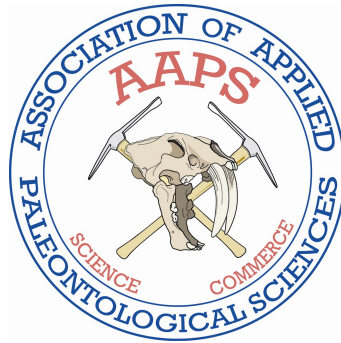


Officers

Mike Triebold
President

Rick Hebdon
Vice-President

George Winters
Secretary/Treasurer



Founded 1978

Board Members

Neal Larson
Past President

David Kronen
William H. Mason III
Peter Larson
Tracie Bennitt

January 22, 2007

Dear Michael Hopkin and the Editors of Nature:

The recent article (January 07) regarding the new Journal of Paleontological Sciences (JPS) has raised concerns about your portrayal of our organization and our values. The Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences is a diverse group of professional commercial paleontologists, academic paleontologists and private collectors, framing new partnerships to advance the practice of paleontology for us all.

Our association's name was changed by membership vote in 2002 in order to reflect our increasingly broad, international membership base, and to emphasize our commitment to promoting the scientific aspects of our business. We are no longer simply paleontological suppliers.

The recurring cliché's of a "feud" between academic and professional paleontologists, and a "black market" for fossils have become buzzwords for uninformed or biased reporters quoting the least knowledgeable critics. The Journal of Paleontological Sciences is a new forum for cooperation and collaboration, and is intended to serve as a bridge between the private sector and publicly-funded paleontology.

The Journal is but one in a series of steps to be taken by the AAPS to educate professional and private collectors about the importance of responsible fossil collecting, preservation of important scientific information, and the proper procedures for doing so as described at the JPS website (www.aaps-journal.org).

We invite all forward-thinking individuals, regardless of their affiliation, to leave behind the old paradigm of intolerance and help forge a better future for paleontology. We are grateful to the many that already have.

Sincerely,

Michael Triebold
President, Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences