



Supposed Malaysian Bigfoot track cast

[www.bigfootdiscoveryproject.com](http://www.bigfootdiscoveryproject.com)

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### Message from the Curator

Now that we're just a week away from the Grand Opening things are getting a bit hectic. Lately I feel like I'm living an episode of *The Apprentice*. You know the routine—the teams are working frantically against the clock trying to get everything together for the big event they're managing. If things don't go just right the Donald might have to say "You're fired!"

We are planning to have entertainment, refreshments and prizes. That's bigfoot cookies and punch, folk musicians sitting outside pickin' tunes, and free raffle tickets for prize drawings. There will be pennants, a couple of banners, perhaps some balloons.

The new display cabinets have now been painted and require four new exhibits to be designed and set up. The audio-video cabinets are also freshly painted and ready to be rigged for showing videos under the oak tree, which we plan to do on an ongoing basis. The diorama needs to be painted black inside (the elaborate landscape background will have to come later) and the portable shed in front of the barn must be disassembled and removed. The backyard needs cleaning and landscaping and we need to rig up additional shade awnings so folks won't cook in the hot sun, and will be more inclined to stick around for a while.

The existing interior displays need narrative text provided and all objects should have labels or captions and callouts. We want to set up an interactive display on the other G3 computer that includes a custom menu to lead to slideshows of BF photos, audio interviews and video clips taken from the internet. All this has to be done by May 27. Oh, I almost forgot – the minivan needs to have the BF rigged to ride in the back for the parade also. Whew! Lots to do, but it's a labor of love, and a necessity if the museum is to survive financially. Besides, these impossible deadlines are what gets things done in most of the time.

I apologize for not having the minutes ready for this edition of the newsletter. It's a function of time restraints. We talked mostly about the Opening at the last meeting anyway, so I'll catch up with the next issue.

Almost all members present said they'd be able to come by the museum on the weekends of the Opening, to lend a hand distributing handbills at the parade, acting as docents or just hanging out to listen to music or watch videos under the oak tree. Just having folks milling around outside will help create an attractive environment. Thanks in advance for dropping by to lend a hand.

We have several new acquisitions including a replica of the *Homo floresiensis* skull to add to our growing bipedal primate skull collection, and a 16mm cine camera like the one Patterson used back in 1967. That should make a fine addition to the P/G Film exhibit. Also we'll be ordering copies of the new and updated version of the *Bigfoot Casebook*.



Vincent Chow measures tracks of the Malaysian BF



On the BF newsfront, the biggest story has to be the Malaysian BF Flap. This story just won't go away. The latest claims are that a book is in the works that will contain information and clear photos of the Malaysian Mawas, which has been suggested might be a surviving *Homo erectus*. (Vincent Chow is the source of these claims.)

The Johor Wildlife Protection Society claimed in February:

The adult creatures are between 10 and 12 feet tall while their children are 6 to 7 footers. Seventy percent of the Orang Lenggong have a human appearance but the rest resemble apes... They like to eat fish and fruits they gather in the jungles, including durian. They also have a liking for river water that contains dissolved salt and would walk for miles to get it.

But another source made the following statement:

We have discovered some facts that seem to indicate that this colony of mawas (Orang Lenggong) may actually be the descendents of a colony of orangutans (mawas) released by the late Sultan of Johor into the Johor jungles some 30 years ago. It is well known that in the late 1960s, the then Sultan Ismail kept 40 Orangutans of which some were given away, while the rest are believed to be released into Johor forest.

All we can do now is wait to see what the facts really are. That should become clear once the photos are published. See [www.cryptomundo.com](http://www.cryptomundo.com) for more details.

---Michael Rugg

## FIELDWORK

### 2,150 Miles in 30 days Oh, The Places You'll Go – In Search of Bigfoot

By Tom Yamarone

#### Joining John Freitas on a Shoot for a British TV Show



The first of four road-trips was the shortest. An invitation from John Freitas brought me down to the Bigfoot Discovery Museum where he was meeting a television crew from England. John had contacted Michael Rugg asking if there was an accessible forest location nearby where the crew and he might film a comedy segment. Indeed there was. The San Lorenzo Valley offered a variety of locations. But what was this all about?

It turns out the crew was with a long-running comedy show from England called *Bo Selecta!* They had arranged to have John Freitas participate in this segment where the show's character would be interviewing John about some of the things he does in his search for bigfoot. Unlike the recent *Penn & Teller* television show, this was all in good fun. In fact, there was no disparaging approach to the subject – the laughs are all generated by the character comedy of Leigh Francis. This comedic actor became famous for his on-the-spot celebrity interviews. He would portray a character called Avid Merion and show up at high profile events like movie premieres and interview celebrities on the red carpet. This soon evolved into the television show *Bo Selecta!* and after 5 seasons, they found it difficult to film on the street in England due to the popularity of the show. So, they came to California to film segments for the up-coming season, due to air beginning in September 2006.



