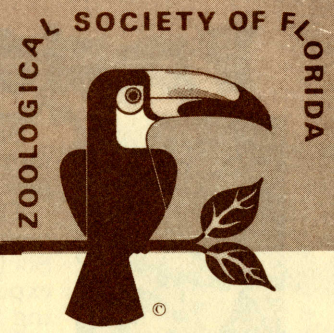


# TOUCAN TALK



MARCH—APRIL / VOL. 9, NO. 2

What do Pumas & Cheetahs have in common? Well, you think of both when you run a race at the zoo: Pumas are what you wear on your feet to run as fast as Cheetahs. And that's what people were trying to do at the first annual Jungle Jog at Metrozoo on January 30th.

A race is only as good as its runners, and about 1,700 turned up for this event — a record for a first race. They came from all over: Swiss students at the University of Miami in training for the Olympics entered two teams: Jeff Hlinka, an athlete from Ohio, ran one of his best times, and promised to bring a team next year; Jacqueline Garreaux, a top-ranked Canadian distance runner, used the course as a 'slow training run'.



For others, it was far from slow. Manuel Miranda finished the five-mile course in 24 minutes, 56 seconds, and Debi Holland in 31 minutes. Ivan Ferran and David Schroeder completed the race in wheelchairs, a remarkable feat on an unpaved road. Many runners came in crazy costumes, something that promises to become a popular tradition for future races. The young, the old, the shy, the bold, the strong, the shaky, the funny and the flaky, all crossed the finish line to admiration and applause.

But the finish line is only the end of a road that was paved by a virtual army of committed



people. Cordis Corporation and the South Florida Veterinary Medical Association, our major sponsors, gave us both financial and moral support. S.F.V.M.A. president Bob Pane came up with the name Jungle Jog, and local veterinary offices were pick-up points for applications. Cordis provided T-shirts, volunteers, four corporate teams for the race, and as if all this were not enough, also rounded up a throng of cheering fans.

Metrozoo was, of course, the perfect setting for such an event. The zoo authorities provided free admission to all entrants, and helped produce the beautiful ceramic awards. Metrozoo's Sally Timberlake, Bill Tuttle, Kurt Mannchen, Gerry Esra and Rick Borongi gave the race their time and talent, which are much appreciated.

