

ALIVE

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY • SUPPORT • EDUCATE • CONSERVE •

FALL 1991



Jay Johnson
91

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER



YOU. OUR KEY TO THE FUTURE.

While this month marks the end of my two-year term as Chairman of the Zoological Society's Board of Directors, it also marks the beginning of a challenging future for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County.

When I look back at the past couple of years, I see activities marked by innovation and facilitated by a strong partnership between the Society and the Zoo. I see wide-ranging conservation and education programs benefiting our children and our future. I see Society membership and donor programs attracting generous individuals interested in contributing their resources toward the fulfillment of the Society's mission. And, I see our tireless volunteers donating much of their precious time to special events, education programs and daily operational activities. It took the joint efforts of all these individuals to accomplish the lofty goals we set for the Society two years ago.

As the Society prepares for the uncertain economic times ahead, its ability to meet the demands of the future depend largely on your continued support. In addition, we need a broader awareness within our community about the Zoological Society, its mission and its programs. This educational process will require the Society to channel more of its resources into communicating its message, as we attempt to attract new members, donors, volunteers, and participants in Society programs.

The Zoological Society's staff and Board of Directors have recently completed a detailed long-range strategic plan. Without your continued support, the Society will not be able to achieve the ambitious conservation, education and Zoo enhancement goals established in that plan.

Thank you in advance for your contribution to the future growth and success of the Zoological Society and the Milwaukee County Zoo. And, thank you for the opportunity to lead our dynamic organization through these last two prosperous and exciting years.

Bernard C. Ziegler III
 Bernard C. Ziegler III, Chairman
 Zoological Society of Milwaukee County



The mission of the Zoological Society is to support the Milwaukee County Zoo, educate people about the importance of wildlife and the environment, and to take part in conserving wildlife and endangered species.

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ALIVE

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY • SUPPORT • EDUCATE • CONSERVE

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 4

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ON THE COVER:

This painting of a Rockhopper Penguin by Jay Jocham, an endowed artist with the Zoological Society, appears on the cover of one of four note cards featuring different birds in the Aviary. To purchase a set of eight note cards, call (414) 258-2333.

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MOMMY MANDARA

When Melanie Bond, a great ape keeper at Washington D.C.'s National

Zoo, walks up to the floor-to-ceiling glass enclosure in the Great Ape House with a bowl full of grapes and raisins, an alert and photogenic gorilla named Mandara approaches the glass.

Throng of zoogoers marching through the great ape house rush toward the exhibit—not to see Mandara, but to see the tiny, four-and-a-half pound infant she is carrying.

To many in the crowd, this newborn, with pink feet and fingertips and sparse gray hair, is just another cute gorilla. To the folks at the National Zoo, however, it represents the first gorilla birth at their zoo in almost two decades. To conservationists, it symbolizes a brighter future for the highly endangered Lowland Gorilla. And to Milwaukee, it means a proud past.

Mandara, born on loan from Milwaukee at Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo, arrived at the Milwaukee County Zoo wrapped in blankets about nine years ago. She had to leave her mother, Milwaukee's

Terra, behind because Terra didn't know how to be a mom.

A committed corps of volunteers and Zoo staff members called Mandara Moms,



Mandara, the Milwaukee County Zoo's hand-raised Lowland Gorilla on loan to the National Zoo, shows off her new son. The birth is a victory in the struggle to save the Lowland Gorilla from extinction.

filled the role. At first, the group monitored Mandara's development in four-hour shifts around the clock—feeding, cuddling, bathing and playing with baby Mandy. After about

a year of life in her new Milwaukee home, Mandara welcomed another baby ape, Kuja, into her exhibit.

It was up to zoologists here and other "matchmakers" participating in the Lowland Gorilla Species Survival Plan (SSP) coordinated by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, to transfer Mandara and Kuja into a more natural environment in which young captive gorillas could socially develop and reproduce successfully.

So, off they went to the National Zoo, where Mandara and Kuja joined three other unrelated gorillas, one of which also lived at the Milwaukee County Zoo, to begin socialization with other adult gorillas. Together, they simulated a social structure that might exist in the wild.

The strategy worked. Mandara found Gus, and "Baby G"—short for Baby

Gorilla—was born. Because Mandara was hand raised and because she had never given birth before, primate keepers here and at the National Zoo were curious to find out how Mandara would respond to the baby.

"What was unusual was that Mandara held the baby as if she had given birth a million times before," said Lisa Stevens, collection manager of primates, pandas, and camels at the National Zoo. "She was real relaxed and the infant nursed within the first 12 hours."

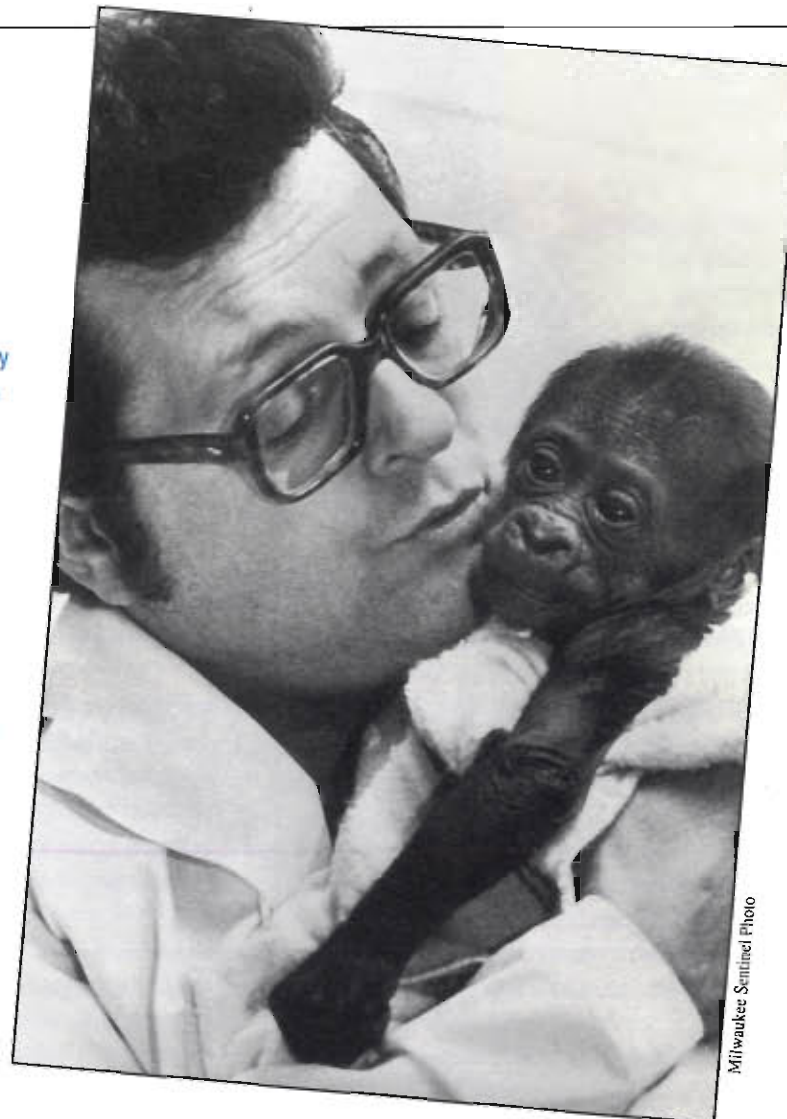
Stevens credits Mandara's pregnancy not only to Mandara's careful upbringing here but also with the National Zoo's recent attempts to naturalize the apes' facility on the zoo grounds. "Fifteen years ago, we didn't have the collection we have because we didn't have the right facility—only small, steel-barred cages," Stevens said. "Our goal was to build a facility that could house groups of animals that we could mix and match with the help of the Species Survival Plan and to sustain a healthy, breeding population that's genetically diverse."

Following recent studies suggesting that companionship is a hallmark of successful breeding programs, National Zoo officials didn't change Mandara's routine at any time during or after her pregnancy and let Mandara raise her baby within the group. "She was on exhibit indoors and outdoors and, as always, spent her days with other gorillas," Stevens said.

This group- or peer-raising approach to gorilla rearing is a radical departure from the way baby gorillas were reared just a couple of decades ago.

"Only a few years ago, in order to protect a baby gorilla from any possible neglect or abuse if either was evident, it

Milwaukee County Zoo Primate Area Supervisor Sam LaMalfa cuddles Mandara shortly after the baby Lowland Gorilla arrived in Milwaukee from Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo in 1982 to be hand reared by a group of community volunteers and Milwaukee County Zoo staff. They called themselves "Mandara Moms."



was perfectly acceptable to pull an infant from its mother, depriving the mom of any mothering experience," said Sam LaMalfa, the Milwaukee County Zoo's primate area supervisor who was intimately involved in Mandara's upbringing.

"With Mandara, we learned that it is possible to not only hand rear a gorilla that is socially competent, but also one that can successfully rear her own offspring."

Zoologists say they are continually learning from past mistakes, that it takes a long time to correct mistakes, and that they can't afford to make many more. They are running out of time. Some estimates show only between 10,000 and 40,000 gorillas left in the wild, and only about 600 Lowland Gorillas in captivity. Habitat destruction, human exploitation and poaching all are contributing to the decline of this endangered species.

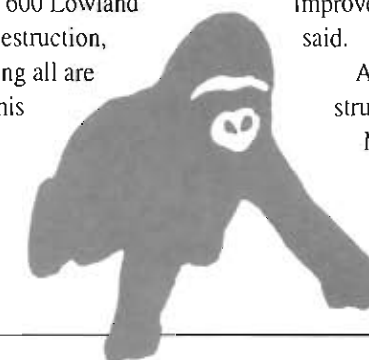
And even in captivity, gorilla births aren't happening

as quickly as conservationists would like.

To sustain the captive population through breeding and maintaining genetic diversity—especially as much as exists in the wild—is going to mean zoos will have to take a more active role in replicating the animals' natural habitat and their social structure, said Jan Rafert, Milwaukee County Zoo curator of primates and small mammals.

