

inid craniodental material. "Robust" australopithecines make up most of the sample, although *Homo* is represented by one fragmentary mandible in Member 1 and by about 33 percent of the hominids from Member 2. Member 3 contains nine "robust" australopithecine individuals and no *Homo*. Grine finds support for his view that the Swartkrans "robusts" are distinct enough to warrant Broom's original name for them, *Paranthropus crassidens*. Howell has championed this terminology for a long time, but most authors in this volume and elsewhere use the name *Australopithecus robustus*. Grine documents the interesting fact that this species did not change in morphology through the time span of Members 1 to 3, which may be as much as 0.8 million years. The contemporary *Homo* specimens are too fragmentary for much interpretation. The 38 hominid postcranial specimens are mostly from hands and feet, but R. L. Susman makes a startling interpretation: the hands of the "robust" australopithecines had the key morphological features associated with the dexterity needed to make tools.

The stone tools of Members 1, 2, and 3 are much like the developed Oldowan core choppers of East Africa, according to J. D. Clark. The bone-digging sticks of these members show signs of use for extracting bulbs and roots, according to Brain and P. Shipman, and some of them show prolonged use and a distinctive polish that may have been developed by their use in preparing animal skins. Controlled use of fire is convincingly demonstrated to have been consistently used in Member 3 times by Brain, A. Sillen, and T. Hoering. Cut-marks on bones in Member 3 show stone tool use for butchering according to R. Newman and Brain.

So who made the tools and cut-marks, and who controlled fire? Early *Homo* is the obvious answer, but can the "robust" australopithecine be excluded? On a more general level, is Robinson's dichotomy between tool-producing *Homo* and primitive "robust" australopithecines still useful? Consider the Swartkrans evidence: First, the hands of the "robust" australopithecines were, according to Susman, much more like later *Homo* than like earlier australopithecines. Second, the stable-carbon-isotope studies of Lee-Thorpe and van der Merwe indicate a generalized diet that may have included meat (a conclusion supported by strontium-calcium ratios reported elsewhere by Sillen). Third, the only hominid remains recovered from Member 3 are those of "robust" australopithecines, and that member has the first evidence of controlled use of fire and butchering. Fourth, except for features related to heavy chewing, the crania of the South African "ro-

bust" australopithecines are much more like early *Homo* than they are like earlier australopithecines. Fifth, their brains were as large as those of contemporary *Homo* relative to body size. As Brain points out (p. 263), "the Swartkrans investigation has been characterized by surprises, so an australopithecine fire-tender would not be out of character for this remarkable cave."

This volume represents the triumph of a style of research exemplified by C. K. Brain. There is no advocacy of preconceived ideas but a genuine delight in the surprises. George Gaylord Simpson called it simple curiosity. It evokes trust and invites further inquiry.

