



PARK LIFE

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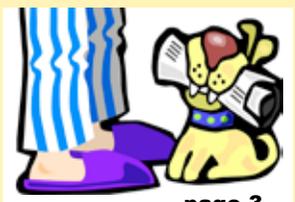


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University of West Terrier, Park Hospital to open first Extinction Anxiety Clinic

MAMMALIAN DAILY HEALTH REPORTER

In a statement released yesterday, the University of West Terrier School of Medicine announced that it will collaborate with The Park Hospital for the Afflicted and Infirm to establish The Park's first Extinction Anxiety Clinic.

The clinic, which will be housed within the University of West Terrier, is the first of its kind in The Park. The Clinic's mission is to diagnose and treat the symptoms of extinction anxiety in all species of Animals and to educate the public with regard to the effects of extinction anxiety on the health and well-being of Animals.

Archons plan to outlaw washing in public: secret report

MAMMALIAN DAILY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORTER

Life may be about to change dramatically for Animals who call The Park their home.

According to a confidential report obtained by The Mammalian Daily, there is a plan afoot to alter the public behaviour of resident Animals.

According to the report, the Archons are considering a plan to change some of The Park's core laws, namely those that pertain to public comportment and guarantee Animals the right to "behave as they do naturally, according to their own species and land of origin."

The plan, which goes by the code name, ParkPerfect, lists 15 laws that, in the language of the report's authors, "require modernization to bring them in line with current belief systems and ways of life."

In addition to modifying Animals' bathing behaviour, the Archons are considering enacting or modifying laws that pertain to public acts of self-expression and food gathering and consumption.

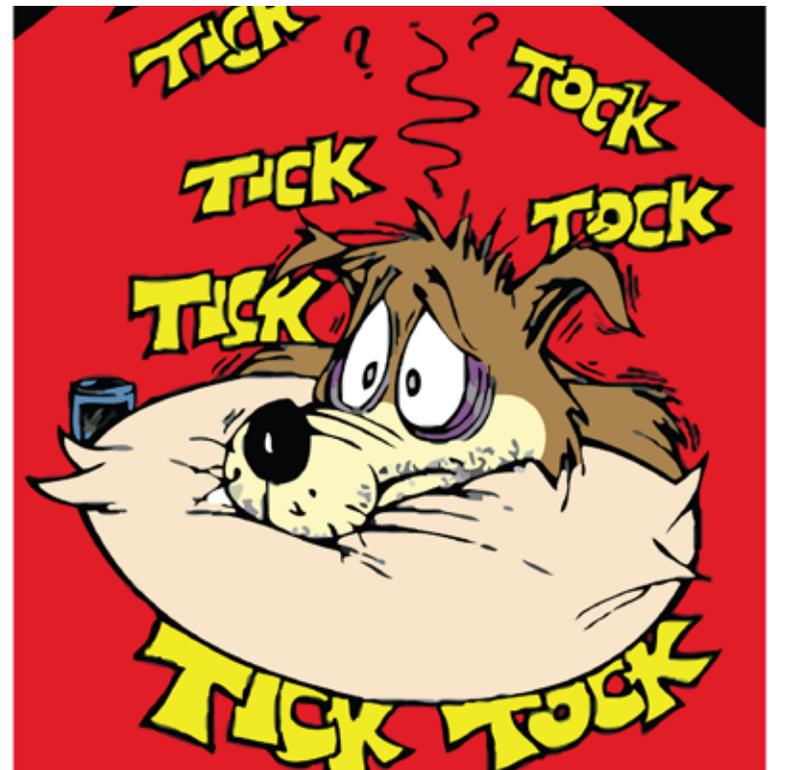
No time frame for the changes was mentioned in the report.

"Extinction anxiety is one of the fastest-growing psychological conditions in The Park. Every day, we see at least a hundred new cases," says Dr. Berthilidis Strix, who was appointed as the clinic's head last month. "It is essential that we address the problem now, before it becomes a threat to our collective health and prosperity," she says.

In addition to Dr. Strix, the clinic will be staffed by Drs. Gudrun L. Gibbon and Elinore E. Owl and other faculty members of the University of West Terrier's School of Medicine, as well as doctors, nurses, and community support workers from The Park Hospital.

In addition to diagnosing and treating Animals, clinic staff hope to conduct research on the effects of extinction anxiety on The Park's economy, as well as on Animal behaviour.

The Extinction Anxiety Clinic is scheduled to open in January 2013.