Renovation of the Zoo's Primate House and the new Great Ape Facility will help the Milwaukee County Zoo with the first half of this equation. "With renovated facilities, we'll be able to let all our primates enjoy an improved quality of life in an improved environment," Rafert said.

And, to replicate the social structure of wild gorillas, the Milwaukee County Zoo



continued on next page


joins other zoos in loaning and borrowing animals to manufacture social units.

"Mandara is one of the best examples of inter-zoo cooperation," Rafert said. "There was a good chance that her genes could have been lost had she not passed them on through her baby."

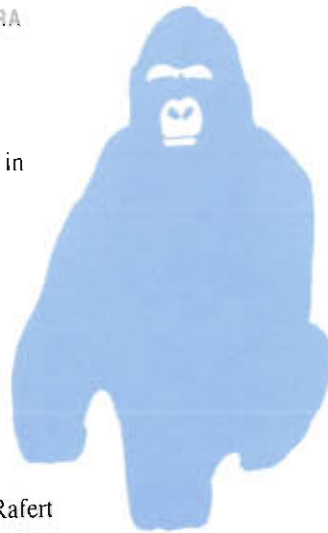
Mandara's new social unit is a telling example of the success of the SSP exchange among zoos.

Consider her "family": Kuja, who is on loan from Brookfield Zoo, was born in Memphis and peer raised in Milwaukee; Augustus (Gus), who is on loan from New York's Bronx Zoo and was peer raised at Boston's Stone Zoo; Tomoka, who was born at the National Zoo in 1961; and wild-born Haloko, who is on loan from the Philadelphia Zoo.

Stevens hopes all the members of Mandara's extended family do their part in ensuring their own survival. But she realizes that she and other members of the Lowland Gorilla SSP share equal responsibility for the species' future.

"Mandara is a positive step in that direction," Stevens said. "You need to know, though, that Mandara is not just our success; she and her baby are the success of the whole SSP and the involvements of many zoos, especially the Milwaukee County Zoo." 

Mandara Moms, or the group of volunteers and staff who helped bring up baby Mandara, include Barb Bell, Carol Boyd, Marge Cuccio, Joyce Ebersold, Doris Gola, Jane Haas, Robin Higgins, Jean Iding, Jody Mateer, Jo Ann Matuszak, Lorraine Straszewski and Judy Van Till.



A Trumpeting Success

About 41 Trumpeter Swan cygnets, or baby swans, learned how to behave this summer from a group of five university students who spent their days walking in camouflaged float tubes and pulling life-size Trumpeter Swan decoys to food patches in North Central Wisconsin's Mead Wildlife Area marsh as part of an internship program sponsored by the Zoological Society. The students' float tubes, made of wood, bamboo, chicken wire and inner tubes, were designed to prevent the cygnets from seeing the students and imprinting on humans.

"The focus of this project was to help the cygnets become imprinted on the decoys—not humans—and learn to associate the decoys with food while becoming imprinted on a specific wetland," said Sumner Matteson, state-wide project coordinator of the Trumpeter Swan Recovery Program.

Through the decoys, students also taught the cygnets lessons in self defense. Equipped with tape players, the decoys would broadcast alarm calls when predators were in the area, summoning the cygnets to group around the decoy.

The experiment, which included 48 cygnets hatched at the Milwaukee County Zoo, worked. Sumner credits the program's success to the importance Milwaukee County Zoo staff placed on the cygnets' early exposure to decoys. "From the chicks' first days of life, they knew to associate the swan decoy with food," Matteson said.

True success of the program, however, will be measured when Matteson and his staff can determine how many of the cygnets reach the fledgling stage this fall and how many return to Mead Wildlife Area next spring.

This project is only one of many contributions the Zoo and the Zoological Society have made to the Trumpeter Swan Recovery Program. Over the last three years, for instance, the Zoo has incubated 167 Trumpeter Swan eggs in incubators purchased for the program by the Society.

"We're hoping all of our efforts will help the DNR reach its goal of establishing a self-sustaining, migratory population of 20 breeding pairs in the state by the year 2000," said Ed Diebold, the Zoo's curator of birds.

Wildlife Wishes

In an effort to stimulate interest in conservation biology, the Zoological Society will be awarding research grants up to \$1,500 to deserving Wisconsin-based student applicants pursuing post-graduate degrees in topics related to wildlife distribution. For a complete grant description, write to Gay Reinartz, conservation coordinator, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226. Grant applications are due January 15, 1992.



Young Trumpeter Swans group around a decoy in the Mead Wildlife Area marsh.

Photo by Becky Abel

MEMBERANDUMS

NEW Critter Conversations

When was the last time you shared a room with a bat? Here's your chance to get an up-close look at one of the Milwaukee County Zoo's bats and talk to the people who take care of them on, appropriately, Halloween, October 31. Join John Wightman, small mammal area supervisor, and Jan Rafert, primate and small mammal curator, for an informal chat about bats. Explore the myths associated with these mysterious mammals, learn how they use echolocation to find food, and discuss why it's important to save these valuable animals. Critter Conversations will be held in the Education Center in the Stackner Heritage Farm at the Zoo and will begin at 7 p.m. Admission to Critter Conversations is free, and parking is \$4. To make a reservation, call (414) 258-2333.

Concert for the Birds

A concert of avian themes, co-sponsored by the Zoological Society, will open the Milwaukee Civic Symphony Orchestra's 1991-'92 season on October 13 at the Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells St. The concert will include C.T. Griffes' "The White Peacock," Respighi's "The Birds," Rossini's Overture to "La Gazza Ladra," and Rimsky-Korsakov's "Le Coq d'Or." Tickets to the performance, which begins at 3 p.m., cost \$7.50 per adult and \$6 per student or senior citizen. A percentage of all ticket sales will benefit the newly renovated Aviary. For tickets, call the Zoological Society office at (414) 258-2333.

Holiday Gift Ideas

Looking for a special gift for a special person? Here are a few suggestions that will help you complete your shopping list and help us help the animals:

- A giraffe: Fill your tallest order by adopting the Zoo's new baby giraffe (see "What's Gnu," page 19). With the adoption

comes a certificate of adoption, recognition on our donor board, an invitation to the "parents-only" Family Reunion Picnic, a gift card, species information, and a plush toy giraffe. All for \$28 (includes shipping and handling). Call Animal Adoption at (414) 258-2223.

- Membership in the Zoological Society: In 1992, let your friends share your appreciation of the animals in our Zoo by giving them a new gift membership in the Zoological Society...and a plush toy wild animal (limited-time offer). Give your friends the chance to have fun at the Zoo year-round for free and enjoy all the other benefits of membership you do. Just fill out and return the form in this magazine or call (414) 258-2333.

- Aviary Posters/Note Cards: Perfect as stocking stuffers or gifts to staff members, the Zoological Society's commemorative Aviary posters and limited-edition sets of note cards are available for \$5 each plus tax through the Zoological Society office,

(414) 258-2333.

- Parcel of Paradise: Purchase a piece of property. In the Aviary, that is. You can get the name of a friend or relative on one of the plots on a permanent sponsorship board to be mounted in the Aviary's Eastflight Hall. Call Debbie Martindale at (414) 258-2333 for more details...or a private showing. \$50 per parcel.

Orangappeal

Is there such a critter at the Zoo? Not at the Zoo, but there will be one in your mailbox soon. Contributions to this year's orangutan appeal will give the Zoo's orangutans, Dicky, Saba and Thomas O., their first chance to go outdoors. The orang exhibit renovation, which will give the oranges more space and a more naturalistic environment, will be a part of the larger Primate Complex renovation, scheduled to be completed in spring 1993.

Pack Your Bags For...

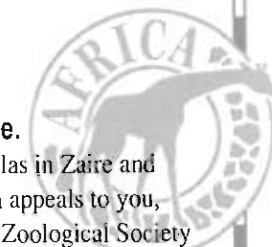
Indonesia.

Reserve a couple of weeks in March, 1992 to enjoy a Zoological Society-sponsored trip to the magical island world of Indonesia. This is your opportunity to visit the scenically and culturally fascinating islands of Bali, Komodo and Sumatra and live with the warm and friendly Indonesian people. To experience Indonesia's beautiful tropical waters and lush jungles and to see their abundant wildlife can be more than the stuff of travelers' dreams if you join the Society on this trip, scheduled for March 13-29, 1992.

Each safari will be conducted by Dr. Gil Boese, president of the Zoological Society. For a touring itinerary of either safari call Susan Hauke, (414) 258-2333.

Tanzania and Zaire.

If tracking gorillas in Zaire and camping in Tanzania appeals to you, then plan to join the Zoological Society on a trip to both of these countries, January 13-February 3, 1992. You'll live in some of the areas' finest lodges and camps and travel safely within sight of rhinos, eland, lions, giraffes, hippos, gorillas, kudu, and other game grazing on plains studded with baobab trees and lush vegetation. Morning and afternoon game drives in Lake Manyara and Serengeti National Parks will let you see the huge herds of wildebeest, zebra, elephant and other wildlife that have made these parks so famous. The trip also will give travelers a chance to enjoy the countries' masses of spectacular bird life. Truly an unforgettable adventure.



