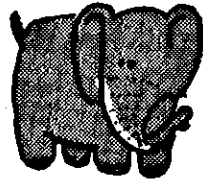


animal talk



ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Newsletter No. 57
Walter E. Kroening, Editor

Spring 1980
Phone 258-2333



what's in it for you

- TERRA NOT TERRIFIED..... P 2 & 3
- ZOO PRIDE SPECIAL NEWS P 3
- WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE ... P 4 & 5
- SMORGASBORD P 6 & 7
- POLAR BEARS AHOY! P 8 & 9
- BOOK REVIEWS P 10
- NEW MEMBERS P 11
- RECENT DONORS P 12

PICNIC DATE
THURSDAY, JUNE 19
MORE LATER

Terra not terrified anymore

Terra, our 210 pound female gorilla, now on breeding loan to Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo, has become acclimated to her new surroundings and also somewhat accustomed to associating with gorilla groups, according to a phone conversation I had this morning (Saturday, March 15,) with Dr. Lester Fisher, Director of the Chicago Zoo, which is world famous for its record of breeding gorillas.

At the present time, Dr. Fisher said, Terra is in quarantine where she is recovering from what might be a mild case of flu -- maybe mit ein bissel Magenkremp dazu; that's the kind that's "going round" as they say - (I've had mine).

The breeding loan program was motivated by five years of uneventful (maybe "non-existent" is more descriptive) sexual relations with Samson, our Zooperstar male gorilla - he evinced no interest whatsoever. During the last decade much has been learned about animal mating behavior, particularly that of the great apes. Gorillas do not live alone or in couples, but in groups dominated by a boss male. Thus, the young learn the facts of life from their elders -- as the old saying goes -- "Monkey sees, Monkey does."

The following is an episodic account of Terra's new life-style as related by Sam La Malfa, Samson's best friend and our Zoo's Curator of Primates.

SCENE I: She was first housed in an area where she had the opportunity, at her discretion, to observe, touch, smell, hear and communicate with one of the gorilla groups through a welded steel mesh partition. She also could view Otto and his harem from some distance away. Otto, of T.V. fame, is Lincoln Park's most prolific male -- the one planned for Terra's husband; he is already the father of eight. In two weeks Terra became accustomed to gorilla group living; it became very obvious that as gentle as Terra is, she was considered a threat to those females within the



2

OTTO

gorilla groups -- all the females displayed jealous behavior toward Terra, no doubt regarding her as a competitor. However, the males showed a high degree of interest in her. No doubt this increased the females' jealousy. Since then, the females have calmed down and now exhibit more friendly gestures toward Terra.

SCENE II: Terra was then transferred to live with big Otto alone. ("Big" is about 425 pounds ... our Samson goes about 550 pounds). Two of the large gorilla enclosures were emptied of their occupants. Terra was allowed in one

alone for about 3/4 of an hour to investigate and become accustomed to the environment. A very similar enclosure next to hers housed Otto by himself. After an initial get-acquainted period to her new home, she and Otto were allowed together in both enclosures by opening a sliding door that previously had separated the two. After the initial shock of being together wore off, the usual gorilla games followed. By that I mean the rough and tumble behavior so typical of gorilla play.

After about a half hour, it was hoped that the two could remain together for several hours. The keepers continued preparation of the diets as a volunteer docent of the Zoological Society continued observing. Unfortunately, as the play developed, Terra was bitten on the hand and the two had to be separated. It was thought that she was not bitten aggressively, but rather accidentally got the fleshy part of her hand just below the little finger hung up on Otto's canine. Once removed, she was tranquilized and the hand stitched. I was informed that she was not badly hurt. As a precautionary measure, Terra was treated with antibiotics for about a week.

SCENE III: Her next experience put her in the same room with Mumbi, their largest female and one of Otto's favorites. Here a sort of friendship developed. Within five days this was interrupted by Terra's coming down with a form of intestinal flu which required their separation.

