



animal talk



ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

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Picture of Proud Parents Patty and Pinky Pondering and Proteining

ANIMAL FOR THOUGHT

While nibbling my way through a book on oriental decorative arts. I chanced upon a reference to Ch'i-lin, pronounced Ky'-lin, a fabulous creature sometimes called the Chinese unicorn. It may be leonine, with scales and horns, or it may be an elegant cloven-footed beast, with or without scales, with a bushy mane and tail, and a horn, or a pair of horns. Variations are extremely numerous and impossible to classify satisfactorily, as the Chinese have in the past, given the name to many animals, including the giraffe.

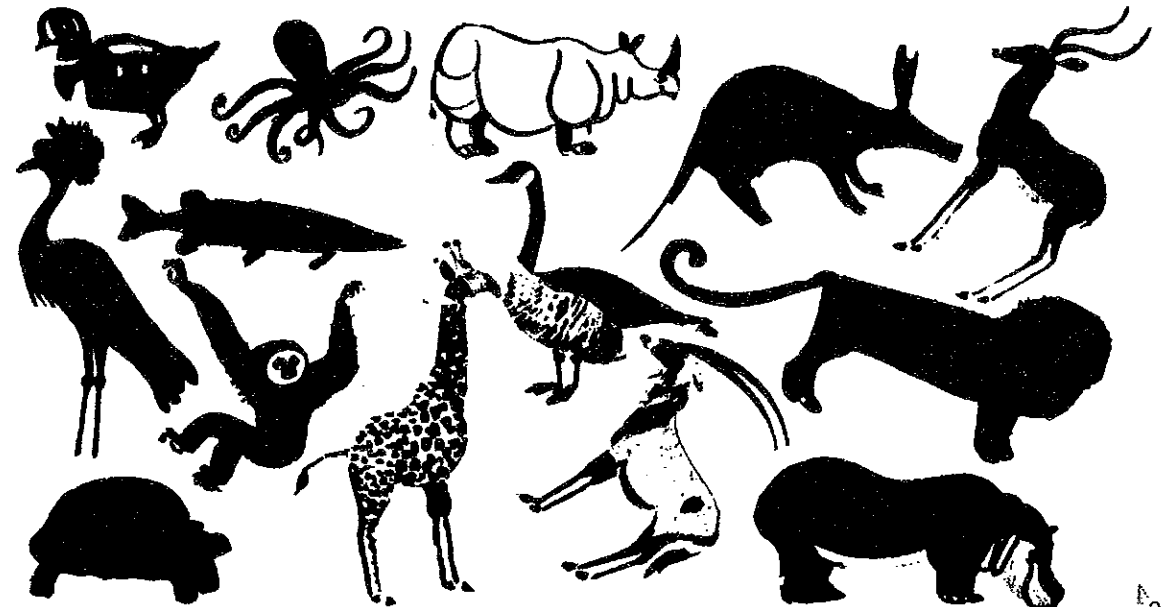
This esoteric tidbit activated my mind which molded thought suggesting a better-than-present design of species homo sapiens erectus (person-kind primate). Why not combine the best qualities of selected creatures to produce (at least in words) a super all-purpose, all-environment, all-everything critter? Why not...here goes a try for the recipe and specifications:

1. Take one body and trunk of an ELEPHANT (for strength, and versatility to grab and hold things - as well as to squirt!).
2. Add the head and brain of a MAN; also include man's arms, hands and fingers (obviously to do the things that an elephant's trunk can't do). Man's optical system to embody the keen vision of a HAWK, the OWL'S ability to see in the dark and the FISH'S faculty to perceive what's going on in a radius of almost 360°.
3. Insert the legs of a HORSE for travel speed overground.
4. Attach the wings of a BIRD, the fins and gills of a FISH, the sharply - pointed front end of an EARTHWORM. The latter would enable burrowing underground, which also cultivates the earth-Charles Darwin reckoned that ten tons of soil per acre are brought to the surface by earthworms each year. Wow! According to authorities, there may be as many as 3 million earthworms beneath an acre of a well-kept lawn. Astronomical!
5. Append one prehensile tail of a SPIDER MONKEY; the most expert of all tail-hangers. Such tails are also handy helpers for picking up or holding objects. Imagine what a dandy aid this would be to a busy wall paper hanger.

6. Cover the whole with the strong, armored shell of a TURTLE (this would permit sticking the neck out - both physically and orally - ready for a quick withdraw). For added protection to the horse legs, sheath them with the steel-tough hide of the INDIAN RHINOCEROS.

There you have it...an all purpose, - live anywhere, - eat anything, living animal that could get along underground, underwater, on the land and in the air ... a complete omnivore feeding on dirt, insects, hay, plankton as well as such other goodies as may be available in the future.

