Editor's note: The cover of this special issue devoted to the theme of food was painted on commission by the Toronto artist, Matt Harley. It features a dessert. The owner of the dessert, Matt Harley's painting says it all: "On that fateful day, every living creature was eaten by another."

Recently, Matt agreed to RAMPIKE's request to record, on tape, some of his feelings about dinosaurs and why he paints them, as well as his theories about the legendary creature and the reasons for their extinction. He also spoke on the subject of food and discussed his current show of dinosaur paintings at RPM, a Toronto nightclub.

The dinosaur paintings at RPM have a different style because they were done with fluorescent paint, so there's a specific style for those similar to the one dinosaur on the cover of this issue. It's hard edge. So it's sort of a black line. I'm a colored shape, rather than a colored shape with a darker and a lighter version of that colour.

A couple of images kept coming up, namely the volcano and the dragonfly. The imagery isn't really of the standard art/gallery variety, so it just seems to be more for people to have fun with. There were supposed to be twenty paintings, but only nineteen are actually in the show, of which sixteen were shown at the Cameron [Public House].

Also, nineteen were shown at the Erindale [College Campus] art gallery, and it was apparently the most popular show they've ever had. More people walked in and more people came back to see it because it was just this kind of ludicrous installation of bizarre pictures. I think they were used to seeing Eugene, or Group of Seven prints, or stuff like that. So apparently it was the show that had the highest attendance.

A new theory has just come out about dinosaurs developing atomic power and blowing themselves up, which explains the radioactive layer on the earth's sub-strata which has been expanding ever since the dinosaurs were exploding.

The baby boom and dinosaurs were a big part of my childhood. And I guess when all the boomers get to be in their thirties, they then get to distem public taste.

But it's interesting to see the distance between the study or the initial sketch and what happens to it. The artist is making compromises, trying to communicate an idea. Is it Aristotle that came up with the notion of "tree-ness" or "a-ness"? "A-ness," I love the idea that there are a million a's but that there is one ideal a in the back of your mind.

So this is what artists have to struggle with. They have this ideal art work in the back of their mind. You know, maybe an artist has an ideal form of acting in the back of his mind, or a writer has an ideal sentence, or a photographer or a chef an ideal meal.

For sure cooking and painting are close together, because in both you have to gloop these things around, and you use your blender both in preparing food and in mixing paint. In painting, sometimes you have to bake your finishes, you cook a lot of paint, and if you want to make your own paint you have to cook all these ingredients.

And then every different colour is like a different spice. But then when you get into cooking that way, it's really quite amazing. Little flowers cut out of red peppers, things like that. We've seen this before in one cooking show we watched.

There's a guy on Carleton Street who makes flowers out of icing and they look abso-

Then you can do all this other stuff too. It's like $155 to decorate a cake, and it's cheap to do it, but it's cheap to do a more expensive thing. You can go to Pompeii, this art that just evapora... There are no back to the Holocaust, the volcano theory. Or about the food-chain and about free-fertilizing vegetables.

I heard on the CBC that certain conglomrate has taken tomatoes or potatoes or corn and has virtually wiped out free-fertilizing kinds so they can have a stranglehold on the market for tomatoes or potatoes or certain types of coffee. Whole islands where they had different spices, say, somebody had a kind of cinnamon that was more hardy, or something like this, then there's a whole staff whole islands to get this guy's crop of cima-

I wonder what a dinosaur tasted like? Now this is a good topic. To go back to pre-

I'm wondering whether you have a bacteria that doubles every second, and it takes an hour for it to fill a jar, when was the jar half full? One second before it was half. So, it doubled, doubled, doubled, for almost a whole hour, however many seconds that is. Apparently after one second before it's half full and suddenly it goes boom, and it's full. We're in a situation like that too I think. So maybe that's what happened to dinosaurs. "On that fateful day, every living creature was eaten by another."

But that's enough on the holocaust. I'm wondering what I want a dinosaur tasted like? Now this is a good topic. To go back to pre-

I wonder how a steak house that you could time-travel back to? Wouldn't that be something?
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