Which brings us full circle to my foreword, which ended with Terra in quarantine,, or SCENE IV. The game-plan for SCENE V is to put Terra back in with Mumbi for a spell, then add Otto and let nature take its course. Just before press time for this issue, I will check with Dr. Fisher so that I can report on the continuing saga, "Will Terra Be Begotten?"

Our collection of Lowland Gorillas was donated by the Pabst Brewing Company -- two one-year old males in 1950 and a pair in 1960. Pabst has been a long-time supporter of our Zoo starting with a gift of a mating pair of African Lions back in 1908. Incidentally, the Zoological Society joins Milwaukee in welcoming Pabst Brewery's new President, Anthony J. Amendola, who moved from Cincinnati to Bayside last fall. As we say in these parts: "Machs Gut Herr Amendola und Lebe wohl." WJK-RS. See p.9

Help needed - - phone Zoo Pride 258-5667

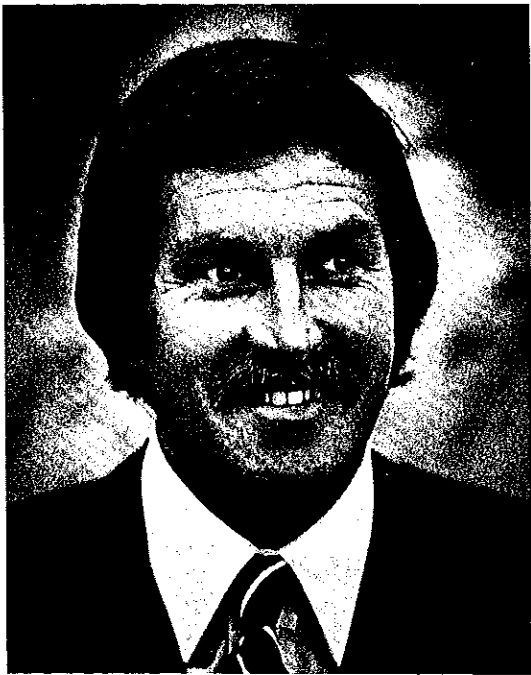
● URGENT NEED FOR TOUR GUIDES.

● CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAY PARTIES AT THE ZOO - LET US DO THE WORK FOR YOU.

● PHONE: ZOO PRIDE - 258-5667

Where we go from here

BY DR. GILBERT K. BOESE



GILBERT K. BOESE, PHD.

Although my tenure is only six weeks at this time, it is still not too soon to share first impressions and activities during this period.

First matter of concern has been budget. We have been reviewing all aspects of our budget, hoping to ensure an economical but efficient budget with adequate projections in areas of major maintenance and capital improvements.

The responsibilities of directing are great and call for well-trained staff. We are now reviewing all departments, staffing, and job descriptions. It is our goal to upgrade our positions and meet future needs.

For example, we have initiated rewriting of the description of zookeeper and area supervisor in

the animal collection. The new descriptions call for increased education and/or experience and expands the responsibilities in areas of study, observation and data collection. These requirements are, I feel, necessary when many animals in our collection are endangered and the replacement value difficult to comprehend. A recent communication from an animal broker lists Bongos, a feature Antelope in our collection, at \$30,000 per animal when available.

Keepers and their supervisors have a great responsibility. The description of these positions and the compensation should reflect this responsibility.

This is just one step for the future of our great Zoo. To further plot this future, we have started the "grass roots" input into our Master Plan. Every week at least one area of the Zoo, such as the Small Mammal Building, Primate, etc., is subjected to a site visit. During these visits, we scrutinize the facility from "top to bottom" and honestly assess all strengths, weaknesses, dreams and realities.

The visits are written up and then critiqued. These documents will be reviewed by staff and the document incorporating the review will be submitted to the Zoological Society for further review.

The goal? A series of well thought out planning documents which collectively will be our Master Plan.

Along with Master Plan development, we are also facing immediate problems. To hopefully increase attendance and revenue, we are developing a marketing plan. A big plus for our marketing strategy is the work of Ad Club II. This group of young people representing the marketing industry of Milwaukee chose the Zoo as their project "institution" for this year. These professionals have developed a very fine marketing program for the Zoo and we will be working on implementation in the coming months.