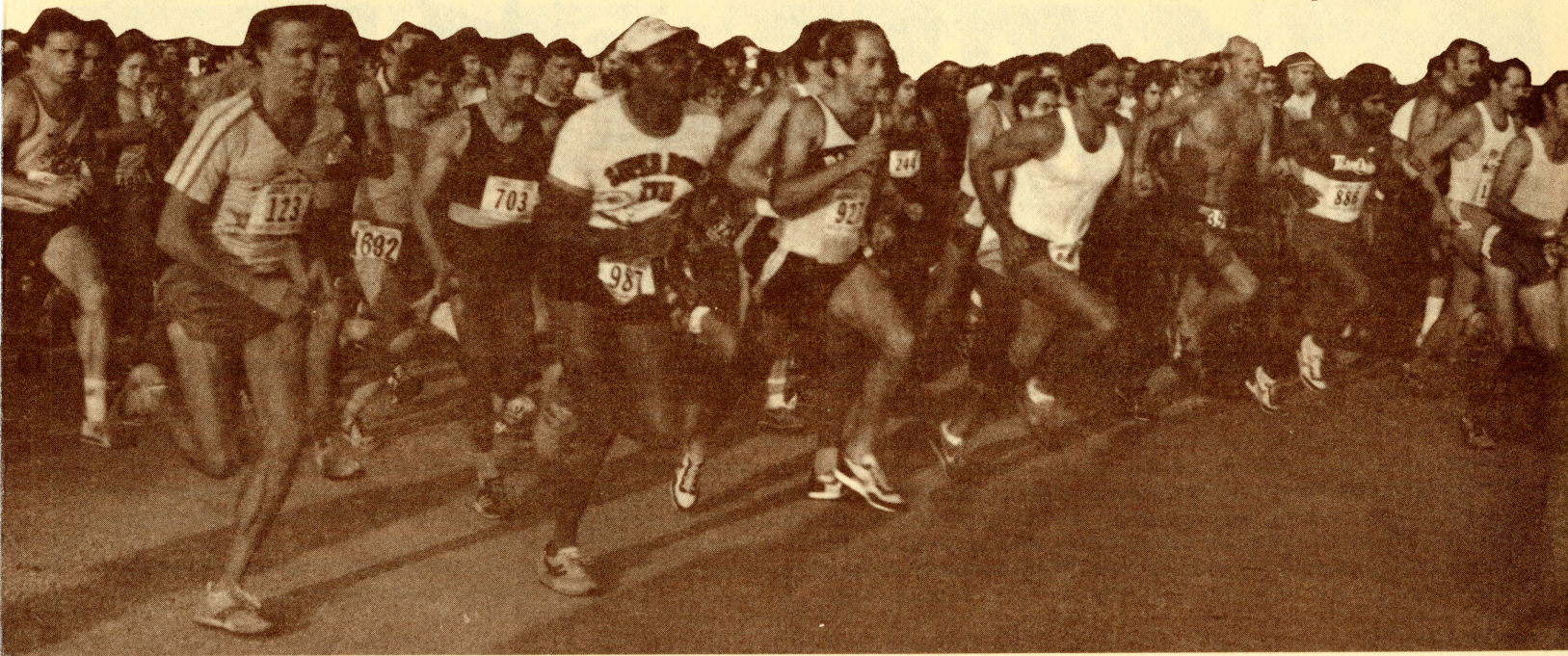
The Miami Runners Club, with its high standards of excellence, walked us through all the little steps to be taken in planning a race. Laurie Huseby, Hans Huseby, Bob Pervil, Lance Hicky, Bob Medina and John Marshall, among others, were our guiding lights. And of course, our own Society members provided valuable support services on the day of the race itself. Because of them things ran like clockwork. Special thanks go to Mercedes Hendriksen,



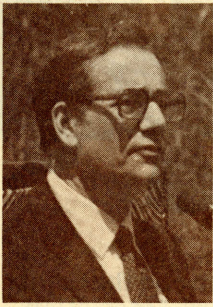
*Continued  
On Page 5.*

# JUNGLE JOG.

*By Helen Malina*



# President's Message.



Since becoming president of the Society a few short months ago, many things have happened and many new projects have been started.

The most exciting news I have to report is that four new gorillas are now in residence at Metrozoo. The Society paid for a chartered airplane and the Zoo staff's expenses to bring the gorillas, from Louisiana. Including Ramar's travel expenses the Society has contributed almost \$20,000 to the gorilla exhibit.

Recently, we had the pleasure of sponsoring world-renowned wildlife artist Charles Fracé for a one-man show at Metrozoo. We all joined member Harvey Abramson, who arranged for the show, in our admiration for Fracé's exquisite technique.

I didn't know we had so many members eager to travel to far-off places. At this writing, there are almost 40 people signed up for a trip to the Dark Continent. Read more about the African Safari in our new column "The Tapir's Whistle."

Closer to home, we had a splendid turnout for our first Jungle Jog, which we hope will become the annual race of the future. Congratulations to Ileen Seidler and Helen Malina for organizing a memorable inaugural event. A great time was had by participants and spectators alike, and the proceeds went to the Society's education program.

We are delighted to welcome our new Development Director, Joe Ferrer, who will be working with Vice President Lester Goldstein to organize a major fund-raising campaign for the Society. Joe's experience in successfully raising funds for the United Way should stand him in good stead in this venture.

We all were deeply saddened by the death of Jan Beckman recently. He had helped the Society in many ways, not the least of which was promoting and keeping up with an explosive growth in our membership, and starting our Adopt-An-Animal fund. We hope this fund will eventually pay for the total care and feeding of our zoo animals.

Our education program is growing from strength to strength. The education department has all sorts of great projects and events lined up for Spring and Summer, proving that learning can be fun. Get a preview of coming attractions in "Education Outlook."