The crew of four met with John and Montra Freitas, myself and Mike at the Bigfoot Discovery Museum. Leigh posed for the perfunctory celebrity photo in front of the museum with Mike and then went into the Mike's office to change into character. Today he would be "Marilyn," a bizarre bespectacled character wearing nothing more than black army boots, calf-length pants and suspenders. The glasses featured an eye-ball taped over the right lens and he carried with him a cane with a skull on the end. "Marilyn" was a traffic-stopping sight to see – the expressions on the unsuspecting motorists passing by the museum were priceless. This outrageous display also kept us from using the main trail through the redwoods at nearby Henry Cowell State Park.



We finally found a location off of Highway 9 at the Ox trail and spent an hour filming the segment. It was hilarious. "Marilyn" interviewed John and addressed him (and anyone else he addressed while in costume) as "Mildred." The questions were fairly run-of-the-mill regarding bigfoot, but the delivery and reaction by the show's star was quite hilarious. John even demonstrated some loud call blasting for them and I played a quick version of my song "Bigfoot – The Living Legend" as "Marilyn" danced around beside me...we'll see if that makes the cutting room floor. They used the bigfoot museum as a backdrop for the episode's closing segment and shot a bunch of footage in the museum to use as "B roll" material – "filler shots" for us non-industry types.

As I said before, the comedy is the character and how he behaves. The subject of bigfoot was merely the focus of this episode. I think this will be one of the funniest bigfoot television shows ever to air – one we'll probably never see. Hopefully, the museum

will obtain a copy to archive and perhaps debut for an American audience at one of our monthly meetings later this year!

#### Bobo's Birthday Bash



The very next day I was packing up the car and heading for Lake Tahoe to meet up with Jimbo "Bobo" Fay and his friends for a birthday celebration and concert. I had been lucky enough to perform with Bobo at Slim's night club in San Francisco, CA in February 2005 during a set by the rocking band "Bargain Music." This night, Bargain Music's lead guitarist was bringing his band, Sex Rat, and a band from San Diego, CA called The Wagon, to Whiskey Dick's in South Lake Tahoe, CA. It was an exciting proposition. The plan was for Bobo and I to join Sex Rat at the end of their set to perform a full band version of "The Skookum Cast" – a bigfoot song I wrote in 2004. It's a fairly simple arrangement so the band had no problem learning the song during sound check. The big twist to the performance came in the form of two bigfoot costumes which were to be worn by Bobo and the mighty Quinn, bass player for The Wagon. Bobo's was a white "yeti" costume provided by a snowboarding film company there in Lake Tahoe and Quinn's was a black haired gorilla suit provided by none other than Mike Rugg! (Thanks, Mike!)



The rendition began with a raucous intro as the two squatches entered from the front of the bar and walked back to the dance floor and stage. Needless to say, the Patty-like arm swings and bent-knee strut were quite a hit with the crowd. As the song started, the two bigfoots made it up on stage and brought down the house with their hairy bipedal

gyrations. Now, as the museum members who attended April's meeting will attest, it was a LOUD performance with much of the lyrical nuance lost in the din of the 3-digit decibel reading in the club, but it was bigfoot performance art at it's funnest. I'm sure we brought some attention to the subject which may result in some more local sightings being reported. But more importantly, we celebrated Bobo's birthday in a most appropriate manner – one he'll soon not forget!

### Lunch with Peter Byrne and Bigfooting Friends



The following weekend found me driving down to Los Angeles, CA at 4 am to meet up with Scott McClean. Renown for his wall-sized frame 352 enlargements and his fantastic collection of archival newspaper stories, *Big News Prints*, Scott had invited me to join him that Saturday for a bigfooting lunch with Peter Byrne. It was an opportunity to meet someone who had been active in the search for bigfoot since the late 1950s, not to mention his work prior to that searching for sign of the Yeti in Nepal. Peter had also invited Cliff Barackman, a fellow field researcher and friend from Long Beach, CA and David Murphy, the man who is writing the authorized biography of Roger Patterson.

We were joined by a man who founded the Kodak film processing laboratory in Seattle, WA in the mid-1960s along with his daughter and a friend. As you might imagine, much of the discussion centered around the processing of Kodachrome 2, the film stock which Roger Patterson used to capture the images from Bluff Creek on October 20, 1967. It was very interesting and no definite conclusions were reached regarding the processing of that famous footage.



Peter also shared with us photographs he had from his investigation of the Patterson/Gimlin film site. He also had some other amazing photos from his earlier expeditions in the Bluff Creek wilderness. The summary of this luncheon event will soon be posted on Peter Byrne's website (a work in progress) and we'll be sure to direct you to that web location as soon as it becomes available.