Our education program is, I feel, undergoing a very positive metamorphosis, and with the support of our Zoo Pride volunteer organization, should become a very significant force in curriculum enrichment. Solid educational programming for children and adults throughout greater Milwaukee, Wisconsin and the border states is our slated goal.

As you read these notations, remember you, as a member, can join Zoo Pride and actively support our growing commitment in Zoo education.

Another area of immediate concern will be our Zoo's breeding potential. All of our groups will have to be analyzed to ascertain whether or not we have an "inbreeding" problem. Research data now available indicates that many Zoo populations are becoming inbred. This inbreeding factor can result in a reduction of species health and viability.

However, with good records, our international computerized animal inventory system, and good communication between zoos, we should progress very rapidly. All zoos are concerned with developing good genetic diversity and national cooperation exists.

As we move into the 80's, we will face many tasks to keep Milwaukee County Zoo one of the best zoos of the world. With sound marketing, careful business practice, thoughtful master planning and good animal exhibitions and management, we should meet the challenge.

Who knows? We may see a Visitor and Education Center, new great ape facilities, expanded medical facilities, a barrier reef exhibit, off-scenes breeding areas for birds, wolf exhibit, hall of exotic mammals and the list could go on.

Sounds exciting, doesn't it? It is and I'm happy to be a part of it.

Smorgasbord

YOU CAN'T FOOL THE EXPERT

When Charles Darwin was visiting the country home of a friend, the two boys of the family thought they would play a trick on the scientist. They caught a butterfly, a beetle & a centipede & out of these evolved a strange composite insect. They took the centipede's body, the butterfly's wings, the grasshopper's legs & the beetle's head, glued them carefully together & presented it to Darwin for identification. Darwin looked at the bug & then at the boys.

"Did you notice whether it made a humming sound when you caught it, boys?" he asked. "Yes," they answered.

"Then," said Darwin with a twinkle in his eyes, "it's a humbug."

Zoociety member Jess Blackstone, Executive Director of the Milwaukee Rotary Club, puts out a table tent for each week's luncheon meeting. One side crisply sets forth the day's program and the other, some unusual erudition, or a bit of esoteric trivia, homespun philosophy and advice, comical jokes and other undsoweiters, gathered from all over and everywhere. These are avidly read between chomps and slurps by the assembled 200 to 300 Rotarians. I purloined the two shown above (Rotarians love to share), because one reeffers to the Animal Kingdom and the other decribes my styl righting. WEK.

10 BASIC RULES OF GOOD WRITING

- 1) Verbs has to agree with their subject.
- 2) Watch out for irregular verbs which has crope into our language.
- 3) Don't use no double negatives.
- 4) Join clauses good, like a conjunction should.
- 5) Don't write a run-on sentence you got to punctuate it.
- 6) In letters themes reports articles & stuff like that we use commas to keep a string of items apart.
- 7) Don't use commas, which aren't necessary.
- 8) It's important to use apostrophe's right.
- 9) Don't abbrev.
- 10) Check to see if you any words out.

Go now & prepare a special place to file these mementoes. You'll know doubt want to keep them all for posterior.

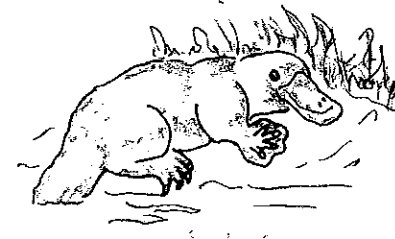
GILA MONSTERS HOLD RESERVE FOOD SUPPLIES IN THEIR TAILS.

Birds cannot see Red, but are great on Yellow, Blue, Green and all Blue and Violet hues. To compensate for red blindness they are especially sensitive to ultraviolet which many flowers contain in their sweet blossoms - basic honey sources.



"Actually, I prefer Rh negative."

