

# TOUCAN TALK



SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER / VOL. 9, NO. 5

## THE HORNS OF A DILEMMA

Dear Friends:

By the time you receive this letter, I'll probably be back home, but I wanted to share my experiences with you and to thank you for making it possible for me to be here.

Here is Manila, in the Philippines, the first stop in our search for the elusive Sumatran rhino. As you know, this is the most endangered of the five living species of rhino. Although the population of the Sumatran rhino stands at around 300—a fairly respectable number—it is decreasing rapidly every year. The reasons for this vary. In some cases, poachers kill the rhinos for their horns. In others, the rhinos are scattered so widely that they cannot come together to breed. Also, as the areas become more industrialized, people are cutting down trees at a shocking rate, and, by destroying its habitat, endangering the Sumatran rhino.

Can anything be done to avert the terrible fate of extinction for this impressive animal? We hope so. That's why Dr. Tom Foose, conservation coordinator for the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA), and I are in the jungles of South-east Asia—to investigate the feasibility of developing a captive breeding program for the rhino. It's to your credit that the Zoological Society cares enough about the preservation of animals to have funded my trip. Our main area of interest is Sabah, an independent state

of Malaysia. There is a known rhino population on a reserve in Sabah and this might well turn out to be the nucleus of our captive breeding program. But time is running out. Poachers might get to them before we do.

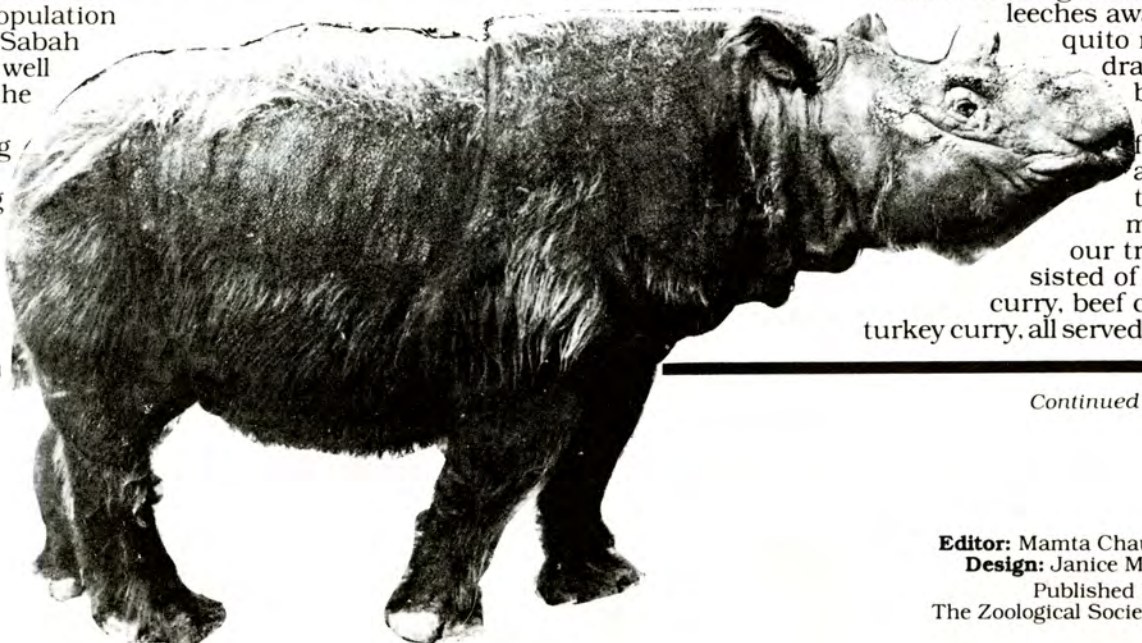
So what are we doing in Manila? Well, how do you capture a rhino? As the old joke goes, very carefully. We are here to meet Tony Parkinson, who probably knows more about trapping large hoofstock than any other person in the world. We wanted to get tips from him on techniques and timings for this delicate operation.

Tony lives in San Jose, the largest town on the island of Mindoro. He picked us up from the airport in a jeep, and we bounced and jolted all the way to his house, set on a volcanic beach, looking out on azure water. This was a welcome change from the noise, stench and crowded streets of Manila, where stray chickens, pigs and goats made the traffic even more chaotic than it already was.

Not all of Mindoro was a pretty as Tony's place. Under the scorching sun, the fields were dry, dusty and brown, and the signs of drought were obvious. We hiked up to Tony's capture site. Charred stumps and ashes greeted us where there had been a lush tropical forest only a year ago. It will be several lifetimes before another one can grow. The ecological impact of this wanton destruction of our environment cannot but take a heavy toll on wildlife.

This brought home the purpose of our visit there. We headed further into the interior, where some jungles still remained. This was where Tony had his base camp—modest shelters made from bamboo and palm fronds,

raised off the ground to keep leeches away. Mosquito nets were draped over bare rope cots. Our food then—and for the remainder of our trip—consisted of chicken curry, beef curry and turkey curry, all served with rice.