And we are only beginning, as a Society, to make things happen. Our main commitment is to the future. Let us not forget that our main reason for existence is to help the zoo in every way we can. One of our top priorities is to fund a much-needed nursery clinic building for the zoo. How can you help? By giving a part of yourself. Volunteer, and I think you'll find that you can get out of the Society as much as you put into it. You can also help by signing up a new member, adopting an animal, making a contribution to our animal memorial fund, or in a hundred other ways.

Remember, Metrozoo is on its way to becoming one of the finest zoos in the world, and working together we can make it a reality!

Ron Esserman, President

## In Memoriam.

Jan Beckman died last month of injuries sustained in a car accident. For all of us who knew Jan, the zoo is going to feel like an emptier place without him. He seemed to be everywhere, infecting people with his enthusiasm and always lending a helping hand.



Officially, he was the administrator for the Zoological Society; unofficially, he wore many hats during his association with the zoo. He was captivated by the new zoo from the

time it was just a rubble-covered construction site, and determined to be a part of its growth.

Jan's involvement with the Zoological Society began as a volunteer. He was one of the first to staff the information booth at the zoo, and paved the way for the formation of ZIP (Zoo Information Personnel). He helped to establish the Adopt-An-Animal program at Metrozoo.

Jan was unfailingly gentle and friendly. While he was administrator, the Society's membership grew from 3,500 to 11,000. There are now that many more people who will miss him.

## Meet A New Board Member.

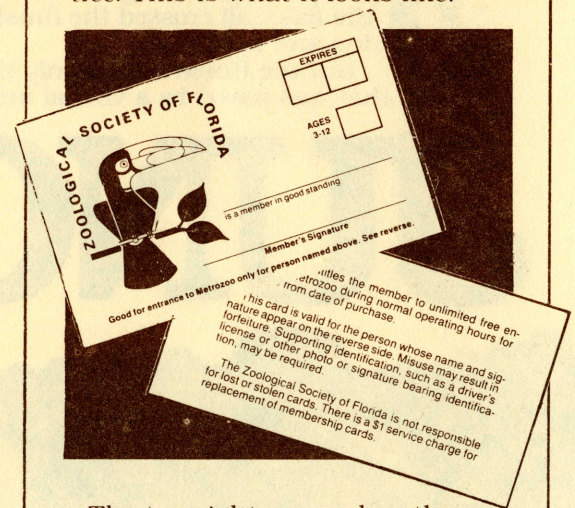
R. Ray Goode is on the Zoological Society's Board of Directors for the first time, but his involvement with the zoo goes back over a decade. He is a former County Manager, and it was at his bidding that funds for the building a new zoo were included in the 1972 Decade of Progress bond issue.

Since resigning his Dade County post in 1976, Ray has served as executive vice president of Babcock Company, and has been a leader of various civic organizations. He serves on the University of Miami Board of Trustees, and chairs the Dade Community Revitalization Board, as well as the Florida Memorial College Executive Committee.

We're delighted to have Ray on our board; he will be very good for the Zoological Society.

## Guard Your Card!

Your new membership card is as good as gold: it's your free ticket to the zoo, so be sure to look after it. If you don't have it yet, not to worry; you'll get it with your renewal notice. This is what it looks like:



The top right corner has the expiration date by month and year, and under it, the number of children in your family between the ages of 3 and 12. Children from 13-18 years old receive their own cards.

Please sign your cards as soon as you get them, and remember, the card is good only for the person whose typed name and signature appear on it. Another I.D. might be required, so keep one handy. And hang on to your card, because there is a \$1.00 service charge for replacing it.

Above all, be a cardvaark, and head for Metrozoo.



The Zoological Society's offices are far from glamorous — we're housed in trailers — but the exotic environment more than makes up for our lack of elegance. Where else can one hear tapirs whistle to each other in the late afternoon? Or lions roar in the evening? Where else in the world is there an office looking out on white tigers? The call of the wild is often heard in the mornings, when the siamangs scream at each other. It's enough to stir the wanderlust in the soul! Ah, one says wistfully, it would be just fantastic to see wild animals in their native habitat.