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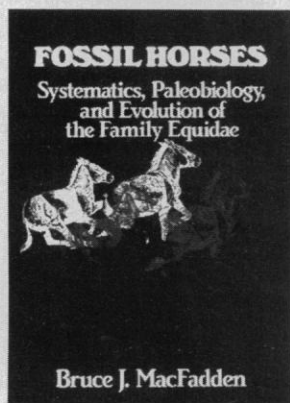
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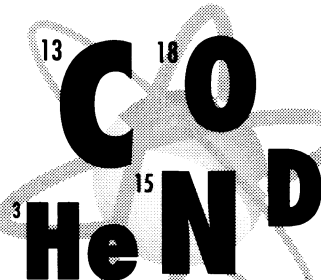
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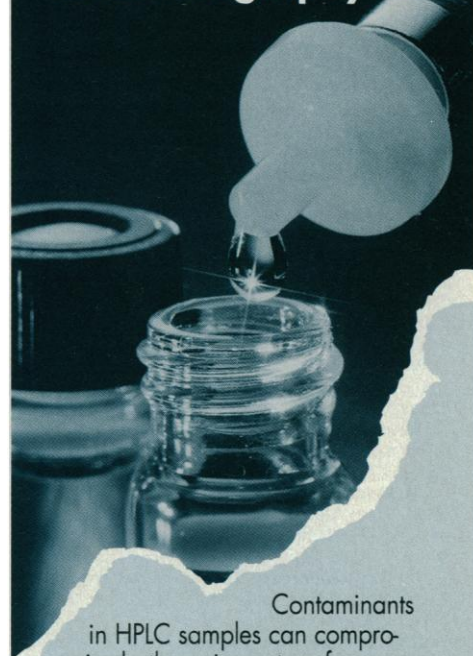
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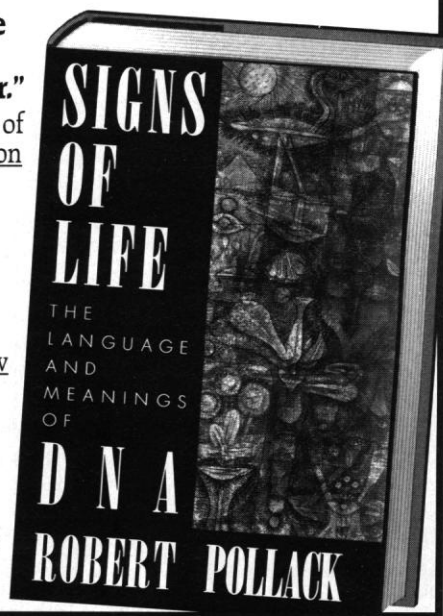
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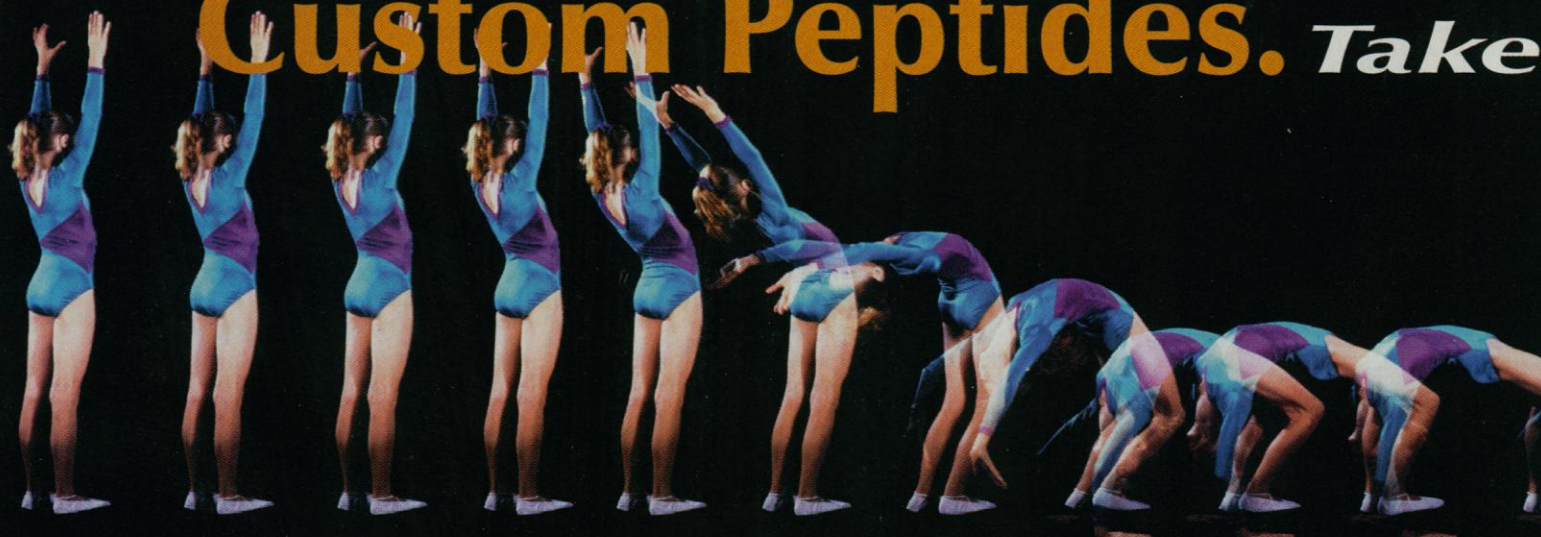
Jacket painting: *Strange Garden* by Paul Klee/Jacket design: Mark Caleb



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