It was a wonderful afternoon talking bigfoot and enjoying the hospitality of Peter and his friend Kathy. It was also a great time spent with Scott, Cliff and David. I hope you all have had the chance to read some of the amazing articles Scott has compiled into his book, *Big News Prints*. The Bigfoot Discovery Museum has a copy of the book available for your perusal and most of the articles can be found on a thread at [www.bigfootforums.com](http://www.bigfootforums.com) under the media section heading of "Amazing Historical Archives."

### Bluff Creek Outing, May 2006



The last leg of this well-traveled month occurred on May 7th when I drove north to camp out with Bobo, Bart Cutino from Monterey, CA and Robert Leiterman. I was with them for 3 days and 3 nights of searching in the wilderness around Orleans, CA – the town closest to the Patterson/ Gimlin film site. We began our investigation in the Orleans Mining Company, the local watering hole and diner. There we were able to meet several local residents who had bigfoot stories to share. One man had worked for years logging in the area and had found what he believed to be a large, bedding site (or for lack of a better term, an alleged bigfoot "nest"). He also introduced us to Frank, his bear-chasing dog. He told us of the time that they may have encountered a bigfoot near their camp and of Frank's irritated and hesitant reaction to the nearby creature. He would have none of it and this was most unusual as he would go after most forest creatures with great zeal.

Another woman related the time that her husband and her brother went out "hunting" a bigfoot in the early 1960s and were home by 2 am. They both were badly shaken and frightened by their close encounter in the hills

above Orleans. She related that though they were armed with .30-06 hunting rifles, the thing snapping trees, growling at them and stomping around their camp was much too big and intimidating for their fire power. They had the fright of their life and never returned on such an adventure again. Stories like these are just the way to kick off a night in the wilderness.



We used my call-blaster in an attempt to attract a bigfoot to our area or at least elicit a response. That first night camped 11 miles in on the G-O Road was a quiet one. We had no response to our efforts and no visitors in camp that night. We explored the surrounding areas as far as we could on the forest service roads, but all were blocked about 15 miles in from Highway 96 by snow – patches of snow that refused to relent to the heat of the Spring thanks to their location in the perpetual shade of road cuts. We were, however, able to access some of the backwoods lakes. We found plenty of sign of local wildlife and saw many deer. Some fresh tree twists and breaks seemed to indicate recent passing of some creature with an ability to do such damage, but no other spoor (such as tracks or scat) was found.

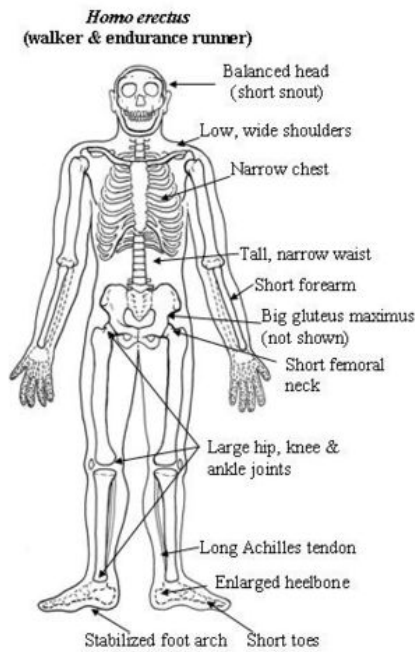
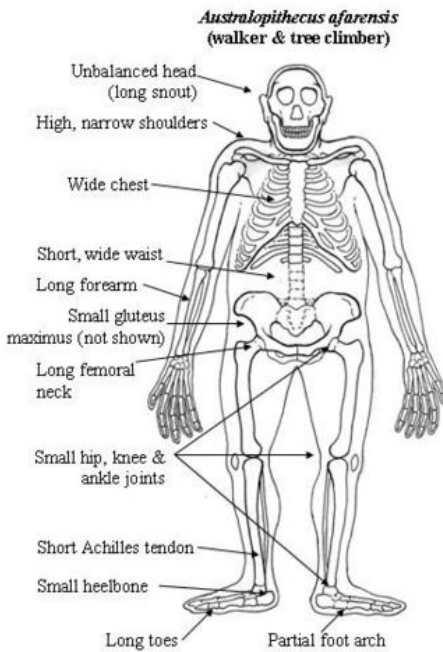
We spent the second day out exploring the area north of Orleans, CA near the confluence of the Klamath and Salmon Rivers. There is so much isolated, impenetrable forest in that area, that it leaves you with little doubt that something is indeed inhabiting those hills. Robert joined us for our third night out camped above the Klamath River on a road leading to Ukonom Lookout. We may have drawn the interest of the local forest inhabitants, but nothing definitive was photographed or recorded. I awoke early on Wednesday, May 10th and began the 8 hour journey home. I look forward to returning to the area sometime this summer. I'll continue to write about my outings in the coming issues of the newsletter as our group explores the Santa Cruz Mountains and some locations in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. For now, enjoy the photographs and thanks for letting me share a few thousand miles of stories with you!

