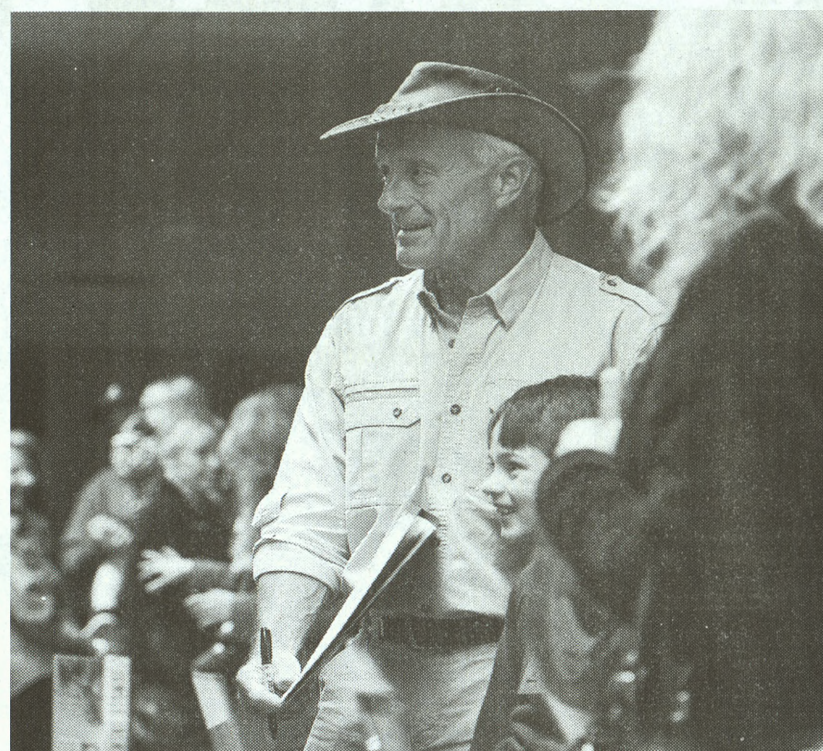


ENTERTAINMENT

Zookeeper 'Jungle Jack' visits A&M



Allison Bradshaw — THE BATTALION

'Revolutionary' zoologist calls for animal conservation

By Lenae Allen

Wearing his characteristic Aussie outfit, Jack Hanna and his cast of live animals from across the world captivated an audience Saturday in Aggieland.

Bringing in tow a variety of hand-raised and rescued animals, ranging from owls to alligators, Jack Hanna, known to most as "Jungle Jack," is on a cross-country tour with his series "Into the Wild Live!" During the show in Rudder Tower, Hanna promoted the protection and conservation for wild-life management and animal welfare.

"My speeches are for education and they're a lot of fun, but there are serious issues mentioned in the speeches that are presented in a way everybody out there can understand," Hanna said. "I'll be speaking from anywhere from a 3-year-old to a 100-year-old out there, and when I talk I hope everybody can learn something."

Between each animal appearance, Hanna showed videos of other species in their natural habitats, such as black bears and mountain gorillas.

"You'll notice in some countries, if you don't see animals or pets or things like that, where everything's gone, you know there's a problem," Hanna said. "I used to do prison talks to prisoners, and I'd ask 100 prisoners, 'How many of you had a pet when you were growing up?' And maybe three out of a hundred would raise their hands. So, I set an example of teaching young people to go to a zoological park."

Hanna said zoological parks are very important and estimated 176 million people went to zoos last year.

"That's more than pro football and NASCAR," Hanna said.

Hanna's show "Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures" first aired in 1993. Since then, first appearing on television as a zookeeper trying to educate the public

about animals, Hanna has traveled all across the globe documenting creatures big and small and the people who care for them.

"I was really excited that he was coming to College Station," said Beverly Crocker, veterinary medicine student. "I grew up watching his shows and I've always loved animals. Watching his shows on the weekends were the highlight of my Saturday mornings — instead of watching cartoons I was watching him, reading anything I could about him or learning all the facts about animals. It was really exciting for me to actually see him, kind of like a childhood dream come true."

While Hanna's first appearance on "The Late Show with David Letter-

man" in 1985 jump started his media career, Hannah is also known for his work revolutionizing the zoo industry as director of the now-famous Columbus Zoo and Aquarium beginning in 1978, said Rachel Csaszar, communications assistant at Jack Hanna's Columbus Zoo office.

"He travels about 200 days a year," Csaszar said. "He's actually the master of PR without even knowing it. He built the Columbus Zoo from pretty much nothing. It had been owned by the sewers and drains department in the 70s. The zoo has been around since the 1920s, but zoos have changed a lot since then. Animals were living on concrete behind bars, and that's how people saw them."

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YELL LEADER CONTINUED

Ginty said. "We felt like we'd be jeopardizing the integrity of the organization and process if we did that."

Trantham said the elections will be run according to the rules laid out in the Yell Leader Constitution and every effort will be made to respond to appeals in a timely manner.

"The voting count will not be conducted using an instant runoff vote or single transferrable vote procedure," Trantham said. "Each student voting will be able to cast up to three equally-weighted votes for Senior Yell and two equally-weighted votes for Junior Yell. All votes will be tallied in one round and the candidates with the highest number of total votes — after assessing any penalties — will be declared winners of the election."

McGinty said the separation from SGA was the only way to ensure an accurate representation of student body opinion.

"I talked to the election commissioner before we came out with our decision," McGinty said. "I wanted to make sure we answered any ques-

tions or concerns she had before going public with [our decision]. The impression I got from our conversation is that she understood where we were coming from and wanted the best course of action."

Douglas said the program SGA uses to count votes still uses the instant runoff system for tallying votes, and does not have the capability to count the votes according to the Yell Leader Constitution. Douglas said she respects the decision to separate and hopes all issues between the two parties can be solved in the near future.

"I haven't talked to Yell yet about what we'll do in the future, but senate is already passing a rule to fix the process," Douglas said. "They're looking to make it just a plurality vote, and once they fix that, hopefully we can deflect back to just having one election."

McGinty said all of the candidates were in agreement that another election was the best solution for a proper result.

"We want to ensure the Yell Leaders next year are there for the right reason — because the students elected them," McGinty said.

MARTIN CONTINUED

anyone who wants to write," Martin said. "One of them is keep your day job. Or get a day job. Writing has been very, very good to me, but it's not a profession for anyone who needs or values security. It's a profession for people who are a bit of a gambler and are ready to have highs and lows and triumphs and failures."

He said if a writer is really passionate about writing, however, then the rest should fall in line naturally.

"If you're an intelligent, capable young person who has many interests and can pursue many different careers, it would probably be best to pursue a different career," Martin said. "I think writing is not a rational choice. Writing is a choice that you have to make — you can't not write. There's something in you, these stories in you, that you have to get out. And even if nobody would buy them or want to pay you a cent for them, you would want to

put down those stories ... I think most writers are like that. It's not a rationally selected career path. It's something that's inside you, that's part of you."

Martin said writing is such a big part of his life that he plans to continue doing so for the rest of his life.

"I've been meeting some friends here who are my age and they've recently retired from their careers," Martin said. "Writers can't retire. I could never retire. I'll be making up stories until I die. I'll be halfway finished with one, because the stories just keep coming. Yes, I write them slowly — I know that — but they're still there and I'll continue to write them for all time."

During the presentation Martin read an excerpt from "The Hobbit" and reflected on the influence that fantasy and science fiction has had on his life. He touched on how he draws inspiration from history and from the past. Martin explained that, to him, preserving literature and culture is crucial.

"Even in our modern centuries ...

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