New study shows Animal IQs fall after time spent with Humans

MAMMALIAN DAILY HEALTH REPORTER

Animals achieve lower scores on intelligence tests after they have spent a significant length of time in the company of Humans, say the results of a study conducted by the Cognitive and Experimental Psychology division at the University of West Terrier's Department of Psychology (www.uwt-edu.com).

The research study, which involved 5,000 Animals from inside and outside The Park, was conducted over a period of three years by UWT psychology professor and lead researcher, Dr. Luule Aednik. The full results will appear in the September issue of the prestigious Journal of Experimental and Reactive Psychology (JERP).

Supported in full by University research funds, the study concludes that prolonged amounts



of time spent in close contact with Humans causes a "numbing effect" on the brains of the members of many species.

"There is a deficit after a certain length of time," said Aednik in an interview with The Mammalian Daily.

"The most shocking result in the testing was the loss of recognition of some of the characteristics of one's own species. We

saw some types of species-specific behaviour almost disappear, often after only a few months. Animals lost basic skills; some had even forgotten how to secure their own food," she said.

Though the impetus for the study was purely academic, Aednik believes the results have more widespread implications.

"I think they explain a good number of the problems that some Animals have in adapting to life in The Park," she said.

Many outside academia, such as the CatsCare Foundation's re-homing specialist, Lisandara Puma, agree with Aednik's conclusions.

"Our re-homers have forgotten how to find food for themselves and they look to others to assist them. We've had to institute an educational program within our refugee program just to reunite Animals with their basic survival skills," she says.

piff.

 the park interspecial film festival

The Park Interspecial Film Festival would like to thank our sponsors for their continuing support:



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Telephone: 416-427-6722
E-mail: editor@mammaliandaily.com

The Mammalian Daily was founded in 9 AZ
www.mammaliandaily.com

CAA renews campaign to "Bring Back the Dog Paddle!"



MAMMALIAN DAILY SPORTS REPORTER

The Canine Athletic Association has renewed its campaign to reinstate the Dog paddle as a competitive stroke.

In a statement published today, the Association once again asserted that the swimming stroke, which fell out of fashion some years ago, is an excellent test of aquatic prowess and should be reinstated in time for the next Interspecial Summer Games in 2013.

A spokesDog for the CAA said the Association's renewed efforts will include multimedia coverage featuring well-known Park sports figures as well as celebrities such as Bisbee Bichon and I.S. Chow, stars of Varden Spaniel's 2009 film, *Stuffed Dogs Don't Shed*.

"This will be an all-out sensory assault," said the spokesDog, who confirmed that radio spots had been scheduled on all Park radio stations, public service

announcements will be broadcast on all television stations and advertisements will run in most of The Park's print media.

"We've even commissioned a new scent, 'Soggy Dog', which will be available for purchase exclusively at the Reek-O-Rama beginning in September," he said. Proceeds from the scent will go to supporting Canine athletes who are currently training to swim in the Dog paddle competition at the 2013 Summer Games.

"That's how sure we are that we will be successful this time around," said the spokesDog.

The Canine Athletic Association launched its first Dog paddle campaign two years before the 2008 (26 AZ) Interspecial Summer Games. That campaign, however, was not successful.

The 2013 Interspecial Summer Games will take place during the last two weeks of September 2013.

New device may help distinguish news from entertainment

Is it news or is it entertainment?

That is the question that many Park Animals are asking, as the boundary between the two, in both broadcast and print media, becomes increasingly blurred.

Enter KartalTechSolutions, S.A. and their revolutionary new device, the Verifizer™, which company executives claim solves this "modern dilemma" almost instantly.

"This new instrument will tell you, within five seconds, whether what you're reading or watching is news or entertainment," said President and CEO, Fikret Kartal, at the product's launch this past weekend.

On hand at the outdoor launch, which doubled as a pop-up Verifizer™ retail store, were many representatives of The Park's media community, as well as some faculty members of the Cuthbert School of Journalism at the University of West Terrier. Many were eager to voice their

skepticism of KartalTech's claims about the new device.

"The company bases the success of this device on a number of assumptions, the most important of which is that there is an objective -- and detectable -- difference between so-called news and entertainment," said Journalism Professor and author, Ludwiga Saimiri. "This is something that journalists strive to define every day of their working lives, but it is not something about which, as yet, anyone can make a definitive pronouncement."

Noburu Akita, Executive Director of the Centre for the Study of Newspaper Activity in The Park (C-SNAP) was even more adamant:

"There is no such thing as anything [being] objective in the newspaper business," he said. "These definitions are fluid, they change with the seasons...with the generations; unfortunately, one Animal's news is, sometimes, another Animal's entertainment."