*Continued On Page 6*

# Lions & Tigers & Bears, Oh My!



It's hard to say whether it was the animals or the artists that stole the show on Young Artist's Day at Metrozoo. Thanks to all the participants and our judges--County Commissioner Ruth Shack, Society board member Richard Shack, prominent local artist Barry Massen and Frank Wyroba, head of the art department at F.I.U.--for making this a colorful community event. It wouldn't have been possible without our battalion of volunteers under the direction of Jean Waldberg. Thank you all. These pictures of young artists were taken by young photographer Jon Lewis.



## Grading Places

We're putting together the Society's 1983-84 travel program and we hope you'll go along with us. Let us know what you think so that we can put the finishing touches on our program. Just grade the following places according to your preference. **A** stands for "very interested" and **B** stands for "might be interested".

Be sure to fill in your name, address and phone number so we can keep in touch. Then clip and mail the questionnaire to:

Aileen Lotz, Travel Coordinator  
Zoological Society of Florida  
12400 S.W. 152nd Street  
Miami, Florida 33177

We'll mail you news and information about upcoming events that we know you won't want to miss. More about that at the next Toucan Travel Club meeting on Monday, September 13th at 7 p.m. in the Metrozoo classroom. We'll be talking about places "From Africa to Antarctica."

Looking back on our recent trip to Africa, the 58 members who went agreed that the Kenya safari was a

smashing success. The spectacle of the animals in the wild--particularly the migrating wildebeest--was staggering. The question is, are we going to have a repeat performance

of this trip next year? The answer: naturally! Watch for details.

Don't forget, once you join the Toucan Travel Club, the world's your oyster.

ANTARCTICA  
(November 23rd, 1983)  
24-day adventure cruise \_\_\_\_\_

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK  
(January, 1984)  
One-day bird-watching trip \_\_\_\_\_

COSTA RICA  
(February 7th, 1984)  
Nine-day bird-watching trip  
in national parks \_\_\_\_\_

BAJA, CALIFORNIA  
(March 3rd, 1984)  
Fifteen-day luxury cruise \_\_\_\_\_

GREAT BRITAIN  
(May, 1984)  
Two-week visit to the zoos of  
England and Scotland \_\_\_\_\_

GALAPAGOS  
(June, 1984)  
Eleven-day cruise & visit to Quito \_\_\_\_\_

AUSTRALIA  
(July, 1984)  
Twenty-two day wildlife  
exploration trip \_\_\_\_\_

KENYA  
(August, 1984)  
Two-week safari \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL ZOO  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
(October, 1984)  
A weekend visit \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Bus. Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# Education Outlook



Our summer programs at the zoo were a sizzling success. Warm thanks to all the willing volunteers--Service Team members, Education aides and docents--who chipped in. We could never have done it without you.

Well, as soon as summer is over, we start thinking about our fall programs, and we have an exciting lineup this year. We'll have special workshops for teachers, while expanding the programs available to school-children at the zoo. Call our Group Reservations at 251-1128 for more information.

By Ileen Seidler,  
Education  
Coordinator

Florida International University's graduate class in Education was so well received this summer that we are repeating it in the fall. Classes at Metrozoo for graduate and undergraduate credits begin September 12th. Contact me at 255-5551 or call Dr. Ed Reichbach or Dr. Art Dempsey of FIU at 554-2561/2 for details. Get in on a class act!

## Program Lineup September 14 — November 18

### Tuxedo Talk.

\$6—Members / \$8—Nonmembers

Discover your penguin pals--they're something to write home about. These funny birds look a lot like orchestra conductors or head waiters in their dinner jackets. Aileen Lotz, who coordinates the Society's travel programs to places like Antarctica, will present a special slideshow on penguins.

Wednesday • September 14  
7 p.m.-9 p.m. • Families (ages 9 & over)

### Zoo's Who.

\$15—Members / \$17.50—Nonmembers

For a change, you can learn about the people at a zoo rather than the animals. Discover who's who and what they do. You might even hit upon the career that's right for you if you've ever considered working at a zoo. You'll also get a chance to chat with people who work at Metrozoo.

Four consecutive Mondays  
September 26—October 17 • 7 p.m.-9 p.m.  
High school and adult.

### Metrozoo Inn.

\$17.50—Members / \$20—Nonmembers

Night life at a zoo is really something and you get a rare chance to observe it. Bring your sleeping bags for this special slumber party, which includes a monorail ride, dinner, a night walk and breakfast the next morning. Registration is limited to the first 15, so hurry if you want to be in on the Metrozoo Inn.

Friday—Saturday • September 23, October 7  
November 4 & 18 • 5 p.m.-9 a.m. • Grades 4-6

### Junior Zoologist

\$30—Members / \$35—Nonmembers

Learn almost everything you always wanted to know about Metrozoo but were afraid to ask. Get your information straight from the horse's mouth during our animal discovery days for budding Junior Zoologists. T-Shirt included.