TROPICAL
RainForest
 The Nursery of Life

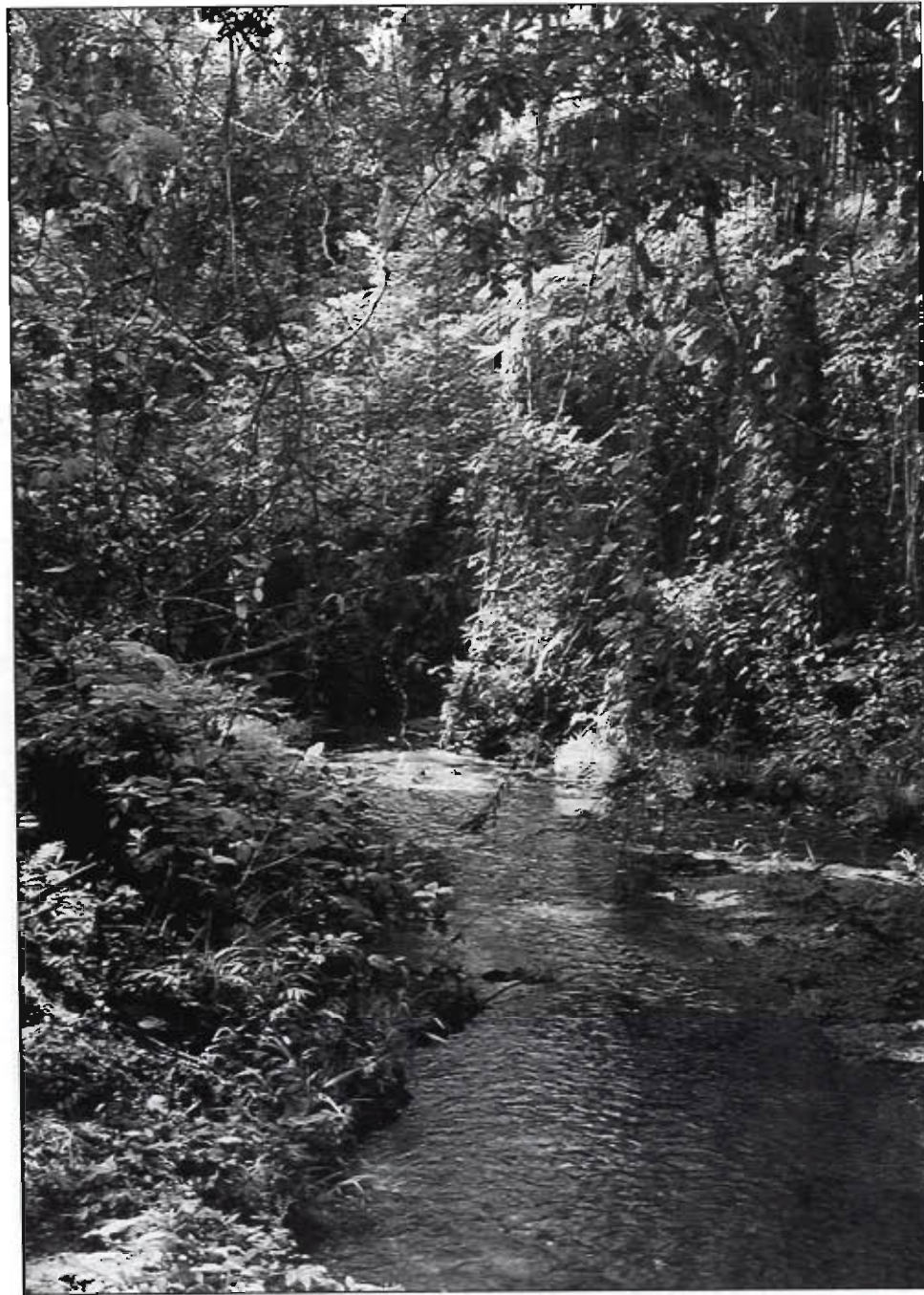


Photo by Dr. Gil Boese

A view of a Riverine, or an upland rain forest, in Belize—home to jaguars and hundreds of other animal and plant species.

We are lucky. We can experience the rich diversity and visual beauty of rain forests around the world right here in Milwaukee by paying a visit to conservation-oriented institutions like the Zoo.

Yet, we probably don't realize that in the same time it takes for us to "do the Zoo," an area of rain forest the size of Philadelphia is destroyed.

This alarming rate of rain forest destruction makes life on Earth a chancey enterprise. The world's rain forests are home to at least two-thirds of all plant and animal species. Called by many "an ecological catastrophe," rain forest destruction could force the next generation to live in a world with fewer than half of the animal and plant species populating our world today.

Is this reason enough to save the rain forest...worth more than working toward saving our own lives?

It's a good question, but there's more to rain forests than just biological diversity and beauty. We rely on the rain forest as much as the plants and animals that live within them for many agricultural, medicinal and industrial products we take for granted: vegetables, spices, oils, waxes and so many more. In short, our future depends on the existence of wild plant and animal species.

But the critical importance of these species extends far beyond how we might use them and cannot be measured in dollars alone. Every living species on earth depends on the other, and as some species become extinct, others are at risk. The consequences of this alarming interruption in the connector of all living things can be

terrifying—to animals and humans.

Complex ecosystems made up of these intricate webs of interdependence exist in tropical forests around the world, with only three large blocks of forest remaining in South America's Amazon Basin, in West Central Africa's Congo Basin and in the Malay Archipelago between Southeastern Asia and Australia. Not all endangered ecosystems, however, are found in the tropics. Some are found right here in the United States.

Though the rate of deforestation in all of these areas varies, the same destructive forces are at work in each. Individual farmers and large agribusinesses strip miles of land for farming, only to find the soil that sustained rain forests cannot sustain crops for more than a few years. Loggers cut huge swaths of rain forest for precious hardwoods like mahogany and teak. Ranchers who take over thousands of acres of rain forests find that the grasses that grow in place of rain forests are nutrient-poor and can sustain cattle for only a few years. And, such large-scale development projects as roads and hydroelectric dams threaten the future of rain forests. By "improving" the earth, loggers, farmers, cattle ranchers and developers push species toward extinction.

Although the Zoo and Zoological Society cannot solely turn the tide of forest destruction, the Society is helping

stem the tide of habitat devastation and at the same time working to preserve the future of the endangered black howler monkey, or "baboon," through its co-sponsorship of an 18-square-mile Belizean reserve called the Community Baboon Sanctuary. This sanctuary is designed to forestall all Belizean farmers from clearing the rain forests along the Belize River for farmland, or from practicing "slash-and-burn" agriculture. To grow crops this way, farmers clear plots of forest by cutting and burning vegetation, allowing the ashes to fertilize poor soil. As crops grown on a plot deplete nutrients from the soil, farmers keep moving on to destroy other patches of forest until huge tracts of rain forests are left behind as infertile wastelands. Through the conservation and education efforts of the Zoological Society, Belize Audubon Society and World Wildlife

Foundation, land owners living in the

Community Baboon Sanctuary are beginning to realize that their future and the health of their land and its inhabitants means practicing ecologically sound farming techniques.

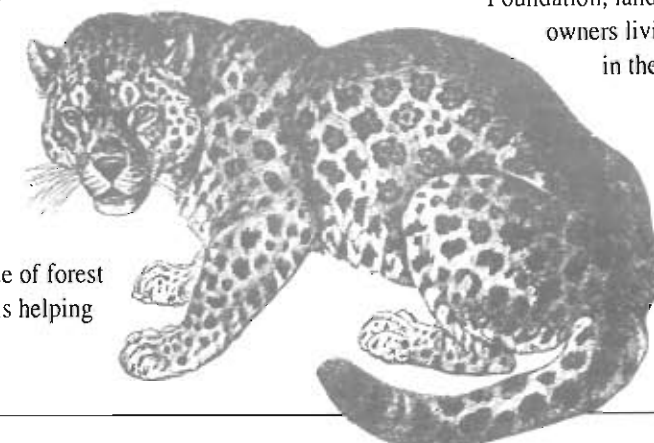
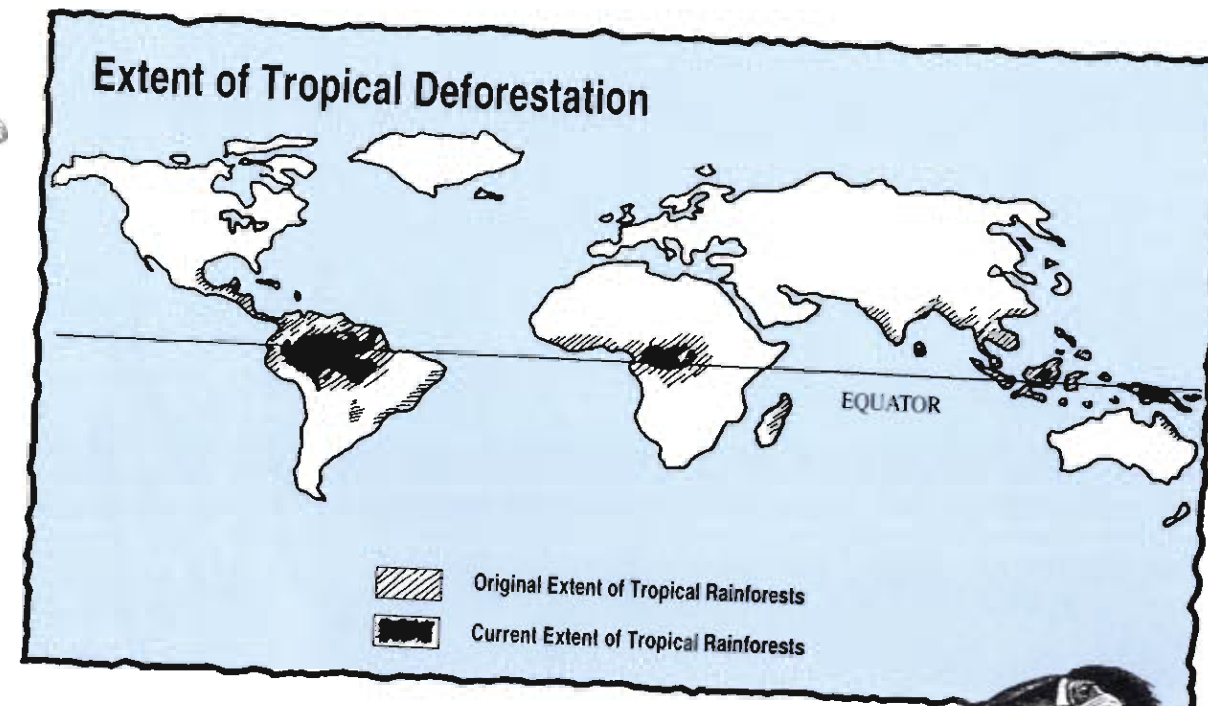
The Milwaukee County Zoo also is trying to save threatened animal species from extinction through breeding endangered species in captivity. Because of breeding loan arrangements made with zoos around the world, the future for animals like the Lowland Gorilla, Bali Mynah, and Siberian Tiger is more secure.