I will not attempt to assemble, by delineation, the above group of unusually effective body parts taken from the miscellaneous cast of especially selected inhabitants of Planet Earth. Each possess a feature not shared with another species. Possibly one (or more) of my readers with an artistic bent will accept this challenge. Someone who has the required imaginative graphic ability; a mixture of Dr. Zeuss, a touch of Rube Goldberg, with a background in bio-engineering. The recent findings in the transfer of genes and the culture of enzymes and spermatazoa may in tomorrow's tomorrow, develop knowledge to enable the creation of such a Meisterstück by a future team of bio-scientists, say - The Doctors Frank and Stein.



Hodge-Podge of Animal Parts

HIP/- HIPPO/- RAY/
HIPPOPOTAMUS/- YAY!

Last June 7th, "Puddles", a baby hippo was delivered by mother "Patty" who weighs about 3500 pounds. The new born scaled in at 75 pounds and now, four months later, has more than doubled in poundage; 160 # give or take, whether wet or dry. The gestation period was eight months. Baby hippos are somewhat unusual in that they are conceived under water, born underwater and nurse underwater. Hippos lead a rather submarine life being submersed a good part of their time. They are well adapted to subaquatic life; their nostrils are provided with valves enabling them to stay completely under for considerable periods - the normal maximum is about 4 minutes. Our pair of hippos came to Milwaukee about 4 years ago. Patty and her husband Pinky had their first baby about one year ago. It died of pneumonia at the age of one month.

The native habitat of Hippopotamus* Amphibiis is the equatorial region of Africa in and near the great lakes and rivers. Their principal home-town diet is strictly vegetarian, consisting of aquatic plants, grasses and low-growing foliage. At the zoo, one hippo eats a daily ration of 40 lbs. of bread, 25 lbs. of lettuce and 30 lbs. of alfalfa plus a handful of vitamins and mineral supplements. Its complex digestive system involving a three-chambered stomach together with yards and yards of stomach (lots of room for them) obtains full value from this intake. Rumination, however, does not occur.

This peaceable, thick-baloney-shaped mammal is a non-killer but is, on occasion, a killee; its chief enemy is the crocodile.

*NOT: Hoppapitimus or Pitahoppimus



AN EAR-ELEPHANT* TABULATION

SCHMECKRIC SYSTEM

HINTS AND EQUIVALENTS

- One Teaspoonful 60 Drops
- Milwaukee to San Francisco . . . 2244 Miles
- One Cubic Foot 7.4805 Gallons
- Boiling Point of H₂O 212 Degrees
- One Gallon 768 Teaspoons
- Henry Aaron's Batting AVE. . . 308 (9/11)
- One Turkish Piaster \$0.441 (June 51)
- Buona Sera = Guten Abend = Bon Soire
- Standard & Poor's Price Index-90 stocks 335.1 (Sept. 51)
- A Struck Bushel 124446 Cu.ft.
- Grand Slam (vulnerable) . . . 1500 points
- Population of Siam 15,718,004 (1946)
- Two Pints = One Quart = 32oz = 64 Tablespoons
- Bratkartoffel + Schweinekotelette = One (1) Heartburn*
- Height of Washington Monument 555.55 Feet
- One Peck = 8 Quarts = 1/4 Bushel = 11 lb. of Apples
- Production of Cars & Trucks . . . 170,049 (Week 9/51)
- One Scruple or 0.331 Ounces 20 Grains
- Three Teaspoons = One Tablespoon = 1/2 Oz. = 1/3 Sigger
- GRAND TOTAL 15,894,140.75219 Things

* NOTE: 0000 2000: 1

UFEK 1955

*pronounced IRRELEVANT/ir-rēl-ē-vānt: not related, inapplicable, non pertinent, without connection... (to animals or Animal Talk...with apologies from your editor)

WAS IS ALREADY MIT DER ENGLISH SPELLING?

- ZOO ..as in.. too
- ZO to
- ZWO..... two
- ZHO who
- ZEW.....new
- ZOU you
- ZUE due
- ZWE ewe
- ZIEU lieu
- ZOE..... shoe
- ZIEWview
- ZOUGHthrough
- ZUEUE gueue
- ZUGHHugh
- ZEU Zeus
- ZIOUX Sioux

NU ?



This is the symbol adopted by both American Zoological Park and International Wildlife Conservation Organizations to identify vanishing wild animal species.

Unless the endangered animals are protected along with their homes in the wild, there is cause for alarm that the species will be obliterated on earth and lost to future generations of people to see and enjoy.