And that is what more than 30 members of the Zoological Society are planning to do come July 28th. Our 15-day photographic safari to Kenya, under the leadership of Dr. Gordon Hubbell has sparked a lot of interest. It's encouraging to know that so many of our members

By Aileen Lotz, Executive Director

want to travel and to glimpse Africa's wonderful animals in the wild. Unfortunately, their habitat is being rapidly destroyed, and who knows how long we will have this opportunity to see them roam free. It's not too late to join this safari. Call the office if you'd like to go.

With this trip already an assured success, our thoughts are turning to a travel program for 1984. Members who have indicated an interest in travelling to far-off places will be meeting on Monday, April 4, at 7pm at the zoo to talk about an expanded travel program for next year. If you'd like to be in on the planning, call me at 255-5551. According to a survey we did last year, favorite destinations are Africa (naturally), Australia, New Zealand, South America, Alaska and the Galapagos. We'll also be taking some short trips to nearby area, to become more familiar with our own South Florida wildlife.

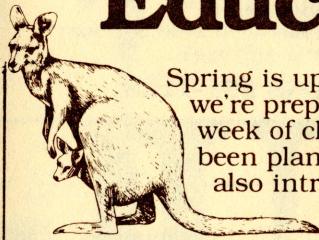
## Egypt, Too?

Well, those are some of our plans for the future. In the near future, however, the Land of the Pharaohs beckons. Two of our members who are going on our African safari in July have made arrangements to visit Egypt immediately following our visit to Kenya. If eight more members are interested in doing the same, we can arrange a special group tour, provide a saving on air fare, and make an additional contribution to the Society. Cairo—Aswan—Luxor—the Valley of the Kings—cruising the Nile—if all this sounds enticing to you, make plans to include this adventure in your life, from August 10th through the 19th. Give me a call if you're interested.

Remember, the Zoological Society's travel program is for members only — yet another reason to keep renewing your membership. These trips give you a chance to discover new worlds, and rediscover old friends among your travelling companions. Also, the extra income from these trips goes to fund projects at Metrozoo. So now you can have a good time and do a good turn at the same time.

## Education Outlook

By Ileen Seidler  
Education Coordinator



Spring is upon us and we're prepared! A full week of classes has been planned. We're also introducing a new program —

Junior Zoologists for students in grades 7-9. The class registration form is on page 6. Register early — don't be left out!

**Calling All Teachers...** A special graduate level course will be offered this summer at Metrozoo in Miami. Our Education Department, in cooperation with Florida International University, will be sponsoring a course (3 credits) in curriculum development for teachers in early childhood, elementary, secondary, special and gifted education. Contact the Education Department, at 255-5551, for more information.

### Program Lineup April 4th — May 21st.

#### Ark Art I

(\$15-Members. \$17.50-Nonmembers)

Want to Noah more about Ark Art? Well, it's a combination of creativity and animals. Marian Fried will show children how to make kites of their favorite animals, and will

also teach them origami, the intricate Japanese art of folding paper into objects.

Mon.-Wed. / April 4-6 / 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Ages 6-8.

#### Wet & Wiggly

(\$6-Members. \$8-Nonmembers)

Jump, slither and crawl into the world of amphibians, creatures that live on land and in water. Come and experience the rare opportunity to handle some of these elusive creatures.

Monday / April 4 / 10 a.m.-Noon / Ages 6-8.

#### Reptiles of the Past and Present.

(\$6-Members. \$8-Nonmembers)

Relive the majesty of those ancient giants that once roamed the earth. Learn about dinosaurs and their present-day relatives.

Tues. & Thurs. / April 5 & 7 / 10 a.m.-Noon  
Ages 9-12

#### Hug-A-Bug

(\$6-Members. \$8-Nonmembers)

Learn about those "creepy-crawlies" and put the information to use when you design your own insect collection.