The Zoo's goal in cooperative breeding, however, isn't an end in itself. The broader goal is to reintroduce animals to their native habitats.

You can help us work toward that end. The next time you visit the Zoo, stop by the rhino. Stop by the Malayan tapir. Stop by the jaguar. Stop by the Fig Parrots. And learn about these animals' plight in the wild.

Then, walk away with a feeling of personal responsibility for their future.

Sources: Environmental Defense Fund, World Wildlife Foundation





Green Aracari

You Can Help

With every word of this article you read, animals' rain forest habitats are being destroyed. Though the problem is far-reaching and seems overwhelming, you can help.

INFORM YOURSELF:

- Visit the Milwaukee Public Museum's rain forest exhibit or the Milwaukee County Zoo's newly renovated Aviary.
- Arrange to see the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibition, "Tropical Rain Forests: A Disappearing Treasure," which will be shown at Chicago's Botanical Garden, January-March, 1993, and at St. Paul's Science Museum of Minnesota, May-August, 1993.
- Learn more about rain forest destruction by subscribing to magazines that run stories on forests, such as *Audubon*, *International Wildlife*, *National Geographic*, *Natural History*.
- Contact the Global Tomorrow Coalition, 1325 Sixth Street, N.W., Suite 915, Washington, D.C. 20005-3104.

REVIEW YOUR LIFESTYLE:

- Don't buy furniture or other timber products that use endangered tropical hardwoods.
- Recycle.
- If you buy tropical plants or animals, be sure they were raised in the United States.
- Buy renewable products that are harvested from — but don't destroy — the rain forest, like tropical fruits, Brazil nuts, cocoa and rubber.

WORK WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS:

- Write to public officials to let them know where you stand on the issue of deforestation.
- Urge congressional representatives to increase support for programs that slow tropical deforestation.

TRAVEL TO TROPICAL COUNTRIES:

- See the wonders of a rain forest for yourself with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County. See "Memberandums," Pack Your Bags on page 7.
- Find out what local organizations are doing to save the forests.



EDZOOICATION

What I Did This Summer

Writing a paper on "What I Did Over Summer Vacation" came easily to the 2,500+ kids—except the pre-kindergartners—who spent part of their days off this summer, oddly enough, working. At the Zoo, that is.

Through the Zoological Society's summer Day Camp Program, kids from three to 14 got inside the cage of a Siberian Tiger as zookeepers, helped diagnose an animal's illness as veterinarians, drew animals as wildlife artists, ran the Zoo as zoo directors, and more.

Though this year's program featured a record 14 different camps and 91 sessions, Zoological Society members and the community told us to add more. So, we did. You can expect to see 40 more camp sessions listed in next summer's issue of *Alive*. If you have a topic for a camp or new age groups you'd like us to consider, please write to us: Society Camps, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226.

The Day Camp Program is sponsored by Walgreen's.

School at the Zoo

Through a series of hands-on and self-guided educational programs, about 150,000 school children learned about animal adaptations, the importance of protecting ecosystems, how to use the Zoo as a learning laboratory, which animals make good pets and more during the 1990-'91 school year.

If you want to be sure your child's school is receiving information on the Society's education programs, stop by the Education Center at the Zoo for a fall school program brochure—printed on recycled paper and with soy ink—or call (414) 256-5421 with the name of the school you'd like to see on our mailing list.

All school programs are coordinated by Zoological Society Education staff, Zoo Pride volunteers, and the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension.

ALIVE 2

For Kids and families

Kids! When you're finished with the games and puzzles on these pages, get out your crayons and color the animals, just like in your coloring books.

Straw-colored Fruit Bat

This bat is the most widely distributed of the African Fruit Bats. This means that it can be found in places all over the world, including savanna areas as well as tropical rain forests. During the day, this yellowish brown-furred mammal roosts in tall trees, sometimes with hundreds of thousands of other fruit bats. At night, groups of these bats fly from their roost to find ripe fruit. The Straw-colored Fruit Bat, hunted and eaten by humans in some areas, weighs about 11 ounces and is about 8 inches long. The next time you are in the Small Mammal Building at the Zoo, see if you can find this flying mammal.

F.Y.I. What is a tropical rain forest?

Tropical rain forests are the lungs of our planet. They give us much of the oxygen we need to live and supply many products that we take for granted, like fruits, nuts, vegetables, medicines and rubber. Here are some more interesting facts about rain forests:

Where are they?

Near the equator in locations around the world.

How do you feel when you're in one?

Hot and wet. The average temperature in a rain forest is 64 degrees Fahrenheit, and the average annual rainfall is between 80 and 160 inches.

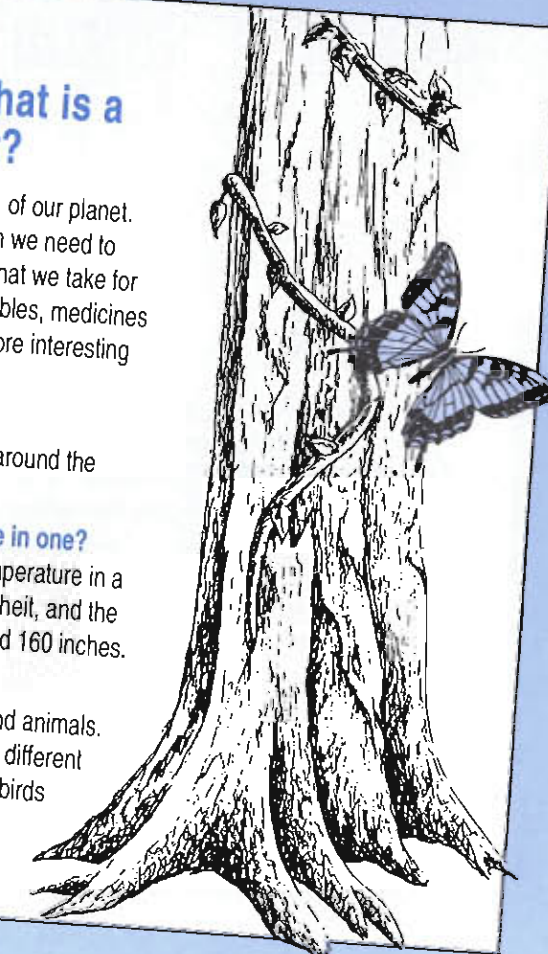
What lives in them?

At least two-thirds of the Earth's plants and animals. One rain forest can have as many as 100 different trees, 600 different butterflies, and lots of birds and mammals.



Alive 2 art by Tricia Rowse

—by Mary Thiry



Animal Spirits

Find the Halloween animals hidden in this haunted house. After you have found them, visit your local library to learn more about these animals.



You should have found a BAT, TARANTULA, WOLF, OWL, SNAKE, CAT and LIZARD.

Winners!

Is it a snake? A lizard? Turtle? Crocodile? All of the above? See if you can guess by the names some of our members gave this mythical reptile. Here are the top winners of the Creative Creature Contest we ran in the last issue of Alive.

Cobliz Crocasnurtle (Snurzle for short)

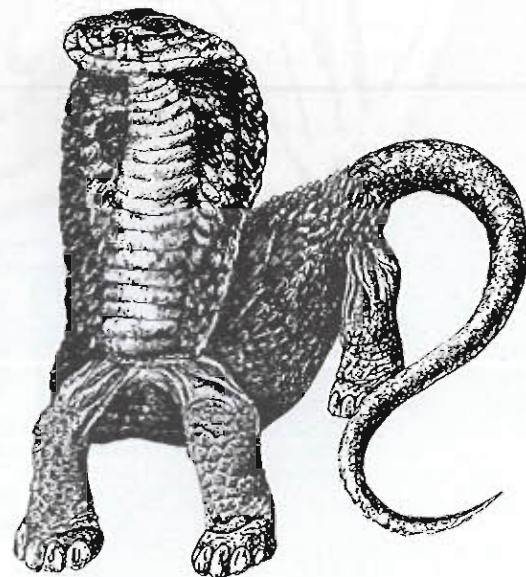
Claire Tomm, 8, Waukesha, WI

Snocizurtle (Snock-iz-irtel)

Jessica DeSelm, 10, Hartford, WI

Cobraturasaurus

Paul Thomas, 6, Elkhorn, WI



THE CURIOUS CORNER

DO KILLER BEES REALLY KILL PEOPLE?

Killer bees are African honeybees that are a lot like the European honeybees living around here. All honeybees are venomous and can hurt or kill people under the right conditions. Usually it takes dozens of bee stings to be dangerous to a person. African honeybees have no more poison than those from Europe, but they travel in large groups more often and are more aggressive. Because of this, they quickly overwhelmed the European bees kept by South Americans for honey. This also makes them dangerous to people. Fortunately, they could not survive northern winters, but this does not mean we will not be affected by "killer bees." Farmers depend on the European bees to pollinate their crops. If the African honeybees overwhelm the European honeybees in the southern United States, there won't be enough European honey bees to pollinate crops and we will all pay a lot more for food.



Submitted by: Sarah Terez Rosenblum, 12, Shorewood

CAN A TARANTULA HURT ME?

Tarantulas are big, hairy spiders that movies like to show as monsters. They have a poisonous bite that they use to catch crickets and other insects for dinner. Even a large tarantula does not have enough poison in it to kill an adult mouse, let alone a person. Some people are allergic to spider bites, so a tarantula's bite could make them sick. But to most of us, tarantulas are interesting and harmless animals.