And vice-versa."

In response to the criticism, a KartalTech spokesAnimal, issued this statement:

"With due respect to The Park's media community, technology has come a long way. I invite those members who have been critical [of the device] to attend a full demonstration and to see, for themselves, what our new age has to offer."

While members of The Park's media have, thus far, declined to respond, the Verifizer™ is scheduled to hit Park stores at the beginning of November.

Advice columnist to join UWT Human Studies department

Popular Mammalian Daily advice columnist, Noreen, will assume a new set of duties this Autumn, when she becomes Adjunct Professor of Human Studies at the University of West Terrier's newly-formed department of the same name (www.uwt-edu.com).

Noreen, who is known for her signature quotation, "Humans -- they're lovely to look at, but I wouldn't want to live with one," is considered to be The Park's foremost expert on Human behaviour.

"She is definitely the go-to Animal when it comes to understanding Humans," said the President of the University in a statement this past Summer.

"For that reason, among others, we believed she would be a great asset to the department and to our student body. We are extremely happy that she accepted our invitation and we are honoured to have her on staff."

The new department, which is scheduled to begin offering classes this Autumn, has appointed three other faculty members, one of whom will serve as departmental head.

In a telephone interview, Noreen confirmed that she intends to continue writing her Mammalian Daily advice column and "looks forward to combining these two careers."

Security breach at LynxedIN leaves hundreds vulnerable

MAMMALIAN DAILY TECHNOLOGY REPORTER

A security breach at the network run by the LynxLink charity has left hundreds of The Park's immigrant and refugee Lynx and their families vulnerable to abduction, incarceration, and murder.

A spokesAnimal for the charity, which assists immigrants to The Park through its LynxedIN network, told The Mammalian Daily that the charity discovered the breach late last night.

"We became aware of a problem with our systems and immediately shut down our network. IT experts from the University of West Terrier arrived within an hour to help us," she said.

Unfortunately, the IT help came too late for The Park's Lynx. Experts discovered that the identities of hundreds of Lynx were stolen from the charity's systems.

LynxedIN

"It's a worry, to be sure," says LynxLink spokesAnimal Lucia Castilla. "Some very sensitive information has been stolen from our database, including the names and addresses of Lynx who have escaped from zoological parks and so-called 'nature reserves'. The Humans who run these are very aggressive; they've been looking for these Lynx and they will stop at nothing to find them. Unfortunately, this has made it easier for them to do so."

LynxLink confirmed that it has advised all Park Lynx of the problem and the charity has assured them that it will assist them in all ways possible to maintain their security within The Park.

"The safety of The Park's Lynx is of paramount importance to everyone," says a message on LynxLink's web site this morning.

Deaths from premature awakening on the rise: study

With less than two months to go before the official date of hibernation, The Department of Well-Being and Safety (DWBS) has released a report on the health of The Park's hibernating communities.

Entitled, "Premature Awakening: The Dawn of an Epidemic?" the report relates the results of a two-year study of the incidence of premature awakening among The Park's hibernating citizens. The study was conducted by the DWBS in collaboration with the University of West Terrier's School of Medicine and the Park Hospital for the Afflicted and Infirm.

According to the report, deaths from premature awakening have risen 30% in the last two years. This past Winter alone, several hundred Ground Squirrels were found dead outside their burrows weeks before the official end of hibernation.

"We assume they were looking for food



and became disoriented," says Oliver S.P. Franklin, head of the Confederation of Ground Squirrels. "It was a real blow to the community."

While the report documents the rise in incidence, it offers no definitive answers as to the cause.

"This is just the beginning," says Dr. Jagger

Zebu, Professor of Mammalian Medicine at the University of West Terrier and one of the authors of the report.

"The matter requires much further study before we can be confident of an explanation," he says.

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Bad Boy Chef to open new restaurant at Park Museum

MAMMALIAN DAILY
BUSINESS REPORTER

Bad boy chef, Tab Tricolore, will open his next restaurant at The Park Museum (www.parkmuseum.info), according to a statement released by The Museum's Board of Governors.

The new restaurant will be called the PurrrBoy Café and will serve formal lunches and dinners, as well as take-away meals for those on the go. The restaurant will commence service approximately two weeks before the museum's opening ceremonies take place.

Insiders speculate that Tricolore will engage the services of Tagma Design for the new café's décor. Tagma Design is the firm Tricolore has used for each of his four restaurants (The Tabby Club, Clowder, Klo, and Coda).