Top Left: Scott and Norby

Bottom left: Tom Y and Peter Byrne

Next column: Tom, Bobo and Bart

# PALEOANTHROPOLOGY



## The First Runner's High: Jogging Separated Humans from Apes

By Robert Roy Britt  
LiveScience Senior Writer

No offense, but your long neck, flat face and well-endowed buttocks are the reason you have an edge over pigs and monkeys in the marathon. And you can thank your hungry ancestors for these useful anatomical features, which may also have led to the big brain you now enjoy.

A new study suggests the need for endurance made us what we are. Hunting or scavenging on the African savannah was the genesis of the Nike empire, the thinking goes. Those who ran well separated themselves from the pack of apes and became the earliest humans, eating protein that enlarged their brains. Running got us out of the trees and made us smarter.

"We are very confident that strong selection for running -- which came at the expense of the historical ability to live in trees -- was instrumental in the origin of the modern human body form," said University of Utah biologist Dennis Bramble.

### Run, don't walk

The conventional thinking has been that running was a mere byproduct of upright walking, known as bipedalism.

But the ape-like species *Australopithecus* is thought to have gone bipedal 4.5 million years ago while continuing to climb trees, too. It took another 3 million years or more for

*Homo sapiens* to evolve from *Australopithecus*. "So is walking going to be what suddenly transforms the hominid body?" Bramble asks. "No, walking won't do that, but running will."

Bramble and Harvard University anthropologist Daniel Lieberman examined 26 human traits that contribute to our ability to give chase. They compared many of these to fossils of our ancestors. Compared to us, *Australopithecus* had long forearms, short legs, and terrible arches. It walked around with a permanent shoulder shrug ill suited for jogging.

### Pigheadedness

Apes aren't the only poor runners. At first, Bramble and Lieberman wondered why pigs don't pursue the runner's high. They found swine lack something we and some other animals have, a "nuchal ridge" at the skull base. The ridge attaches to tissue that keeps the head steady while we run. Chimps and the earliest prehumans lack the ridge, too.

No neck and a wimpy hind end make apes lousy marathoners. Moreover, chimps have burly shoulders connected to their skulls, "the better to climb trees and swing from branches," Lieberman points out. "The shoulders of modern humans are disconnected from our skulls, allowing us to run more efficiently."

So why would evolution have selected for the development of these features? Biologist David Carrier, also of the University of Utah, provided a possible answer in previous research. Before humans had invented the bow and arrow, Carrier reasons, it would have

been advantageous to wear down prey with an endless pursuit.

Carrier, who was not involved in the latest study, showed that differences in how humans breathe and sweat suited them for endurance. Further, he found evidence that Navajo Indians and other primitive cultures were able to run down very swift animals. Importantly, the food that early humans could catch by simply outlasting their prey -- meat -- would have changed everything.

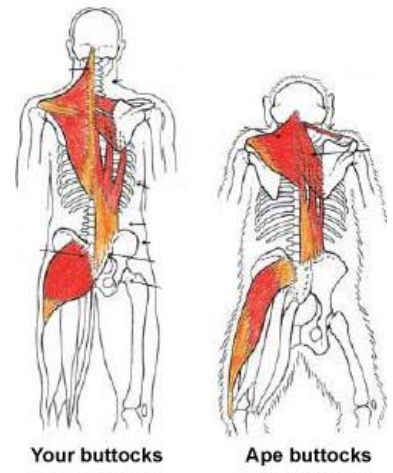
"What these features and fossil facts appear to be telling us is that running evolved in order for our direct ancestors to compete with other carnivores for access to the protein needed to grow the big brains that we enjoy today," Lieberman said.

### Big butt, flat face, lots of sweat

Other things that make you born to run, according to the study:

- Compared to apes, your flat face, small teeth and short snout shift the center of mass of your head back, so it doesn't bob up and down when you jog.
- Your height and, ahem, narrow physique create more skin surface for sweating and cooling.
- Human heels, toes and arches are well designed for pushing off and absorbing shock.
- A ligament ties the back of your skull to your vertebrae, acting like a shock absorber. Large vertebrae and disks assist in allowing a less-jarring gait.
- Your upper and lower body move independently, making it easier to balance while your legs swing. Short forearms help, too.
- When your head sweats, blood in veins near the surface is cooled. The veins pass near carotid arteries, helping cool blood on its way to the brain.

The human backside helps, too. A good-sized hiney stabilizes you.



LiveScience graphic / Source: Nature