

## all about the UNEXPLAINED!

By Nazia Hussein

**M**ysteries of the unidentified, whatever one may call it, is something which has always grabbed the attention of not only the teenagers but also the grown-ups. Why else do you think the X-Files became such a big hit all over the world? The most popular dialog of the series "The truth is out there" tells us about nothing but the mysteries of the planet.

Well, the millennium is coming towards an end, and as we are stepping into a new, why not take a look at few of the unsolved mysteries bygone time!

and made the island their home. Many archaeologists believe that at the time of the invasion the megaliths, including about 600 statues, were standing throughout the island and that many were destroyed by the Polynesians during a period of violence on Easter Island.

Largest of the extant stone monuments are the great burial platforms, called "ahu", which were used to support rows of statues. The burial platform (ahu) usually supported 4 to 6 statues, although one ahu, known as Tongariki, carried 15 statues. About 100 statues still stand on the island; they vary in height from 3 to 12 m (10 to 40 ft). Carved from tuff, a soft volcanic rock, they consist of huge heads with elongated ears and noses. Material for the statues was quarried from the crater called Rano Raraku, where modern explorers found an immense unfinished statue, 21 m (68 ft) long.

Many of the statues on the burial platforms bore cylindrical, brimmed crowns of red tuff; the largest crown weighs approximately 27 tonnes. Excavations have also disclosed hidden caves containing decayed remains of tablets and wooden images, and numerous small wooden sculptures.

No one can still describe what the origins of the megalithic monuments of the Easter Island are?

**Jack the Ripper**, assumed name of a murderer, held to have been responsible for at least five unsolved murders that took place in the White Chapel area of east London between August and November 1888. Among other, widely publicized and gruesome crimes of the period, the "Ripper" case has become one of the most notorious in British criminal history. It has generated numerous theories as to the true identity of the Ripper, as well as many fictional versions of the story in novels and films. The Ripper's victims-Annie Chapman, Catharine Eddowes, Mary Jane Kelly, Mary Ann (or Polly) Nichols, and Elizabeth Stride-were all prostitutes, who appeared to have been killed while soliciting clients. In each case the throat was cut, and the body was further injured in a manner which suggested that the murderer must have had medical training. The public attention the case received, highlighted the inability of the police to trace a suspect. "Jack the Ripper" was the name signed on various notes purporting to come from the murderer, and the police also received a package containing hair from a human kidney.

Theories as to the murderer's identity have pointed to a Russian doctor named Michael Ostrog and Montague John Druitt, a Harley Street surgeon, among others. There has also been a strong suggestion that the Ripper murders involved some connection between the squalid realities of London's East End demi-monde and the very highest levels of society in Victorian Britain. It has been said that they were activated by well-known Freemasons, among them the Royal Physician, Sir William Gull, to avert a sexual scandal involving Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence, son of the Prince of Wales (the future Edward VIII); suspicion has also fallen on the Duke of Clarence himself and on his assumed male lover, James Kenneth Stephen.

But till today the question is - Who actually was this "Jack the Ripper"?

**Dinosaur**, any member of a group of about 1300 reptiles that first appeared in the late Middle or early Late Triassic period, about 200 million years ago. Most dinosaurs are classified into two types, the "bird-hipped" Ornithischia, for example Iguanodon and Triceratops, and the "lizard-hipped" Saurischia, for example Apatosaurus and Tyrannosaurus. The earliest known dinosaurs, such as Saurischosaurus and Herrerasaurus from South America, are too primitive to be classified within either order. Dinosaurs died out about 65 million years ago, but one lineage, the birds, survives to the present.

Dozens of explanations for the late death of dinosaurs have been offered, but most of them lack evidence. Until recently dinosaurs were considered to have died off gradually through the Late Cretaceous. The recent discovery at the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary, dating from about 65 million years ago, of evidence of the impact of a large asteroid or comet, fueled speculation that such an impact could have triggered changes in climate that ended