The Platypus, Australia's mystery animal, has a duck bill, otter fur, webbed feet with sharp claws, lays eggs, secretes a milky substance for its young and eats its own weight in worms every day. Quite obviously designed by a committee.



Thursday, Jan. 10, 1980

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

EXOTIC-BIRD SALES soar, and smugglers flock to cash in.

A Houston pet-store owner says sales of cockatoos, African grays and other tropical birds are the fastest growing part of the pet industry. Parrot Jungle, which displays birds on open perches, started two years ago in the New York area and now has three stores. At World of Birds in Sonoma, Calif., a hyacinth macaw goes for \$5,000; \$700 yellow nape Amazons are the best sellers.

But smuggling is a problem. "One unquarantined, sick bird in my shop and I could lose my entire stock of 800 birds," says a store owner. And a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent estimates that 50,000 parrots with a street value of \$10 million were smuggled into Texas from Mexico in 1979.

Bird-smuggling is now more lucrative than drug-smuggling, the agent says. A parrot fetching \$20 at the Mexican border would sell for \$700 in Houston.

* * *

Polar Bears Ahoy!

(The following account describes an aerial eyeball experience enjoyed by two Zoociety Directors; Tom Fifield (author of the 'stuck) and Bill Chester, their wives, Marilyn and Priscilla, (both couples are experienced pilots) and several guests. Bill planned this Luftreise to the Subarctic areas of Canada. Obviously, they flew their own wings; two twin-engine, six seaters. WEK)

There is a population of some 600 Polar bears that live in the vicinity of the city of Churchill on the west coast of Hudson Bay. During the winter they live on the ice and hunt seals for food. In the summer, however, there is no ice, so they congregate on the land some 50 miles south of Churchill in an area which the females use as a denning ground.

In mid-October they sense that the ice will be forming again and, except for the pregnant females, they start migrating towards the Bay. Just south of Churchill is an austere point where the earliest ice usually forms, and most of them migrate to this point. Some, however, wander north towards Churchill and visit the city dump which is just south of town.

A few bears, especially young ones, proceed from the dump on into the city itself. This presents a very dangerous situation which cannot be tolerated.

Whenever a bear is found in the city, employees of the Province of Manitoba cordon off the area and attempt to trap the bear, using a baited trap made of oil drums welded together with a guillotine door. Trapped bears, if possible, are transported by air to a remote part of the bush and liberated. If a bear cannot be trapped or relocated, it has to be killed.

While in Churchill last October, we asked about the possibility of obtaining a couple of Polar bears for the Milwaukee Zoo. The response was: "How many will you take?" Plans are underway to convert an old hangar at the Churchill Airport into a holding area for trapped bears, so that next October and November there should be an inventory of available bears.

Since, however, Polar bears are on the U.S. Endangered Species List, considerable advance paperwork would have to be completed in order to obtain a permit to import them. Also transportation, presumably in the form of a large aircraft, would have to be made available from some source.

Assuming these requirements can be met prior to next autumn, it should be possible for the Milwaukee Zoo once again to have a breeding group of wild-caught Polar bears. This would be particularly gratifying in view of the fact that our Zoo was, in the past, the first Zoo successfully to breed Polar bears in captivity.—Thomas B. Fifield.

Our new Zoo Director, Dr. Gilbert Boese, considers this source of a "wild" Polar bear an excellent opportunity to establish a change in bloodline since he is planning to repopulate our Polar Bear Exhibit. The picture below was taken in 1972 by the Milwaukee Sentinel.—WEK.