Wed. / April 6 / 10 a.m.-Noon / Ages 10-13

#### Metrozoo-Inn

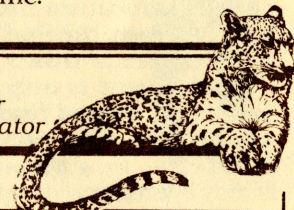
(\$17.50-Members. \$20-Nonmembers)

A 'pajama party' at the zoo. Discover the creatures of the dark as you spend the night on the ground and under the stars. Includes a dinner Friday evening by the lake, then off to sleep to the roar of the lions. An unforgettable experience. Very limited enrollment.

Friday / April 8 / 5 p.m.-9 a.m. / Grades 4-6.

Friday / April 22 / 5 p.m.-9 a.m. / Grades 4-6.

Friday / May 13 / 5 p.m.-9 a.m. / Grades 4-6.



#### Ark Art II

(\$12-Members. \$14-Nonmembers)

Learn the Indonesian art of Batik from Marian Fried. Choose your favorite animal as a subject to make an artwork you'll always treasure.

Thurs.-Fri./April 7-8/1 p.m.-3 p.m./Ages 9-11

#### Zoo Management & Animal Related Careers

(\$10-Members. \$15 Nonmembers)

Experience a day as a zookeeper. If you know that your career will in some way be involved with animals, come discover the opportunities that await you. Activities include a discussion of career possibilities, a talk with Metrozoo's head curator and veterinarian, a behind-the-scenes tour, lunch, and individual time with zookeepers. (Lunch provided).

Friday / April 8 / 10 a.m.-3 p.m. / Ages 15-18

#### Junior Zoologists

(\$25-Members. \$30-Nonmembers)

Learn almost everything you always wanted to know about Metrozoo but were afraid to ask. Attend our six animal discovery days for budding Junior Zoologists.

Six consecutive Saturdays / April 16-May 23  
9 a.m.-Noon / Grades 7-9.

#### Family Film Fare

(Free to zoo visitors)

Enjoy zooper animal film classics, including Gerald Durrell's *Ark On The Move* film series and other classics. Saturday fun for the entire family. It's free! Under 12 must be with adult.

Monday / April 30 showtimes: 10:30 a.m. / 12:30 p.m. / 2:30 p.m.

# Toucan Chatter.

## Merry Zoo Round.

If you're reading this, you're probably a dedicated zoogoer already. We'd just like to remind you that as a Zoological Society member, you have free admission to 70 other zoos around the country. See the new Audubon Zoo the next time you're in New Orleans; or the Riverbanks Zoo when you're in Columbia, South Carolina; or the Woodland Park Zoo when you're in Seattle, Washington; or...well, the list goes on and on. Just zoom all over.

## How To Click With Animals.

If you have a positive interest in animals and photography, the Photography Club is a must for you. Members meet on the third Wednesday evening of every month (the next meeting is on April 20th) to discuss techniques and tricks of zoo photography, plan special field trips and photo opportunities, and sponsor a photo competition. Fees are \$10 for Society members, \$15 for non-members. Special family rates are available. Call 255-5551.

## All Booked Up.

One thing the education department has wanted to do for some time is start a storytelling program for children at the zoo. We are now much closer to that happy ending, thanks to a parcel of books generously donated by William Morrow & Company of New York. Some of the intriguing titles are: *There's An Ape Behind the Drape: How To Make A Dinosaur: The Animals Who Changed Their Colors: Blizzard at the Zoo;* and many others.

## His Art's In The Right Place.

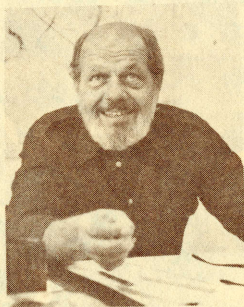
Famous wildlife artist, Charles Fracé, recently had a showing of his works at Metrozoo. Limited edition prints and some originals were on sale, with the artist on hand to autograph his paintings and talk about his work. Proceeds from the sale will help fund the zoo's nursery clinic building.

Fracé specializes in capturing animals on canvas, and has held one-man shows from coast to coast. No wonder he has been called "one of the nation's most collected wildlife artists."

Fracé admirers who missed the show can still purchase a print. Call 255-5551 for information. Society members get a discount too!