Submitted by: Brian Radcliffe, 4, Wauwatosa

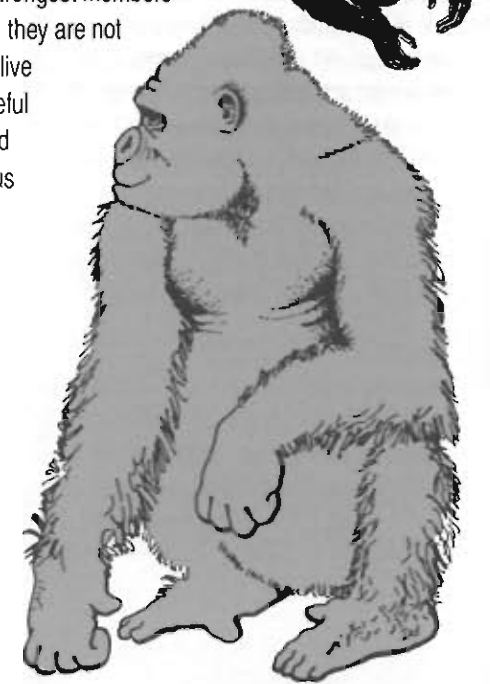
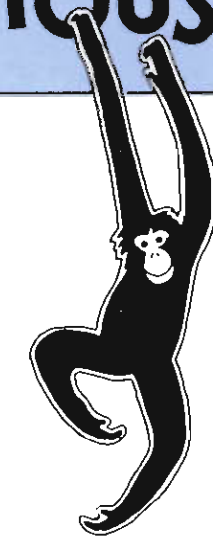
-by Pete Feldner



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN APE AND A GORILLA?

A gorilla is an ape, but an ape is not necessarily a gorilla. A gorilla is just one kind of ape, just like Pepsi is just one kind of cola. Chimpanzees, bonobos, orangutans, siamangs, and gibbons are other kinds of apes. Even though gorillas are the largest and strongest members of the ape family, they are not monsters. They live together in peaceful family groups and are not dangerous to people unless threatened. So, unless you are a banana or a threat, you will not be hurt by gorillas.

Submitted by: Kelly Hughes, 10, Waukesha



If you are a curious person, age 12 or younger, who has a question about animals or the zoo, write to: Zoological Society, "The Curious Corner", 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226. If your question is selected for publication, you will receive an inflatable Jungle Giraffe. The three-foot-tall animal includes fun facts about the giraffe.

Education Programs

The following fall and winter educational programs are coordinated by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County and the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension.

KIDS DAY OUT

What are you going to do with your kids during this year's Wisconsin State Teachers Convention? Here's your chance to enroll them in "Kids Day Out," an educational program to be held in the Education Center at the Zoo on Thursday and Friday, October 24 and 25. The program, for children ages 6-11, will include arts and crafts, recreation, movies, lunch, a Zoo tour and more! **To register:** Call (414) 256-5421.

TINY TOTS WORKSHOPS

Three-year-old children and their parents can learn about reptiles in October, birds in November, and holiday animals—reindeer, camels and sheep—in December through these 1-1/2 hour, hands-on workshops. All workshops promote learning through art and movement activities, stories and songs. Cost per workshop is \$10 for Zoological Society members and \$12 for non-members (includes parking). Babysitting is available for your other children for \$3.50 per child (\$4 for two children). **To register:** For October, November and/or December programs, call (414) 256-5421. For winter Tiny Tots workshops (January - May), fill out and return the form below. Prices for winter workshops may vary.

PRESCHOOL WORKSHOPS

Children ages four and five and six-year-olds enrolled in kindergarten can learn about mammals of North America in October, birds in November, and reindeer in December in these 2-1/2-hour sessions that include visits to the animals plus other fun learning activities. Cost per workshop is \$8 for Society members and \$10 for non-members. **To register:** For October, November and/or December

programs, call (414) 256-5421. For winter Preschool Workshops (January - May), fill out and return the form below. Prices for winter workshops may vary.

4-H ZOO CLUB

If your children want to learn more about zoo animal management, careers in zoology, environmental studies and nature arts and crafts, then sign them up as members of the 4-H Zoo Club. The club, with members from ages 8-14, meets one Saturday morning each month from December through May and includes opportunities for hands-on learning and Zoo tours. The first meeting is scheduled for December 7. Membership in the 4-H Zoo Club is \$25 for Zoological Society members and \$35 for non-members. Fee includes all supplies, snacks and learning packets. **To register:** Call (414) 256-5421.

PHOTO WORKSHOP

Ready...aim...focus. There's a wealth of photo opportunities in our Zoo. Sassy sea lions. Pearly polar bears. In this 1-1/2-day workshop, animal lover and zoo enthusiast Andrew Holman shares tips on how to take photographs of zoo animals that inspire a sense of wonder and appreciation for our residents. The workshop, called "Animal Photography in Winter," will be held on January 11 and 18, 1992 and will include a slide presentation, lectures, a photo safari through the zoo and a critique of participants' work. Cost is \$25 for Zoological Society members and \$35 for non-members (includes parking). **To register:** Call (414) 256-5421.

WINTER YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS

The Education Department will kick off winter with a whole new menu of educational programs specifically designed for kids at least seven years old and families. **For complete program listings:** Fill out and return the form below.

Order Form: Winter Programs 1991-'92

(facsimiles accepted)

Name _____

Address _____ Phone () _____

For more specific program, registration and fee information on the following winter programs, please check:

- Preschool Workshops, ages 4, 5, and 6 (in kindergarten)
- Tiny Tots, age 3 and parent (January-May)
- New Youth Programs, ages 7+ (December-February)
- New Family Programs (December-February)

Return this form with a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope for each program, per individual, before **November 4** to: Zoological Society Winter Programs, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226

A Family Reunion of a Different Sort



Question: When do dyed-in-the-wool animal lovers have a chance to *really* talk about family members without offending anybody?

Answer: During the Zoological Society's Family Reunion Picnic.

Of course, when "family" are animals, conversation is always easy. And unique.

Here's how one conversation at this summer's picnic went:

"Hello."

"Hi. Great event, huh? What animal's yours?"

"This bonobo. I adopted Eliya for my wife last Christmas. How 'bout you?"

"We're just breezing through Primates to say 'hi' to Suzy Siamang. You know Suzy is being a 'mom' to that new spider monkey?"

"No, really? That's great. Suzy's gotta be in her mid-30's. Well, we promised Pudgy a visit before we leave so we're gonna be on our way. Nice meeting you."

"Same here. Have a fun night."

And have fun they did, with more than 1,000 "parents" gathered at the Zoo after hours for a family reunion of a different sort and, also, a celebration of the Animal Adoption Program's 10th Birthday.

"The reunion picnic is our once-a-year opportunity to invite our 'parents' out to the zoo for an exclusive visit with their animals and the animals' keepers," said Robin Higgins, director of Animal Adoption. "Parents seem to especially enjoy learning about changes in their animals' lifestyles, eating habits and other idiosyncratic traits."

The picnic also gave "parents" and their real families a chance to learn about good pet care, watch a dog obedience demonstration, listen to avian-inspired music, and watch canines demonstrate drug-finding skills.

"Non-parents" visiting the Zoo during

that day, however, got an equal education on animals and their habitats during Animal Adoption Day at the Zoo, a new event sponsored by Tidy Cat3 and Light 97 WLTQ.

Designed to educate Zoo visitors about select animals up for adoption throughout the Zoo, a game of Scavenger Safari sent more than 1,500 determined people onto the grounds to scout for answers to at least these questions: How many major fins does a bluegill have? What color is a bonobo's face? Does a hissing cockroach have wings? How many humps does a Bactrian

Camel have? One resolute girl, in fact, said to her mother, "Don't give me the answers. I can find them myself."

"We've found that most people who come to the Zoo want an education, but they also want to have fun," Higgins said. "Animal Adoption Day and our Family Reunion Picnic certainly seemed to accomplish both."

If you want to get more involved in the care of zoo animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo by adopting an animal, call (414) 258-2223 for a complete species listing.



Carrie Wisniewski collects species information on the Siberian Tiger from Neil Dretzka, the Zoo's feline area supervisor.

ON THE JOB

Carrie Wisniewski, Assistant Animal Adoption Zoological Society of Milwaukee County

When it comes to giving a presentation on an animal to a group of kindergartners barely old enough to spell *elephant*, knowledge of the subject alone won't make the presentation memorable.

"An exotic animal pacing behind you sure helps," said Carrie Wisniewski, the Zoological Society's Animal Adoption assistant.

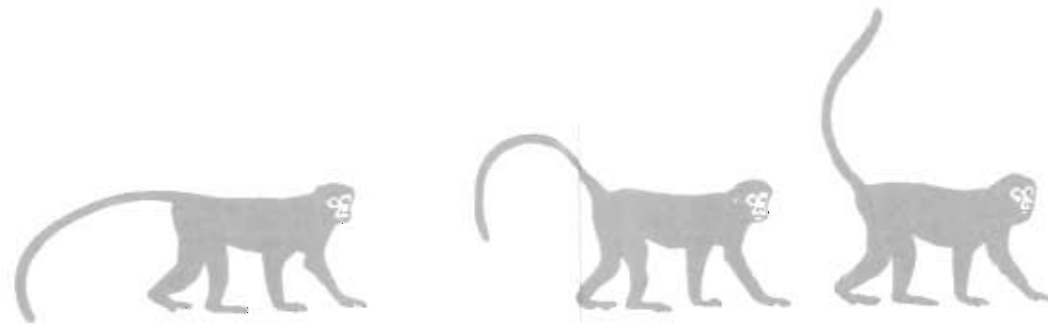
Making presentations to school groups and raising an awareness of the Animal Adoption Program outside the Zoo is the part of her job Wisniewski likes the most. "Most

people aren't aware that through the Animal Adoption Program, anybody—even children—can adopt almost any animal in the Zoo and any group can request a presentation on their animal," she said.

The other part of her job she appreciates is happy customers and hard-working volunteers. "Knowing that our 'parents' care about their animals and that our Zoo Priders care about the program keeps me motivated and the animals happy."



Surrogate Siamang



Mom won't cuddle or feed him, but the baby spider monkey born here just two months ago can't complain about child abuse. The baby's mother was hand raised by humans, so she never had a chance to learn how to be a good mother. Besides, she's young. She's only seven years old.

To give nature a boost, the Zoo's primate staff, veterinary staff and a group of Zoo Pride volunteers banded together to make a unique experiment happen—one in which the baby spider monkey would be raised by Suzy, the oldest living siamang in captivity. It's called cross-genera fostering.

"Our Zoo is one of the few institutions where a lesser ape is being used to foster-mother a New World monkey," said Jan Rafert, the Milwaukee County Zoo's curator of primates and small mammals. "This just hasn't been done too much in captivity."

The experiment, initially conceived by primate keeper Gervis Myles, seems to be benefiting both Suzy, who lost her long-time mate, Unk, in 1989, and the baby spider monkey, who needed a surrogate mother.

The spider monkey's introduction to Suzy, an involved process supervised by Zoo veterinarian Dr.

auxiliary of the Zoological Society.

At 8:25 a.m. on the morning of the spider monkey's introduction to Suzy, Kaye Lynne Carpenter, chair of Zoo Pride's Animal Watch Committee, got a call at home from Teare alerting her to the introduction but suggesting that he and other Zoo staff didn't expect Suzy to take the baby.

Thirty minutes later, Teare called back. "Good news. Contrary to our expectations, Suzy reached out and took the baby," he said. "Can you round up a few dozen volunteers who want to watch Suzy and the baby for 48 hours around the clock?"

Carpenter had the first Zoo Prider on watch in less than 30 minutes and had a team of about 60 volunteers lined up and ready to take three-hour shifts watching Suzy and the baby for the first 48 hours of the introduction.

After that critical, yet relatively uneventful time, the Zoo staff decided to leave "mom" and baby alone at night...and to give Zoo Priders a rest.

"All of our Animal Watchers really serve as the eyes and the ears of the zookeepers," Carpenter said. "The keepers just don't have time to sit and watch the animals' every movement."

For this assignment especially, Carpenter had no problem recruiting volunteers, as Suzy is a favorite among volunteers, staff and just about every zoogoer who visits her exhibit.

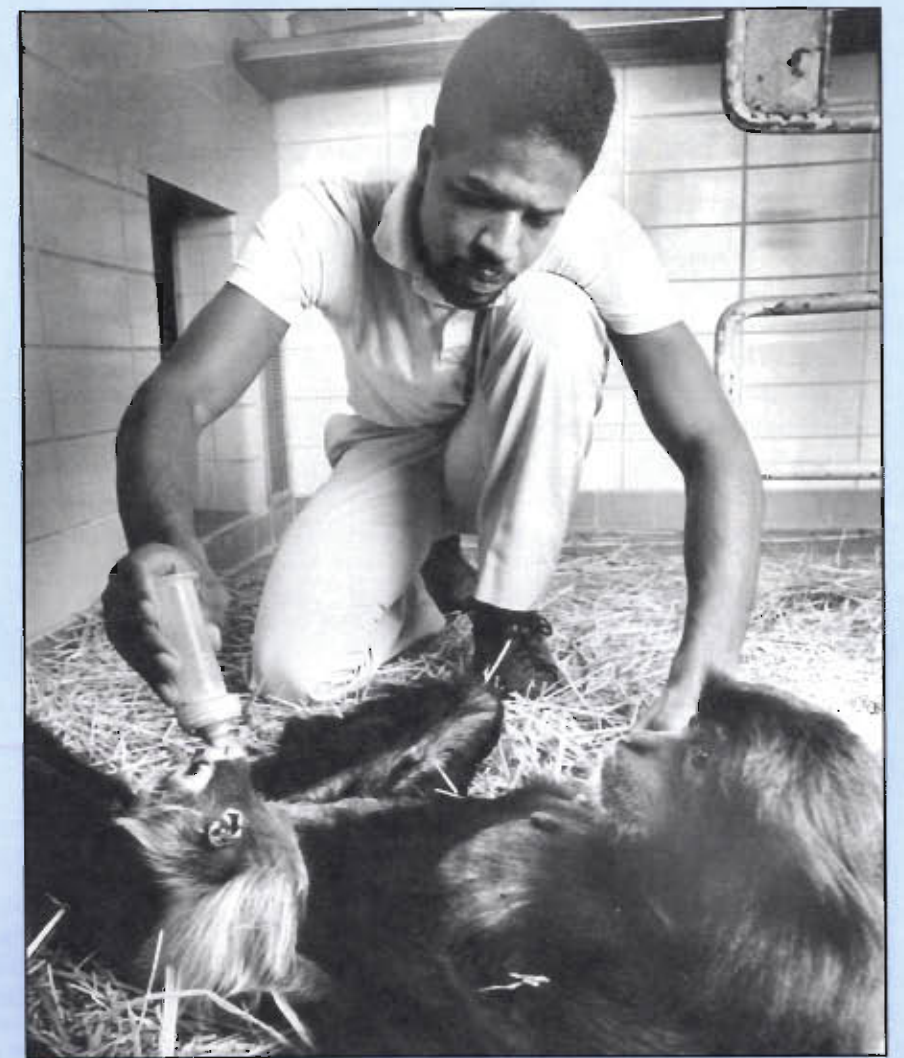
"There are a lot of volunteers who share a great deal of attachment to Suzy," Carpenter said. "After all, Suzy's been around here for 31 years or so and has attracted a lot of friends."

If Suzy's reaction to Primate House visitors is proportionate to the number of friends she's acquired over the years, then



Suzy, a 37-year-old siamang, shoulders the burden of caring for a baby spider monkey in a unique cross-genera fostering experiment in the Primate House at the Zoo.

Andrew Teare, happened fast, but not without hours of special attention by Zoo Pride volunteers. Zoo Pride is the volunteer



Primate keeper Gervis Myles bottle-feeds the Milwaukee County Zoo's baby spider monkey.

ON THE JOB

Gervis Myles, Primate Keeper
Milwaukee County Zoo

As primate keeper for the last four years, Gervis Myles has devoted much of his time to preserving the appeal of the Zoo's Primate House, making the zoogoer's visit with the primates an educational one, and sharing ideas on how to make the lives of Zoo animals a little more natural.

But during his Zoo career, Myles has never forgotten the two years and four interviews it took to get a job here.

"I remember thinking then that working at the Zoo and getting an opportunity to work with animals would be a major achievement," Myles said. "Where else can you wrestle with a gorilla, lose a hat to a siamang, play tug of war with a bonobo or get coconut shells thrown at you by an ape?"

Though Myles had no animal care experience before working at the Zoo, he's come a long way in the five years he's been here. Common sense, lots of initiative, and a sincere interest in working with and learning from other Zoo professionals have earned Myles well-deserved respect among colleagues and explain how he can put in an eight-hour day at the Zoo, take karate lessons in the evening, work toward a bachelor's degree on his "off days" and spend time with his family.

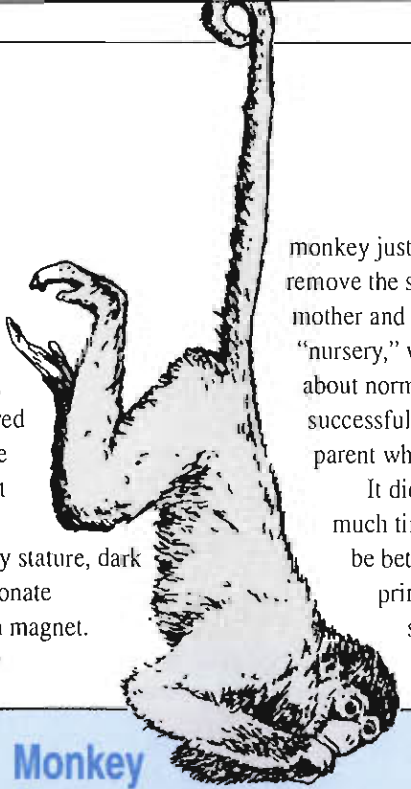
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it's no wonder Suzy's fan club includes so many people. When visitors approach her exhibit and see her long, lustrous, black fur-covered body ambling toward the glass, they can't help but stare at this striking ape. Her delicate build, lovely stature, dark eyes and playful, affectionate personality make Suzy a magnet.

Even with the hefty responsibility of raising a monkey, Suzy still likes to be groomed by keepers, particularly the one who's with her six days a week, Gene Emer.

Suzy's history at the Zoo, however, wasn't always this comfortable. For instance, at first she didn't respond well to Unk, which is typical when siamangs are paired in captivity, said Sam LaMalfa, the Zoo's primate area supervisor. But after a while, the introduction worked and the pair played together and groomed each other regularly. The big question, then, was: Will Suzy and Unk know how to breed and raise their offspring?

The year 1962 happily answered that question. Suzy became a mom to the very first siamang born and raised in captivity. Within a few years of her first birth, Suzy gave birth to several more babies. Irrespective of Suzy's breeding success, however, the same question asked by primatologists about Suzy in 1962 was asked by Zoo staff here about the spider




monkey just a few months ago: If we remove the spider monkey from its mother and hand raise it in a "nursery," will he understand enough about normal monkey behavior to successfully breed and be a good parent when he grows up?

It didn't take Zoo officials much time to decide that it would be better for a female primate—regardless of the species—to raise the spider monkey instead of humans, if possible.

"Research shows that pulling any infant from its mother and raising it by hand in the absence of other members of its species tends to raise incompetent parents," LaMalfa said.

