

STRI NEWSARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

February 5th - Arriving Mr. Brian Bock, University of Tenn., to work at BCI with Dr. Stanley Rand, on "Iguana Size distribution of females nesting on Slothia". Mr. Bock will be for us for one month.

February 4th - Ms. Robin Lou, UC, Berkeley to work for Dr. Roy Caldwell at Galeta. Ms. Lou will be at STRI for 4 months.

Returning this week are Dr. Ira Rubinoff and Dr. Stanley Rand from official trips.

Leaving, Tom Borges on an official trip to the U.S. Tom will be visiting Bar Harbor, Maine, where he will be inspecting the new Charles Darwin Research Station research vessel, and the SI, in Washington, D.C. Our Facilities Manager is expected back around February 14th. (Valentine's Day).

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SEMINAR

The luncheon seminar on Tuesday, Feb. 5th will be given by Luz Maria Joly, Univ. of Florida, Interamerican Foundation, who will speak on:

"Trapping Brycon chagrensis with Piper auritum"

This seminar will be in the Ancon Conference Room.

NOT TOO MUCH STRI NEWS THIS WEEK .....

THEY SAY THAT "NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS"

\*Left this past week: Dr. Neil G. Smith on official business to the U.S. He is expected back on February 16th.

Also arriving this week: Messrs. Madison Smith and Tony Kohlrus, from the Office of Personnel, SI. They are expected to arrive on Feb. 6th and will be here for about 10 days.

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FROM THE SMITHSONIAN NEWS SERVICE

By Madeleine Jacobs

Tommie and Susie (not their real names) were the products of broken homes.

Taken at the tender age of a few months from their respective families, they eventually found each other and had children. But Tommie and Susie were lousy parents---ignoring, mutilating and even killing their babies.

Susie became known as "The Killer".

Such bizarre behavior might have become a social worker's nightmare except for the fact that Tommie and Susie were golden lion marmosets, a rare and endangered South American monkey, and they were living in the zoo. Instead, their case became the perplexing problem of Dr. Devra Kleiman, an expert in animal reproduction and behavior at the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoo in Washington, D.C.

Why, Kleiman asked herself, did these animals, taken from their parents and reared outside their families, breed prolifically but make such miserable parents? The answer had more than academic interest: the only way to save the golden marmosets from extinction was to learn how to breed them successfully in captivity and raise healthy offspring. Only 100 of them remain in the wild.

The answer was soon provided by detailed behavioral studies of the animal in captivity and the wild. Golden marmosets live in an extended family, Kleiman and others discovered. The young marmosets like Susie must be left with their parents until a second group of young are born and raised. By having role models and by babysitting with the new youngsters from time to time, the younger marmosets learned how to be good parents.

Armed with this information, the National Zoo began leaving younger marmosets with their parents until an appropriate age. The result? The number of golden marmosets in captivity has grown from 69 in 1972 to over 100 worldwide. Most of these new additions were born at the National Zoo.

The work on golden marmosets also taught researchers another invaluable lesson.

"Behavioral and social studies of animals are absolutely necessary for breeding and raising rare and endangered animals successfully in captivity," Kleiman says.

"Of course, we must also know an animal's diet and nutritional requirements, what diseases it gets and what kind of environment it needs. But if we don't know the social and breeding customs the chances are nil."

(Excerpted from "Zoos Study Monkey Business--- And other Animals Too")