ANIMAL FOR THOUGHT

← CONTEST →

You are cordially invited to submit your design of a Super Species. It can be in writing with or without a sketch showing the body parts assembly or it can be only the drawing with a few explanatory remarks. The best entry will be presented in the next issue of Animal Talk and the writer and/or artist will receive a \$10 value gold-filled Zoociety pin. Mail your entry to the editor..name and address on the front page masthead.

WPK

SEE PAGES TWO AND THREE



SAMPSON

There he sits so big and sprawled.

King of the zoo.

You know who.

That's Samson, the gorilla!

Weighing quarter of a ton.

Postcard face.

Sluggish pace.

That's Samson, _____

Aging patches, slightly bald.

Yellow teeth.

Banana breath.

That's Sampson, the _____



Smashing grapes just for fun.

Does he sneeze?

Yes, quite a breeze.

Samson, our gorilla.

sister mary primate

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE ZOO PRIDE

1976 was a proud year for America. 1976 was also a proud year for the ZOO PRIDE, whose members did an outstanding job in their second year of endeavors. Enthusiasm, dedication and dependability in various facets of service, made this truly a year to be proud of.

A sincere "thank you" goes to each and every volunteer who gave of his and her time, talents and energy serving in the Information Booth, working in the various houses as Zoo Guides, conducting Guided Tours for visiting groups, manning the phone, hours on end, to get workers for various jobs, addressing hundreds of envelopes and doing other clerical work, taking an adult and children count survey for the picnic, making signs and maps, plus many more tasks.

Another special "thank you" to that dedicated group who spent hours, days and weeks putting together an outstanding Training Course for all volunteers to partake of, so they might have a better knowledge of their Zoo. There was study, research, excellent presentations and a monumental job of typing, to enable a booklet to be made up to present to every person in attendance.

This was a year of hard work, which resulted in worthwhile accomplishments. No matter how big or how small the job you did, it was appreciated to the fullest, because each and every one of you was important in making the Zoo Pride something to be proud of.

The passing of summer does not mean a let down of activities for the Zoo Pride members. Our aim is to be a year around active group. So don't let the fall, winter or spring doldrums get you. Come out and keep with it. Following are some of the HOPES and PLANS for the coming months.

(more overside)

(ZOO PRIDE, continued)

Beginning the middle of October, we hope to have STATION/ZOO GUIDES in all of the Houses. We hope to put this plan into operation 2 days a week. 10 people (each one working an A.M. or P.M. shift) would be needed for each day. Then starting in November and continuing through March, we hope to be able to conduct MINI TOURS on Sundays at 10:15 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. These will be 15 minute tours conducted by ZOO GUIDES. Each month a different house will be staffed: Nov.--Feline House, Dec.--Primate House, Jan.--Reptile House, Feb.--Aviary House, March--Small Mammal House.

You'll notice throughout the above paragraph the word HOPE is oft repeated. Only YOU can make HOPE become REALITY. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THESE WORTHWHILE HOPES MATERIALIZE. New Members, Seasoned Zoo Guides from the summer project and Information Booth workers, who are otherwise out of work for 7 months--WE NEED YOU!! Call Elaine Klieger 782-8030 about volunteering.

Now maybe you're saying, "Yes, I'd like to, but I just don't know enough about the Zoo and animals to be able to." NO PROBLEM! NO EXCUSE! Don Byars and his committee are offering a VOLUNTEERS TRAINING COURSE for ALL members, to inform them about all the different areas of the Zoo, its history, philosophy, facilities, etc. For new members and those who missed the spring course, it is a MUST. For those who took the spring course, it could still be exciting to take it as a refresher. With the knowledge you gain from this course, you can successfully serve in any capacity of the Zoo Pride. Don's number is, 962-9032. The dates and hours are as follow:
 First session--Thurs. Oct. 21 6:55 P.M.
 Second session--Sat. Oct. 23 9:10 A.M.
 Third session--Thurs. Oct. 28 6:55 P.M.

Each session is approximately 2½ hours long.

So Big Thanks for the past, now let's keep up the Good Work for the Future!

June McLean
 June McLean

PUFFIN, Bird of the Open Seas, \$5.95...Lynne Martin, illustrated by Ted Lewin...Morrow Junior Books...92pp...Well written and pictured with wash drawings. A most informative book for the 8 to 12 year olds. Coverage in depth of a facinating seabird, a junior edition of the penguin but far more colorful, both in appearance and action; best known for its bizarre facial coloration during spring breeding, which has earned for it the nickname Clown of the Sea. Its habitat - the rough seas of the North Atlantic. The author traces the Puffin's life from courtship and mating to nesting and the maiden flight of the fledgling made alone in the dark of night. A possible Christmas gift for all ages.



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Our Lion Pride Salutes Zoo Pride