Suzy, an older mother herself, is proving to be hardly incompetent. But this is so only because she's getting some help from zookeepers who have been feeding the baby every four hours around the clock. Teare said, "We like to feel that

we're providing the nutrition and that Suzy's providing the maternal behavior."

And from all early accounts, "mothers" and baby are doing fine. 

Zoo Pride Animal Watch volunteers are available near Suzy's exhibit to answer questions about the siamang-spider monkey introduction during regular Zoo hours. If you think you would like to become a Zoo Pride volunteer, please see the story on this page called "Volunteer Here" or call the Zoo Pride office at (414) 258-5667.

Monkey Matters Some Facts on the Spider Monkey

- Q. Where are they found?**
A. The spider monkey, endangered in parts of its range, can be found in forested areas from Northeast Mexico to Northwest Colombia.
- Q. What do they look like?**
A. The spider monkey is a medium-sized, pot-bellied primate with a small head and black face, very long legs and tail, and golden tan sides.
- Q. How do they use their tails?**
A. The spider monkey uses its prehensile tail, or a tail adapted for seizing and grasping, to pick up objects, some of which are as heavy as the monkey. The spider monkey also uses its tail as a fifth limb while moving through treetops.
- Q. What do they eat?**
A. In the wild, spider monkeys eat fruit, nuts, seeds, leaves, buds, flowers, insects and eggs.

ZOO PRIDE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer Here

If having a chance to be the eyes and ears of a zookeeper during a siamang-spider monkey introduction, or help visually impaired people "see" the Zoo through you, or staff the raptor aviary, or scare Dungeon of Darkness visitors as a costumed corpse, or conduct pre-school workshops and summer camps appeals to you, then consider becoming a Zoo Pride volunteer.

Zoo Pride, the volunteer auxiliary of the Zoological Society, needs volunteers—men and women—all year long. To volunteer, you need a few hours to spare during the week or on weekends, a membership in the Zoological Society and Zoo Pride, and a background knowledge of the Zoo and its animals, which is provided by a mandatory volunteer orientation course led by Zoo and Zoological Society staff.

In return, Zoo Pride gives you a monthly subscription to *Zooming In* and invitations to lectures, field trips, workshops and tours.

Call (414) 258-5667 with questions or to sign up for your orientation to Zoo Pride.

Save Your Money, Help Our Animals

From veterinary medicine reference books to diagnostic ultrasound equipment, the Zoo hospital needs it and you can help us get it by buying an Entertainment '92 Book.

Entertainment Books, which include 50%-off coupons to restaurants, movies, sports events, and tourist spots, cost \$33 each. Six dollars from the sale of each book will go toward enhancing the Zoo hospital.

To order, please send a check for \$33 per book (includes postage) payable to Zoo Pride with an index card that includes your name, your address, and the number of books you need to: Zoo Pride, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226. Or, pick up a book at the Zoo Pride or Zoological Society office for \$30 per book. Call (414) 258-5667 for more information.

SUPPORT SNAPSHOTS



Zoo Round-Up at the Z Double Circle Ranch

▶ Tossing a horseshoe during this summer's Second Annual Round-up at the Z Double Circle Ranch, Becky Druml solicits support from fellow cowpokes Tom Druml (center) and Bob and Kathy Anger. Bob and Becky co-chaired this year's event, sponsored by Miller Brewing Company and County Line Natural Cheese. The event raised over \$22,000 (minus the ten bits that were taken by bandits who boarded the Zoo train).

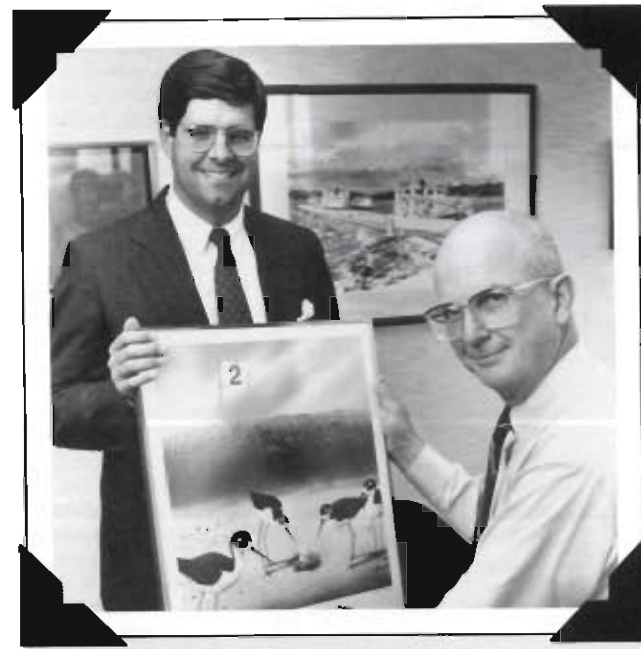


Fantasy Farm

▶ It doesn't look like it, but these girls are learning about farming in the Zoo's new Fantasy Farm play area near the Goat Yard in the Stackner Heritage Farm. The play area, donated by the Kemp Foundation and designed by Playworks, Inc., teaches children about farming through hands-on activities and is handicapped accessible. Fantasy Farm was built by volunteers from the Zoo, Zoological Society, Zoo Pride and the community.

Roamin' Winners

American Airlines and the Zoological Society are sending five winners of the Zoo Ball VIII Roamin' Holiday raffle to Jamaica, Milan, London, Washington, D.C. and Orlando. Four other raffle winners won the following prizes: a Yamaha scooter; restaurant dining packages from Grenadier's, George Pandl's, Italian Community Center, Mike & Anna's and Chip & Py's; a Zoological Society birthday party package; and a shopping spree at Northridge. Raffle proceeds will help renovate the Zoo's Aquarium/Reptile Building.



Miller Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament

▶ Warren Dunn (seated), executive vice president of the Miller Brewing Company, receives a framed poster—signed by Zoological Society artist Jay Jocham—commemorating this year's Miller Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament from event chairman Tom Dempsey, vice president at Shearson Lehman Hutton, Inc. The event, held at the Ozaukee Country Club, attracted 128 golfers and raised \$70,000 for the Zoological Society.

PLATYPUS SOCIETY

The Platypus Society is a group of about 350 of Milwaukee's foundations, corporations and individuals that contribute more than \$300,000 annually to the Zoological Society. If you would like to join this group in

helping the Society uphold its mission of supporting the Zoo, educating the public about the importance of conserving wildlife and the environment and conserving endangered species, call Judi Bessene at (414) 258-2333.

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\$10,000

*Marquette Electronics Foundation

PLATINUM PATRON

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Vilar Arts, Inc.
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*J.O. Wright
*Donald & Rosemary Zellmer

*5-year Platypus Society Member (updated each summer)



1991 Platypus Society Awards

At September's Platypus Society Awards Dinner, several companies and individuals received unique awards for their support:

Emu Egg Award

Leonard Goldstein, President and CEO of **Miller Brewing Company**, received a glass-enclosed emu's egg for Miller's wide-ranging and outstanding support of Zoo and Zoological Society programs and events, including major sponsorship of the Society's Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament and the Zoo Round-Up at the Z Double Circle Ranch and the Zoo's Sea Lion Show and Milwaukee a la Carte.

Spheniscus Humboldt Awards

Three Platypus Society members received a framed penguin's footprint for their long-time support of the Society's mission: **Sandi Moomey**, for leadership on the Membership Committee, among others, and early involvement with the development of Zoo Pride; **Jack Recht**, for leadership during the Society's most recent Capital Campaign; and **Quinn Martin**, for leadership on the Society's Associate Board and Board of Directors. All three have been important to the Society's strategic planning process.

Elephus Maximus Award

Bob Wierman, president of Zoo Pride, accepted a framed elephant's footprint on behalf of **Zoo Pride**, the volunteer auxiliary of the Zoological Society. Zoo Pride consistently has demonstrated an eagerness to become involved in Zoo and Society programs and has shown an enthusiasm to work toward their success.

Thalarctos Maritimus Award

John Fox, president of the **Fox Company, Inc. Lithographers**, accepted a framed polar bear's footprint in recognition of the company's involvement in ensuring the quality of almost all printed pieces generated by the Zoological Society—from Zoo Ball invitations to Platypus Society Dinner photo jackets.

Bubo Virginianus Award

On behalf of the **Dairy Council of Wisconsin**, Dan Borschke accepted a framed impression of children's footprints for the council's exceptional commitment to education, evidenced in the Stackner Heritage Farm and the Education Center.

Gorilla, Gorilla, Gorilla Award

Richard Steinman accepted a framed gorilla footprint in recognition of his commitment making the future of species like the Trumpeter Swan, the Howler Monkey, the Black Rhino and many others a little brighter.

NEW MEMBERS

The Zoological Society welcomes the following new Platypus Society members as of September 5:

\$500-\$999 Patron

Kristin Bergstrom
CPU, Inc.
Dr. Julian DeLia
Drs. Lynn Knitter & Robert DiUlio
Engberg-Anderson, Inc.
Robert Grumbeck
Kostner Graphics
Kathleen & John Hickey
State Financial Services

Friends contributing to the Platypus Society after September 5, 1991 will be recognized in the next issue of *Alive*.

Dungeon of Darkness

Drop into this dungeon and get prepared to be scared! Scary skeletons, ghoulish ghosts, petrifying props, curious coffins and shrieking sounds await visitors to the basement of the Zoo's elephant house this Halloween. The Dungeon will be open with no admission charge during the day October 26-27, the weekend of Halloween Spooktacular (see below). The Dungeon, built and staffed by the Zoological Society's Zoo Pride volunteers, also will be open from 6-9 p.m., October 18-20 and 25-27, with gates closing at 8:30 p.m.

Halloween Spooktacular

Join the Zoo for some frightening family fun at Halloween Spooktacular, October 26-27. Kids and families can trick-or-treat in the Zoo on a Halloween Hunt, ride the Ghost Train or Spookmobile, race through the Dungeon of Darkness, meet costumed characters, and show off their own costumes in a parade. On October 26, families can participate in the two-mile Fuji Costume Fun Run. Walkers and runners are winners in this race. Halloween Spooktacular is sponsored by Bank One Milwaukee, N.A.; Fuji Film; WTMJ; and the Zoological Society.