## Zoo Director's Report.

# Route Of Survival In The Captive Wild.



The Congo Basin is a world away from New Iberia, Louisiana. While Cajun country is noted for many things, including its wildlife, it is not noted for gorillas, making it a most unlikely place to begin a story on that species. However, on the morning of March 8, 1983, Metrozoo staff left Miami via Trans-Air-Link Airways to bring back four lowland gorillas from that very location.

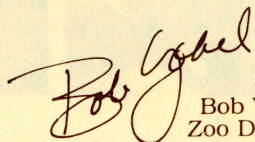
The tale of a portion of this group began some fifteen years ago when the National Institutes of Health (NIH) acquired three gorillas, a male and two females. I have been told that upon their arrival, the gorillas were determined to be approximately 30 months old and were then sent to separate facilities in the NIH system. This separation was short-lived and they all came together again at Gulf South Research Institute in New Iberia where they remained for the next fourteen years.

Despite its name, Gulf South did not involve the gorillas in any research programs; they received affection and excellent care from Dr. William Greer and his staff. Of the original group, two remain, one having died recently of causes yet to be determined. The reasons for the original acquisition by NIH remain obscure and are no longer important. The real significance lies in the fact that they are at Metrozoo now and will play a meaningful role in the survival of their species.

The route of survival in the captive-wild sometimes takes strange turns. But for a chance meeting with a friend in the local scientific community, we would not have known of the possible availability of the group. Upon contacting the NIH in Washington, D.C., it was determined that potential budget cuts and a decision by NIH that the group could play a more important role outside the closed system in which they currently existed had led to their availability. It was also learned, however, that we were not the only interested zoo. Dispensing with details, ten months of communication, inspection and review by an ad hoc technical committee led to the selection of Metrozoo as the permanent home for the main group.

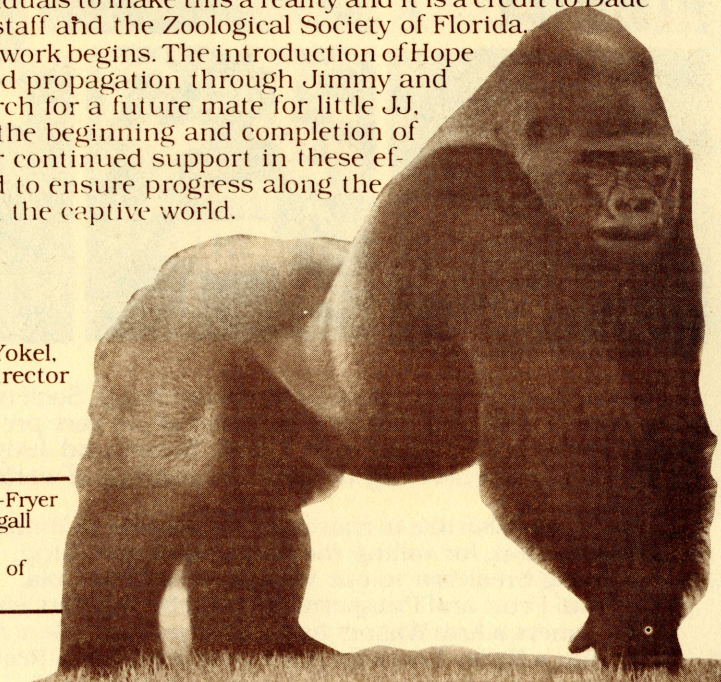
At 1:30 p.m. March 9, 1983, Jimmy, 17 years old; Josephine, 16; Hope, 8 and JJ, 3, arrived at Tamiami Airport — another major step forward for our new zoo, and a significant contribution to the zoological community in general. All of the gorillas made the trip with a minimum of stress and are adjusting well to their new surroundings. It took the efforts of many individuals to make this a reality and it is a credit to Dade County, Metrozoo staff and the Zoological Society of Florida.

And now the real work begins. The introduction of Hope to Lamar, continued propagation through Jimmy and Josephine, the search for a future mate for little JJ, last, but not least, the beginning and completion of Gorilla Island. Your continued support in these efforts will be needed to ensure progress along the route of survival in the captive world.

