them or post them to The Mammalian Daily and mark the envelope "Dear Noreen" or "Ask a Poodle." We regret that neither Noreen nor the Poodle can send responses directly to you.

CURRENCY WATCH

Listed below are major currency equivalents posted at the close of business 29 Proto 26 AZ All equivalents based on Ftoo (F)

Aardvark Ape Bear, Brown Bear, Polar Beaver Canary Chicken Cow Dog	3.1 1.8 1.1 1.0 4.3 4.9 4.0	Donkey Giraffe Goat Groundhog Hedgehog Hyena Kangaroo Ladybug Lion	5.0 4.2 1.9 3.3 4.7 5.5 7.8	Ostrich Pig Porpoise Salamander Seal Walrus Whale Wolf Yak	5.6 3.5 1.4 5.8 1.0 1.2 1.3 2.9 4.7
Dog Dolphin	3.4		4.1		

Hard currency only

For up-to-date currency information, please refer to our currency converter, located at www.mammaliandaily.com. Point your mouse at "Daily Life in The Park" and click on the submenu, "Commerce."

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implication that the sluggish economy is their responsibility. We are formally registering a complaint against The Park's Finance Office for referring to the hibernation period as a reason for [The Park's] economic

> Representatives of other hibernating communities, including the League of Black Bears (LBB), the Confederation of Ground Squirrels (CGS), the Monotreme Alliance, and the Idiosyncratic

slowdown," the Tortoise said in an interview on

MAMMALIAN DAILY

BUSINESS REPORTER

The Park's Finance Officers may have

uncorked a Pandora's jar of troubles when

they approved the opening of retail estab-

In an effort to stimulate the economy during

what they called the annual "hibernation-related

economic slowdown," Park Finance Officers agreed

last Autumn to allow shopkeepers to do business on

Park holidays. Two of these holidays (Groundhog

Day and the anniversary of the birth of Jor) occur

during hibernation season. But that is only a small

Small Animal Reform Group (SARG) and a promi-

nent member of the Small Animal Hibernating

Community (SAHC), The Park's hibernating

Animals have taken personal offence to the phrase,

"hibernation-related economic slowdown" and the

According to Mason L. Tortoise, head of the

Hibernators of The Park (IHOP) are rumoured to have met with Malinda L. Hamster, the president of SAHC, to discuss the possibility of a group-wide boycott of Park shops unless the Finance Office "apologizes for the implications of its statements and clarifies the meaning of all statements referring to the hibernation period as it regards the Park economy and the new holiday policy.

Wellington Whistlepig, founder and current president of The Park Association of Shops and Services (PASS) acknowledged that a boycott would be "disastrous" for The Park's economy, "particularly during Spring thaw." Recent figures released by The Park Finance Office indicate that hibernating communities account for more than a quarter of Park business. Some financial experts estimate the purchasing power of hibernators to be in the millions of Ftoo.

For his part, Whistlepig said he hoped that the business community, along with the Archons and the Park Finance Office, could work out a solution that would be acceptable to all parties.

"We did not intend to imply that our hibernating citizens were the cause of any economic hardship," he said.

That sentiment was echoed by the entire membership of PASS in a press release acknowledging the extent to which "the hibernating community is valued for its contribution to Park life."

Thus far, The Park's Finance Office has remained silent on the issue, but insiders say a meeting to discuss the matter has been scheduled for later this month.

Poorwill Commoners no "fly-by-night" team: Coach

MAMMALIAN DAILY SPORTS REPORTER

♦ he coach of one of The Park's most popular Avian teams has lashed out at critics who branded him "ineffectual" and his team "unworthy" of competing.

At a press conference held dusk, Charles "Chuck" Nightjar, coach of the Poorwill Commoners, directly addressed the recent spate of criticism that has resulted in a call for his resignation and a complete overhaul of the team membership. In a speech aimed directly at the media, Nightjar countered accusations that he was ill-suited to lead the team and that the team was, somehow, "unstable" and unreliable.

The team has come under fire recently for being a noshow at several daytime training events and, more importantly, for allowing reservists to play in the regular season. The

club has also been criticized for allowing members of other species to play for the team during hibernation season, when team members traditionally go into a state of torpor, and for allowing these players to train with the team during the regular season. Coach Nightjar has vigorously defended this policy, saying that all team members benefit from practice and that there is no way to compete during hiberation without bringing in team members from other species.

"The fact that we invite members of other species to play on our team [during hibernation season] in no way signals that we are less-than-serious competitors," he stressed. "All our members are loyal to the team and focussed on winning.

The coach also took the opportunity to make a plea for fan restraint.

"We appreciate our fans. They're very zealous...but they can be overly-zealous, too,



sometimes," he said, referring to a recent incident in which a group of passionate supporters painted their feathers and tails the colour of team members and flew out on a destructive nocturnal spree, trashing the nests of

"This sort of thing has no place in sport," Nightjar assert-

Tryouts and preliminaries for 26 AZ Interspecial Summer Games begin 1 Anthi

PARK NEWS SERVICES

et ready, get set, go! Tryouts and preliminaries for the 26 AZ Interspecial Summer Games formally begin on 1 Anthi.

Amid fanfare and emotion, the organizing committee released the official schedule today. The schedule will also be posted at sports venues in The Park, as well as at the courthouse and in the doorways of all Park shops and banks.

'We want to make sure that everybody knows what's going on and that everybody has a chance to participate," said B-Jay Kelpie, head of the Games' organizing committee.