"Tab trusts them complete-

Bad Boy
Chef Tab
Tricolore



ly," said a source who wished not to be named.

"He's used them ever since he took over The Tabby Club and they did a spectacular job on Clowder. I think he has definite ideas about what he wants for this restaurant. I think he wants it to be not only different, but special," the source

said.

Tricolore has made headlines over the years for his penchant for wild scenes and sudden staff firings, as well as for occasionally pouncing on customers who complain about his food.

"Tab has little patience for customer complaints," says his former saucier, Barry "Béarnaise" Burmilla. "He's a perfectionist and he figures if you're complaining, you just don't get it," he says. "He's the same way with staff."

To his credit, Tricolore says he will be hiring staff for the new restaurant "from within The Park", as he has done for each of his restaurants. According to his web site, training will begin three months after all staff members are hired.

The Park Museum is scheduled to open in 2013.

Striped Animals not getting fair share of economic pie: Park Finance Office report

MAMMALIAN DAILY
FINANCE REPORTER

The latest economic figures released by The Park's Finance Office indicate that Animals whose coats are striped or spotted have a tougher time securing full-time employment than those with coats of solid or mixed colours.

The 2011 statistics, known colloquially as the "Employment and Enjoyment Stats" were compiled for Finance Office use by The Park's Departments of Statistics and Records, Well-Being and Safety, and Employment and Economic Opportunity. Their release today caused an uproar among Animals of every stripe.

"This paints a very bleak picture of Park life and attitudes" said Aiofe Badger, current President of Sisters and Brothers of the Narrow Band and a vocal advocate of equal rights in The Park. "This is not the kind of [economic] result that Jor would have been proud of."

Keava Moffatt, President of The Park's Spotted Skunk Sedan

Patrol, said the figures came as no surprise to her. "Some of our members have a terrible time finding work and they all know why, even though they can't prove it," she said.

Dominick Skiro, of The Park Alliance of Chipmunks, called the statistics "a crushing disappointment" and "something that challenges our belief in The

Park's system."

At The Tabby Club, though, (the pub established by Jor, The Park's first leader and the founder of modern zoocracy), there was much frustration but little surprise among the clientele.

"I think Jor had the right idea...the right vision, being a Tabby, himself," said Donal Ronnach. "But it's obviously still just an ideal. It's hard to overcome old prejudices."

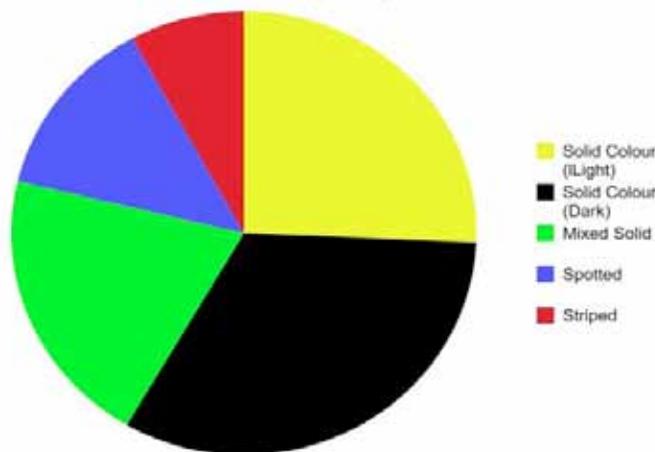
Prejudice against stripes and spots dates back thousands of years, says historian, Beatrice Zilonis, currently a professor in the Department of History at the University of West Terrier.

"Not surprisingly, it started with Humans and and the way they treated striped and spotted Animals," she says. "They were suspicious of them, considered them evil and the bearers of bad luck. That kind of thinking eventually made its way into the minds of Animals and this is the result."

But, at The Tabby Club, no one cares very much how it all began.

"The most important thing is that it should come to an end," says Ronnach. "Right now,"

Share of the Economic Pie by Coat Type and Colour: 2011



Departments of Statistics & Records, Health & Well-Being, Employment, and Park Finance Office

Gewper finds that scents make good financial sense

The executives at RhinoTech, Inc. had a hunch they were onto something four years ago, when they partnered with Enterprises Moufettes, S.A., makers of the popular scent-masking product, FeralNoMore™, to create Gewper (pronounced "Gooper"), a social networking site with a difference.

That difference, the opportunity for users to "smell those they know and those they might wish to know" has made all the difference in RhinoTech's bottom line.

