

CONVERSATIONS UNLIMITED - MONDAY, Dec. 9, 1985

INTRO UP AND UNDER

Hi, everybody. Our subject today is evolution. That's a big subject. A popular debate topic the past few years has put the arguments for evolution up against the arguments for creation. We're not going to get into that today, at least not specifically. Rather, we'll be talking about how life has changed --- evolved, if you will --- through the centuries. Have you ever wondered about how we human beings relate to apes? Have you wondered how we can date different forms of, say, fish?

We'll be talking with Dr. Michael Bell, associate professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolution at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Dr. Bell says he studies the stickleback fish as his way of understanding nature. He has been spending his summers in California and Nevada, where the stickleback is an endangered species. Dr. Bell, I read in the Los Angeles Times that you are known to fellow biologists as "Dr. Stickleback USA."

INTERVIEW DR. BELL:

- Describe the fish: 3-spine; armor; anadromous
- Why is a study of the stickleback important
- His background in this area
- Current research goals

6:00

AFO LIVE: Two years ago, when Dr. Bell was in Nevada, he was interviewed at his work site, with some of his colleagues and neighbors, by Margo Adler of National Public Radio. From that interview came a short program. Let's listen to that:

PLAY NPR TAPE

14:00

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We'll take a short break now, then return to talk some more with Dr. Mike Bell about evolution.

BRIDGE MUSIC UP AND UNDER

Hi. I'm Al Oickle, and I'm at the State University of New York at Stony Brook with Dr. Michael Bell. We've been talking about Dr. Bell's interest and research over the past 15 years in the stickleback fish. Some of that research is absolutely fascinating to a layperson like me, Dr. Bell. Like, for example, the knowledge that comes from the stickleback known as "sneakers."

INTERVIEW DR. BELL:

- Courtship behavioral cues - ethology
- Learning about fishes' reaction to red
- Williamsoni - fish without plates - in evolutionary study
- Longitudinal studies in Amoco Mineral quarry
- Time-lapse photos (5000-year intervals, 1000, 30-100)
- Role of Earthwatch
- Evolution in general: cite Stephen Jay Gould's "pelvis"

29:00

OUTRO