The Summer Games, which began in 6 AZ and occur every four years, have always been Interspecia

seen as "inclusive" events in The

"They [the Games] are not so much a showcase for 'elite' athletes as they are a celebration of sport by all The Park's population," Kelpie said.

The tryouts and preliminaries will take place at a number of different venues, both inside and outside the Park. It is necessary to use some external sites for these first rounds, Kelpie said, because so many of The Park's sports facilities are in the process of undergoing improvements and repairs in preparation for their final use in the Games.

According to the schedule, the first events to take place will involve land sports, such as herding, chasing, jumping, and ball sports. Tryouts for aquatic sports will occur toward the end of Karpos, when the weather is expected to be more amenable to these activities.

The 26 AZ Interspecies Summer Games begin on 11

For advertising information, please call 843-24672

PARK EVENTS

MATING DANCE

Get your dancing shoes on and join us at the annual Park Mating Dance!

Place: The Wishing Well Date: 08 Anthi 26 AZ Time: 20:00 Clear or Cloudy.

TOE-HAIR CONTEST

Show off your Winter growth!



Win a prize! Enter the 13th Annual Toe-Hair Contest! Ancient, Open-Air Theatre

1 Anthi 26 AZ

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We are seeking trainees for a number of security positions at our popular Park restaurant. No experience necessary. Must have aggressive attitude and ability to deal effectively with butt-ins. For information, contact Ramón at 27262233.

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GOODS AND

FOOD

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New this Spring:

Join our "Pick Your Own" Club and **SAVE!**

Pick up your membership application in-store.

FLORETTE'S FINE EDIBLES

"ALL THYME IS LOCAL"



Today's Ball is the TENNIS ball.

The tennis ball has a long history with Dogs.

Originally employed in the ancient world, cynologists (those who study Dogs) believe that the tennis ball was first used in the hospitality rites that were common among the ancient

Evidence from Canine epic poetry suggests that the balls were used in the entertainment portion of these rites. Citing lines from The Kyniad, the oldest of these poems, cynologists at the University of West Terrier have supported their belief that the balls were used in a type of "dance" that was performed in front of guests at the end of a meal. In Books VI and VII of the poem, young female Canines toss the ball back and forth to the sound of string music.

These balls, which were originally terracotta spheres, were covered in vine leaves in order to cushion the blow to the Dogs' noses. Historians postulate that, as this rite evolved, paddles fashioned from tree branches and fitted with cloth at one end were used to strike the ball. Many years later, the balls were refashioned out of more flexible material.

While this hospitality rite eventually disappeared from use, the dance became a favourite pastime in the years before zooc-

Since that time, Dogs everywhere have enjoyed various forms of play with the tennis ball.

Sources: The Kyniad; Daily Life in the Ancient Canine World, Volume 3: Balls; Balls of the Ancient Canine Games; Hospitality Rites and Rituals in the Ancient Canine World; From Sphere to Shining Sphere: A History of Balls Across the Ages; The Canine's Illustrated Guide to Balls; Ancient Spherophiles and their Influence on History; Follow the Bouncing Ball: How Dogs Introduced Balls to the Human World; The Concept of Play in the Ancient Canine World; Balls: An Appreciation; various newspaper articles and reports. bailey@mammaliandaily.com

Whelpings and Passings



POLAR OPPOSITES!

We're six months old now and we're ready to meet the world! Our parents, Gustav and Regina, are proud of us, but they wish we'd stop fighting! Come and visit us at home!

OH, DEER!

Clive and Emma Caribou are ecstatic to announce the birth of Dorothy Kathleen on 32 Varrah. She's 6.5 kilos of beauty and looks just like her mother! Thanks to all who helped.

AT LONG LAST, LOVE!

After 21 months of waiting, proud parents Tomas and Justine are thrilled to announce the birth of a beautiful, 90-kilo girl, Beata Alicia. Many thanks to all who attended at the birth on 25 Varrah.

OVERJOYED



Umberto and Helen Raccoon are overjoyed to announce the safe arrival of three daughters and four sons on 22 Myrodia. All are doing well and will be happy to receive visitors in a couple of

Hamlin Jarvis Lambert **Hedgehog.** Suddenly, on 3 Barnabus, as a result of premature awakening from hibernation. Hamlin Jarvis Lambert

Hedgehog, loyal citizen of The Park, and faithful son, brother, mate, father, and friend. Predeceased by his mate

of many years, Matilda, and by his brothers, Howard, Rochester, Kirby, and Ferdinand. Beloved father of Guinevere, Hampton, Baron, and Lucy, grandfather of Lewis, Barnaby, Roland, Martin, Adeline, Nora, Wilma, Corbin, Elspeth, Samson, Eleanor, and Vanessa, and much beloved uncle of Hieronymous. Hamlin Hedgehog is remembered fondly by those with whom he served as Archon in 18 AZ. Memorial service to be announced.

B. Winchell Zebra III. On 14 Barnabus, after a long illness. B. Winchell Zebra III, founder of Zebra ArtWorks, organizer of the annual "Stripes are Beautiful" charity picnic, and patron of The Park's Interspecial Film Festival. In 22 AZ, B. Winchell Zebra III was the first of his species to be elected Keeper of the Nut. He is survived by his mate, Alberta, daughter, Glynis, and sons Elton and André. Mourners and friends may call at his home to offer condolences. If desired, donations may be made in his memory to the charity of your choice.