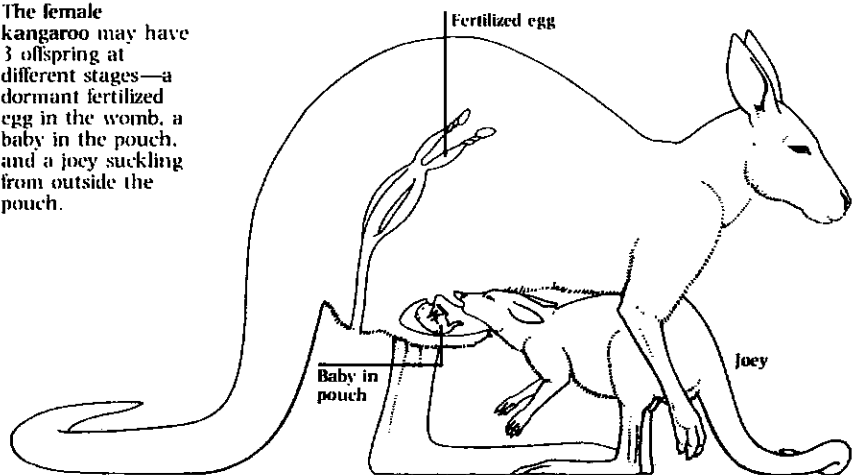


FLASH! 9.A.M. 4/1/80 I PHONED MARK ROSENTHAL, LINCOLN PARK CURATOR OF MAMMALS, --- CURRENT STATUS: TERRA AND MUMBI WILL BE LODGED WITH OTTO STARTING TOMORROW (4/2/80) AND HOPES ARE HIGH THAT A SUCCESSFUL "RELATIONSHIP" WILL DEVELOPE. WEK

book reviews

Two excellent wild animal books: THE ANIMAL FAMILY ... the infinite variety of parenthood from courtship display to the day the young leave home; text by a team of three: Dr. Clive K. Catchpole, Dr. Frank H. Huckelbridge, and Dr. Michael Stoddard; over 500 illustrations by Richard Orr and Michael Woods; 160 pp; \$19.95; publishers: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. the mechanics of sex for various members of the entire Animal Kingdom from protozoa, through insects, thru amphibians, thru the largest of mammals --- intensely interesting and informative.

The female kangaroo may have 3 offspring at different stages—a dormant fertilized egg in the womb, a baby in the pouch, and a joey suckling from outside the pouch.

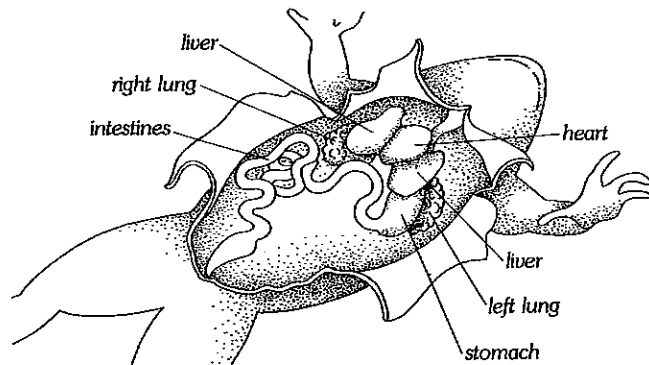


The reproductive system of the kangaroo is well suited to its arid habitat. Having mated, a number of eggs are fertilized and all but one lie dormant in the uterus. After 33 days the developing embryo is born. If there is sufficient good food available the

mother will suckle the baby in the pouch for 4 months and for up to a year outside the pouch. If the rains do not come or food is otherwise inadequate, the female ejects the joey in her pouch and allows a dormant embryo to develop.

A FROG'S BODY ... an attractive picture book, splendid photographs, and simple line drawings; written in simple language for children ages 4 to 8. An ideal introduction to anatomy of an animal that young boys and girls seem to be most curious about. Written by Joanna Cole and photographed by Jerome Wexler ... \$6.95 ... 48 pages. Morrow Junior Books.

"The adult frog has many of the same inside organs as other land-dwelling animals. It has a heart for pumping blood, a stomach and intestines for digesting food, and lungs for breathing air. Because the frog's organs are so much like those of human beings, students study the frog to learn about the body."



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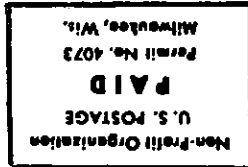
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