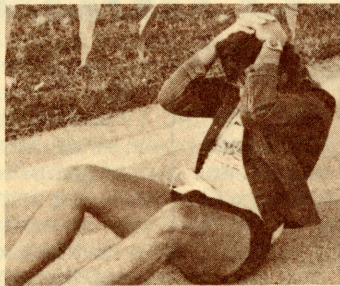
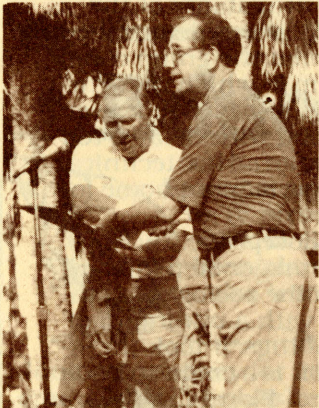
  
Bob Yokel,  
Zoo Director

**Editor:** Mamta Chaudhry-Fryer  
**Design:** Janice McDougall

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The Zoological Society of  
South Florida.



# A RUNAWAY SUCCESS!



Continued From Page 1.

Ronnie Scherr. Gary Simon and Shirley Riggs, Society members who were involved in hours of pre-race preparations, and to Rita Bryan, Carole Scheel and Judy Thomas, who cheerfully tackled the landslide of work.

We would also like to thank: ● Ron Scholar, of Ronlo Construction, for rolling the course ● Burger King, for giving breakfast to our volunteers ● Coca Cola, Carnival Fruit and Pumpernicks for refreshments for the runners ● Ann Wagner for first aid and ambulance coverage ● Ryder Truck for our race truck o Coral Reef

Photography By Dan Wilson

Hospital for towels ● Willard Scott for the good word ● Dan Wilson for photography ● the entire Richard & Mickie Lewis family ● & the weather for being perfect.

If there are any names we didn't mention, it was due to lack of space, not lack of appreciation.

If you missed the Jungle Jog this year, be sure to attend in 1984. We expect an even bigger success. As far as the number of runners goes, the Orange Bowl Marathon and Race of the Americas have a slight edge on us. But next year we'll give them a run for their money!

# Be A Dear... Volunteer.



The 'little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love' that William Wordsworth wrote about are just what we're asking of you. Become a volunteer at the wild-est place in town — Metrozoo.

As a volunteer, you become one of a close-knit family, involved in the day-to-day life of a zoo. A life that is filled with unusual experiences and rewards. What qualifications do you have to have to be a zoo volunteer? Just some spare time, and the ability to care about animals & people.

If you have any special skills and interests — typing, filing, research, teaching, public speaking — you can make a valuable contribution to the zoo. Just call the Society office at 255-5551, and leave your name and number. We'll get in touch with you and tell you how you can become involved with the Docents, ZIP, the Education Department, the Service Team, the Speakers Bureau, or a number of other programs.

Involvement is only a phone call away. Call us and find out how you can become more than a Society member — how you can become a family member.

# Class Registration.

Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### For Students 18 And Under:

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student's Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

- Member**  
 **Nonmember**

Membership (If Desired) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Enroll Me In The Following Program.

Program \_\_\_\_\_  
 Session Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Program Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership** entitles you to free admission to Metrozoo and 70 other zoos, special events and the Society's publications. Family \$35 / Dual \$25 / Individual \$15 Annual Memberships are tax deductible. All registrations must be paid in advance. Refunds will be made up to 1 week prior to class starting date.

Mail To: **Education Dept., ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA**  
 12400 S.W. 152 Street, Miami, Florida 33177

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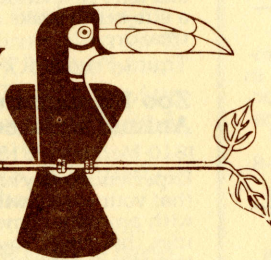
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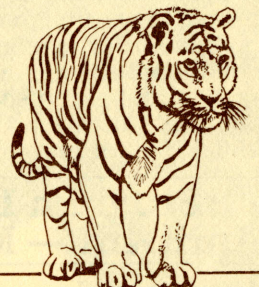
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