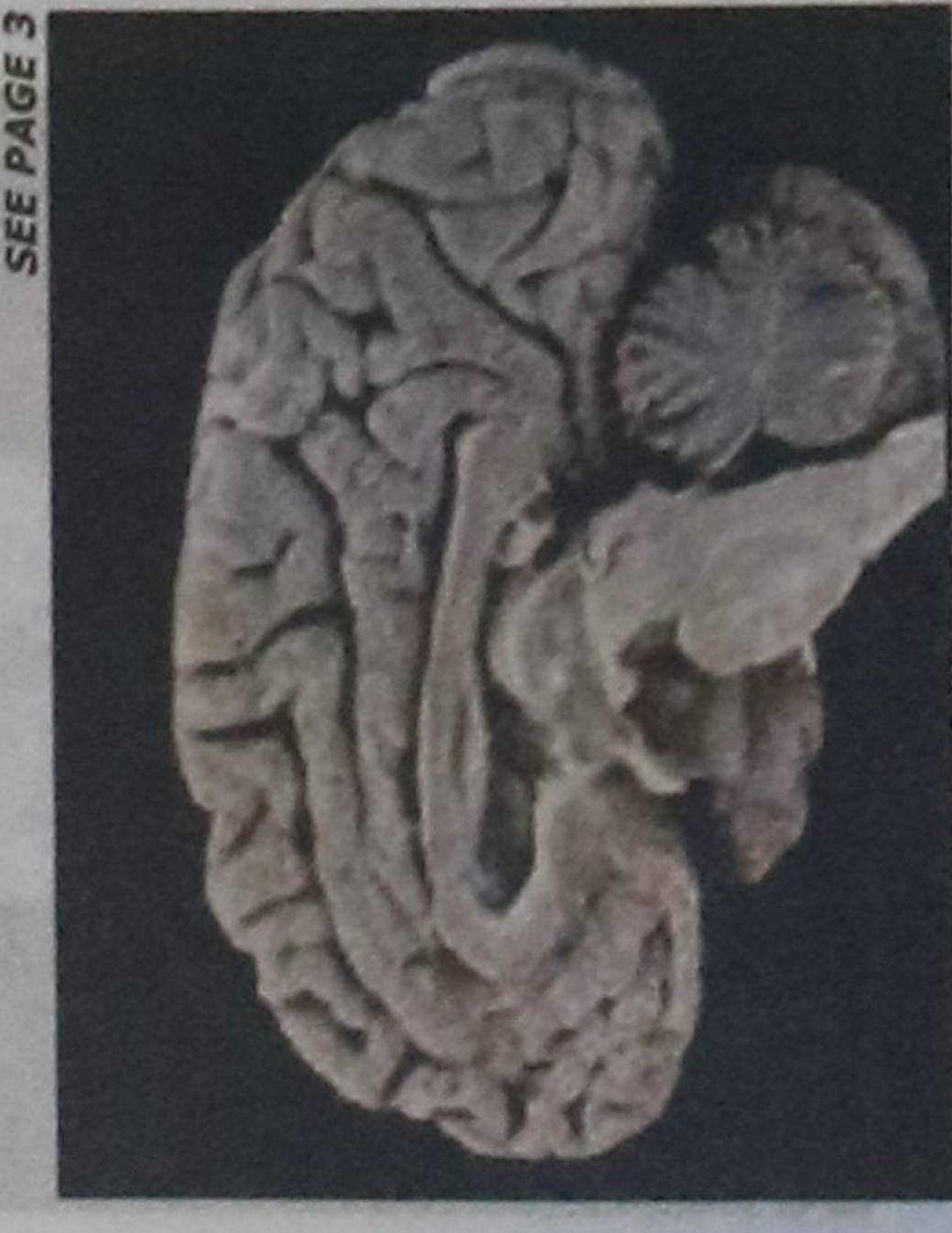


An examination of the skulls of a carnivore, *Allosaurus*, a herbivore, *Diplodocus*, and an omnivore, *Massospondylus*, shows anatomical differences directly related to the types of food eaten by each other animals; the thin, reduced pencil-like teeth at the front end of the jaw of *Diplodocus* were specially adapted for stripping leaves from plants; the relatively small, coarse, multi-purpose teeth of *Massospondylus* were adapted for eating both plants and animals.

**Edward V** (1470-1483), short-lived, uncrowned King of England. Born at Westminster, the eldest son of King Edward IV, proclaimed Prince of Wales in 1471. As a result of the power struggle between his paternal uncle Richard, Duke of Gloucester, and his maternal uncle Anthony Woodville, 2nd Earl Rivers, both Edward and his brother, Richard, Duke of York, were confined in the Tower of London shortly after their father's death in April 1483. They were not seen again outside the tower. Because the Duke of Gloucester had them declared illegitimate and usurped the throne as Richard III in June 1483, it is reasonable to suppose that he had them abolished. No circumstantial evidence exists to link their deaths with him, however. It is possible, for instance, that they survived Richard and were later slaughtered by his successor, Henry VII of the House of Tudor, to whose title they would have been a threat. Tudor historians advanced the belief that Richard instigated their murder.

But the question remains: what happened to Edward V and his brother after they were confined to the tower of London?

**Brain**, that part of the central nervous system within the cranium that is the organ of thought, memory, and emotion. It contains all the higher centers for various sensory impulses and it



Human Brain

**Bermuda Triangle**, also known as the Devil's Triangle and the Limbo of the Lost, a geographical area of about 3,900,000 sq km, between Bermuda, Puerto Rico, and Melbourne in Florida, in which there have been numerous unexplained disappearances of ships and aircraft. The mystery dates back as far as the mid-19th century, with a total of more than 50 ships and 20 aero planes having been lost in the Triangle. One of the more notorious cases was the disappearance of Flight 19, five United States torpedo bombers left Fort Lauderdale on December 5, 1945 on a routine training flight in good conditions. None of them returned. Other stories about the region include ships found abandoned with warm food left on the tables and planes that disappear without even making a distress call. The absence of wreckage is often cited as proof of the mysterious power of the Triangle.

Explanations are legion, and include death rays from Atlantis and UFO kidnappings. Less improbable investigation suggests that fierce currents and deep water could explain the lack of wreckage, and point out that several of the losses attributed to the Bermuda Triangle actually occurred as far as 1,000 km (600 mi) outside it. Furthermore, military and civil craft pass through the region every



Few of the monuments of the Easter Island

**Easter Island**, a triangular-shaped island belonging to Chile, in the South Pacific Ocean. The island is formed on three dead volcanoes, and has an area of 117-sq km. Swept by strong trade winds, the area is warm throughout the year. The island is of considerable archaeological importance both as the richest site of the megalithic monuments of the Pacific island groups and as the only source of evidence of a form of writing in Polynesia. Very little is known about the people who made the megaliths and carved the wooden tablets. One belief is that settlement of Easter Island took place about 18 centuries ago, although some scholars contend that the settlement occurred more recently. Archaeological and botanical evidence suggests that the island's original inhabitants were of South American origin. The ancestors of the present Polynesian population are thought to have traveled in canoes from the Marquesas Islands, massacred the inhabitants,

**A BIRD AND HER LOST CHILD**

CARTOON  
**MANIK, RATAN**

OH...! AT LAST! YOU NAUGHTY LITTLE BIRD, COME AWAY FROM THAT CONGESTED HOUSE RIGHT NOW! TIME TO GO HOME...!

**SUMAN 99**