Now just a year old, the site dubbed "the ultimate Animal experience in the virtual world" accounts for more than half of its developer's real income.

"Earnings are up 175% over this time last year," said a RhinoTech spokesAnimal at a tech conference held in The Park last week. "And we're putting them to good use."

That "good use" may well turn out to be the project the company says every Animal has been waiting for. In an interview last year, RhinoTech Chief Executive

gewper

Officer Aldrich Nashorn confirmed that his company, which uses all its profits for research, was working on a site that would allow members to touch each other across cyberspace.

"We're working on it, that's all I can tell you," Nashorn said.

The company has kept mum about the project ever since, but those in the know say they expect an announcement to be made within a year's time.

"With all the money that Gewper is making, they've got enough to hire the best and the brightest," says Consuela Tapir, who runs the tech rumour web site, TikTekTok. "And that's what it's going to take to get this one off the ground," she says.

In the short-term, though, Tapir says, they'd be well-advised to keep an eye on what's coming up behind them.

"In this business, you're never more than one step ahead of anybody else," she warns.

Economy forcing Animals to work as "domestics" outside Park

The sluggish economy is taking its toll on the professional and personal lives of Park citizens.

"The situation is dire," says Dr. Anneliese Cissa, head of the Livingstone School of Economics and Social Science at the University of West Terrier and author of a new report on the economy entitled, "Seeking Greener Pastures: The Exodus of the Unwilling and Able."

The report, which analyzed economic and employment data gathered by The Park's Department of Statistics and Records, paints a gloomy picture of the future unless immediate action is taken.

According to the report, recent statistics show that a record number of Animals have had to leave their homes and families in the past year to seek work outside The Park.

"The Park is simply not generating a sufficient number of jobs for its population," says Dr. Cissa. "As a consequence, we are losing our best and brightest...the skilled and the most diligent. And Humans are the ones who are benefitting."

Indeed, figures cited in the report indicate that, out of financial necessity, a great many Animals have been forced



to take jobs as "domestic companions" to Humans outside The Park.

"This is tragic on so many levels," says Cissa. "These are Animals who were trained and educated at institutions in The Park, Animals who were promised a better life than their ancestors had. These are Animals who believed in the Promise of The Park, and who believed that Animals would never have to serve Humans again. They've been betrayed by the economy and they are starting to question their commitment to The Park, itself. It is a very challenging situation."

Dr. Cissa's report is scheduled to be presented to the Archons' full assembly on Tuesday.

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Barkettes documentary set to open film festival

MAMMALIAN DAILY ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

The much-anticipated documentary about Thisbe and the Barkettes will open the Park Interspecial Film Festival this Autumn.

A spokesAnimal for the Barkettes confirmed that "I Love a Man in a Collar" will open the festival at the main venue and, then, will go on to screen at the Hot Dogs section.

PIFF Communications President, Leola Ocelot, released a statement this morning, as well. Confirming the documen-

piff. the park interspecial film festival

tary debut, she called it "a coup for PIFF".

"We are so excited to be able to screen this very important documentary. We hope everyone will make an effort to see it, even after the festival is over," the statement read.

The documentary, which has just come out of post-pro-

duction, was directed by Rauf Wiedersehen Shepherd. In it, Shepherd traces the history and origin of Canine music as a parallel to the ascendancy of The Barkettes. The film takes its title from one of the group's biggest hits.

R.F. Aarrf, President of the Canine Music Association, said in an interview this morning that he is "thrilled that the documentary is finally finished" and confident that it will be "celebrated appropriately."

The 8th annual Park Interspecial Film Festival will take place October 1-5, 2012.

Dear Noreen My Humans look at other Dogs. What should I do?



Dear Noreen,

I live outside The Park with two Humans. Our life is good, but one thing really bothers me. Whenever they see another Dog, they make these embarrassing "ooh" and "aah" sounds. They even cross the street to look at other Dogs! Is this a threat to my happy home? What should I do?

-INSECURE

DEAR INSECURE: Ah, the joys of Human companionship! 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. But, take heart! There is hope for you.

While their behaviour remains a mystery, there is one thing that almost all of us agree on: loyalty is not a trait that we associate with Humans. So, it should come as no surprise that they might look at other Dogs -- and even offer them food or affection -- without any sense that this might upset their own Dog.