Behind-the-Scenes Weekend

Take a look behind the scenes at the Zoo from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., November 9-10, during Behind-the-Scenes Weekend. Zoo Pride volunteers will escort you and your family on educational behind-the-scenes tours of almost every Zoo exhibit and provide information on Zoo animals and how their keepers care for them. This is your chance to get all your questions about the Zoo and its residents answered by the experts.

Turkey Walk

This run/walk, coordinated and sponsored by the American Heart Association, will be held November 16. Call the American Heart Association at (414) 271-9999 for registration forms.

Holiday Night Lights

Take a stroll through an enchanted Zoo December 5-8 and 12-15. During these December weekends, the Zoo will come alive with holiday lights, entertainment and family activities. Zoo-goers will have a chance to take a horse-drawn carriage ride through the Zoo, make ornaments and visit Santa and Mrs. Claus.

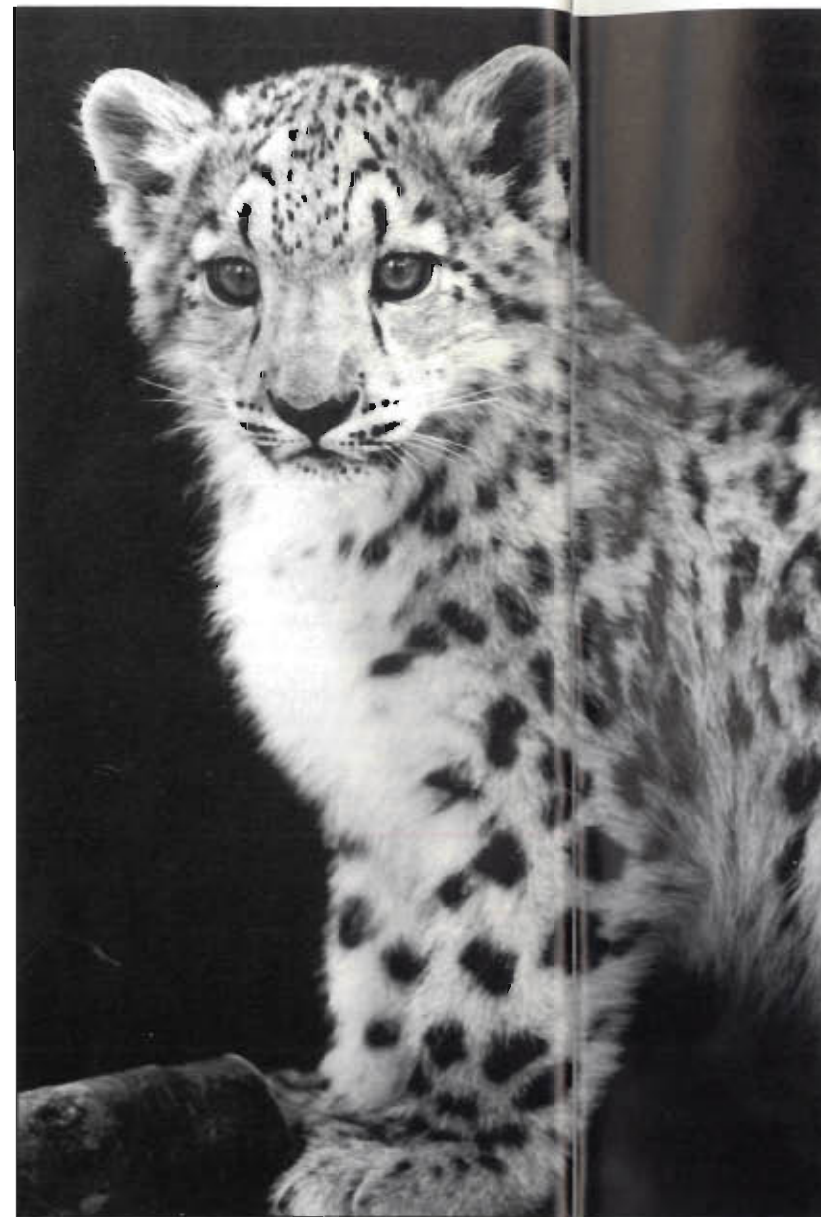
Breakfast/Lunch with Santa

Make your list and check it twice before December, because when Santa Claus is in town, he's stopping at the Zoo for breakfast and lunch almost every weekend in December. You can eat with him on December 7-8, 14-15, or 21-22. Breakfast is at 9 a.m. on Saturdays, and lunch is at noon on Saturdays and Sundays.

Snow Sculpting

Do the Zoo in winter, too, and watch 11 teams of exhibitors shape castles and critters from giant blocks of snow, January 10-12, and dogs race in a dog pull competition, January 11 and 12, at the Zoo. Children under 12 will get free dog sled rides on January 11 and 12.

For more information on any of these events, call (414) 256-5412.



Snow Leopard ▲

Feline House

Born: April 25, 1991

The names of the Zoo's two new snow leopard cubs—Oogan, a male, and Tika, a female—are about as rare in the United States as the snow leopard is in the wild. There are only 400 snow leopards living in captivity. Tika is pictured here. Oogan is the name of a character from a children's story book about a little Sherpa boy who needs glasses. Tika is the name for the good luck dots the Nepalese paint on their faces. Fantastic jumpers, snow leopards can leap

50 feet from a standstill, which is why you'll never see a snow leopard in a roofless exhibit at the Zoo.

Source: Neil Dretzka, Area Supervisor, Felines

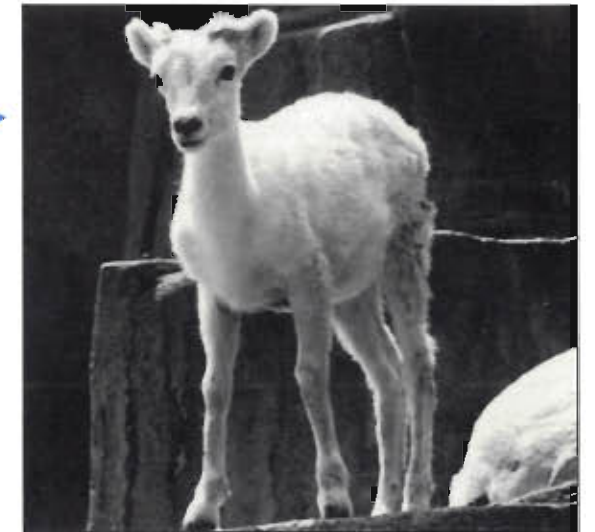
Dall Sheep ▶

Dall Sheep Mountain

Born: May 22, 1991

Though—let it be said up front—Dall Sheep are not endangered, they sure are adorable. The baby pictured here is a direct descendant of the sheep in the Zoo's original Dall Sheep collection. In the early '60's, then-assistant Zoo Director Robert Bullerman brought the collection back to the Zoo from Alaska. The Milwaukee County Zoo is one of only nine zoos in the United States to have Dall Sheep.

Source: Bess Frank, Curator, Large Mammals



◀ Chapman's Zebra

African Waterhole

Born: June 6, 1991

It's hard to believe that something as simple as a series of stripes can attract a lot of attention. But put those stripes on an animal—on a baby animal—and watch Zoo visitors clamor to see it. That's what happened when Noname gave birth to Rolf, a male Chapman's Zebra. Without stripes, this zebra would lose its identity (no two zebras have the same stripe pattern) and, if it were in the wild, maybe its life. A zebra relies on its stripes to break up its body line, which makes it difficult to find when traveling in a herd.

Sources: Bess Frank, Curator, Large Mammals
Bob Hoffmann, Area Supervisor, Winter Quarters

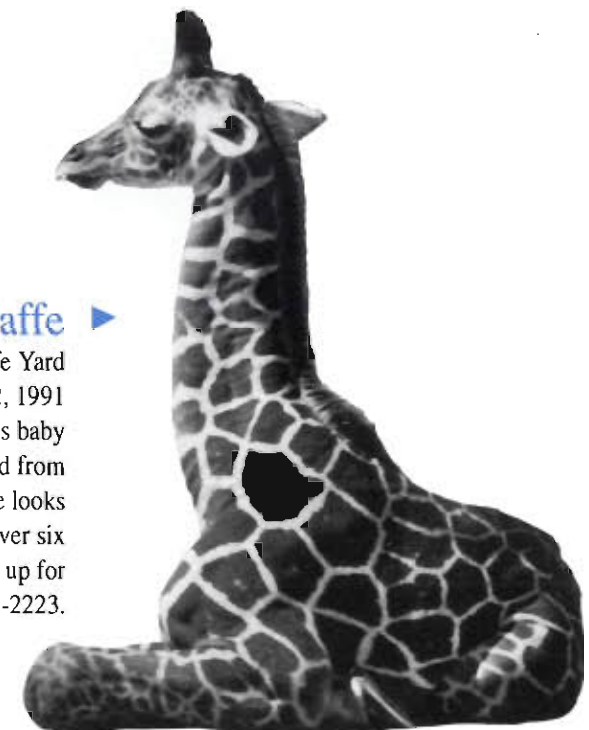
Reticulated Giraffe ▶

Giraffe Yard

Born: July 22, 1991

On July 22, late-comers to the Zoo had the rare chance to watch the birth of this baby Reticulated Giraffe. On its feet just 54 minutes after dropping 5-1/2 feet to the ground from its mother, Melinde, the baby now struts confidently around her exhibit. Though she looks small here and even smaller next to the adult giraffes in her exhibit, the baby stands over six feet tall. As part of a holiday promotion, the Zoological Society has put this baby up for adoption through its Animal Adoption Program. For more details, call (414) 258-2223.

Source: Bess Frank, Curator, Large Mammals





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