Still, what makes up for Humans' lack of loyalty is a trait known colloquially as "generosity" and it is likely this trait that will save you from an unpleasant outcome in these circumstances. And that is because, should your Humans fall for another Dog, research shows they are 182 times more likely to add that Dog to your household than to replace you with this new one. So, you see, rather than being a threat to your happiness, these other Dogs may end up increasing it.

Feral Four donate song to help formerly domestic Cats

MAMMALIAN DAILY MUSIC REPORTER

One of The Park's most controversial musical groups, The Feral Four, has announced that it will donate the proceeds from its new song to the CatsCare Foundation, in aid of formerly domestic Cats

who have found their way to freedom in The Park.

The song, which will be released as a digital download in the late Autumn, is titled, "I Saw Your Collar in the Hall". No other information has been released, either by the group's manager or by its record company, Colony Records.

The group, who is set to release a new collection of songs next year, is also working with The Canary Cousins, Eggie and The Pigs, The Beasts of Burden, Les Chiens Débraillés, Scentient Beings, The DomEstyx, The Endeka Elephant Band, NIML, and rapper Will.o.be. on The Park's first interspecial song.

Literary mag sets up shop, tells Animals not to submit work

Our newest literary magazine has issued a curious invitation to The Park's creative community: please read us, but don't try to write for us.

Grains of Truth, a journal that describes itself as "the embodiment of excellence" and "publisher of only the best in Animal writing" sent its first edition to store shelves less than a week ago. Along with it came an insert that warned writers not to attempt to have their work published in the journal.

The insert, which begins, "Dear Writers," outlines the magazine's policy vis-à-vis unsolicited submissions:

"While we maintain great respect for the work of The Park's artistic community, we have neither the Animalpower nor the will to sift through piles of submissions in search of material to publish in our magazine. We appreciate your interest in our



journal and hope that you enjoy reading the excellent fiction you find in it."

The magazine's editor, Dorine Ovella, declined The Mammalian Daily's invitation to clarify the submission policy. Through a spokesAnimal, however, she issued this statement:

"We meant no offence to any writer when we issued our submission statement. We are a private journal and, as such, we reserve the right to publish work that is to our taste and, hopefully, to the taste of our readers."

NIML wow crowd at Park's first pop-up music event

MAMMALIAN DAILY MUSIC REPORTER

NIML (Not In My Lifetime) was in fine form on Monday as they wowed the crowd that quickly gathered at The Park's first pop-up music event.

It was an ordinary, hazy Monday afternoon, spectators said, when lead singer, Beau Ballentyne, grabbed a microphone from inside his shopping bag and began to belt out the group's signature tune, MYPod or Yours?

The other two members of the group quickly joined him for what turned out to be a half-

hour impromptu concert at the Tartan Crab Memorial Pond.

"There's never been anything quite like this," said onlooker Zaffi Newt. "They made quite a splash. It was a nice break in the day."

Not everyone was pleased, though. The end of the concert was marred for some by a few vocal members of the group, "Keep Your Paws Out of Our Ponds." Holding waterproof placards, they marched in a circle around the pond for a few minutes but, with no response from the crowd, they soon left.

"I don't think they had many supporters there," Newt said.



Beau Ballentyne

THE AGORA

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PARK EVENTS
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Park Interspecial Film Festival (PIFF)
1-5 October

Annual Park Harvest Festival
11 October

Annual Snowbird Farewell
12 October

POPS All Candidates' Debate
6 November

Groundhog (POPS) Election
7 November

Keeper of the Nut Selection
11 November

Surrender of the Nut
14 November

Official Date of Hibernation
17 November

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Slow Art Movement picking up steam in Park

The Slow Art Movement (SAM) is catching on with art-savvy Animals in The Park, according to the child of one of the Movement's founders.

Fionn-Fionnola T. Snail, the offspring of Marcel-Marcelle T. Snail, Jr., says the Movement is gaining ground in The Park, and this is making it easier for Slow artists to have their work shown in local galleries.

"Just a year ago, it was next to impossible for artists in the Movement to get into The Park galleries. Now, we are seeing a huge change and Movement artists are far more hopeful about their work being seen," the Snail said in an interview yesterday on Reptile Radio.

The Snail, who serves as art critic at the recently-reorganized



Mollusk Messenger, said that even galleries such as the Ewe and Moo have expressed interest in showing Slow Art.

Tegwin Cooter, Director of The Tortoiseshell Gallery, concurs with the Snail's assessment.

"We used to be the only gallery in The Park that had any interest in the Movement; now, we have to compete with other galleries. The Movement is really gaining momentum. I wouldn't be surprised if we began to see showings outside The Park," she says.