6 consecutive Saturdays  
September 24—October 29 • 9 a.m.—Noon  
Grades 7-9

### Creature Clinic.

\$6—Members / \$8—Nonmembers

We'll be talking about some of our pet subjects--how to care for pets; what to do for orphaned animals, both wild and tame; what is rehabilitation. You'll get a chance to see some birds of prey and a special guest who rehabilitates them. Learn how to care for your pets through those who care for the zoo's animals.

Saturday • September 24 • 1 p.m.-3 p.m.  
Grades 5-8

### Going Batty.

\$6—Members / \$8—Nonmembers

Have you always been fascinated by bats? Do you enjoy vampire stories? Is Batman one of your favorite superheroes? Then you've probably got bats in your belfry. We have a feeling you'll go bats about our multimedia presentation telling you all about bats and their behavior.

Saturday • October 15  
1 p.m.—3 p.m. • Grades 4-6

### Night Owls.

\$17.50—Members / \$20—Nonmembers

At last--a night out for adults only. Find out what the kids have been raving about. Spend a night at the zoo and discover a whole new world of sights and sounds. Bring your sleeping bags; we'll provide dinner and breakfast. For all you night owls, this will be such a hoot!

Friday—Saturday • October 21—22  
6 p.m.—9 a.m.

### Creatures That Go Bump In The Night.

\$6—Members / \$8—Nonmembers

Learn what happens in the world of animals when the lights go out. What's bedtime for many animals is a signal for others to wake up. These nocturnal creatures have some interesting characteristics. Find out who they are and what they do. Don't be left in the dark.

Saturday • October 22 • 1 p.m.-3 p.m.  
Grades 1-3

### Toucan Team.

\$50—Members / \$60—Nonmembers

One of our new programs that has become extremely popular. A challenging opportunity to delve deeper into the study of animals and zoos. Participants will use all the resources available in our Education Department to make what they've studied in books come alive. Comparative anatomy and microscopy are only some of the offerings in this program. T-shirts and all required materials are provided.

6 consecutive Saturdays  
November 5—December 10 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Grades 9-12

## Enroll Me In The Following Programs.

Programs \_\_\_\_\_

Session Date \_\_\_\_\_

Program Fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Class Registration.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_  Member

Student's Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  Nonmember

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. 152nd St., Miami, FL 33177

# A Success Story

Many of America's major zoos were already a solid part of their communities long before Miami was even a city worth the name. These zoos owe their existence and continuing growth to a source of support that is far more enduring than a simple donation. It's called membership, and it involves a commitment that is spiritual as well as financial. The members of a zoo are its real and lasting strength.

In the 18 months since Metrozoo opened, the membership of the Zoological Society of Florida has swelled to over 20,000--a large, close-knit family dedicated to supporting the zoo. The newest additions to our family are our corporate members. These are local firms that believe in the value of a zoo to our community, and are willing to invest in its future.

In May, the Society began its first corporate membership campaign. Development director Joe Ferrer and zoo staff devised a unique benefits package that not only reaps financial contributions from area corporations, but also gives them tangible returns in the form of bene-

fits for their employees. These benefits include discounts on zoo admission, reduced rates on individual Society memberships, and special opportunities for company outings at Metrozoo.

The results have been remarkable. In these few months, we have collected \$70,000 in donations. Additionally, we have fulfilled a \$50,000 challenge grant from Burger King Corporation toward the construction of a nursery/clinic.

Collections and pledges, which now total \$118,500, come from these benefactors:

American Bankers Life
Burger King Corporation
Charles Babcock Company
Chase Federal Savings
Chevron, U.S.A.
Citicorp
Coral Reef Hospital
Eagle National Bank of Miami
Ernst & Whinney
First Nationwide Savings
Flagship Bank

By Lester Goldstein

Greenberg, Traurig, Askew
Janet Hooker Foundation
Levitz Furniture Corporation
Royal Trust Bank
Ryder System, Inc.
Service Team
Sun Bank
The Miami News
Volkswagen South, Inc.

Our new zoo and its achievements have received more local, national and international acclaim than even the most optimistic of us ever imagined. And all this from a small group of people who refused to give up on a dream 12 years ago. The key ingredient then--as now--was the spirit and commitment of its members.

It is the continued efforts of our members, both individual and corporate, that will ensure our standing among the world's most renowned zoos. Let's keep the momentum going on one of the greatest success stories in our community.

# The Hunt

Here's a cordial invitation  
(And a handy application)  
To ensure participation  
In the Hunt that's  
on its way.

On October 8th  
we have a date.  
Come before the  
clock strikes eight.  
So you know you  
won't be late  
(That's how good hunters play).

At 12 we'll find the winner  
And provide a light dinner  
To satisfy your inner  
Needs, and cap a super day.

Sixty dollars for each twosome  
(You'll need 3 per car), so woo some  
They'll be glad you did, so do some  
Recruiting right away

For the Zoological Society,  
And an evening of variety  
To avoid undue anxiety  
Mail your check out today.



The Hunt is an annual event for the Zoological Society of Florida. This one will be held on Saturday, October 8th, at 8 p.m.

The fee is \$60 per couple, and there must be three couples per car. Make your checks out to the Zoological Society of Florida (yes, they're tax deductible!) and mail them to:

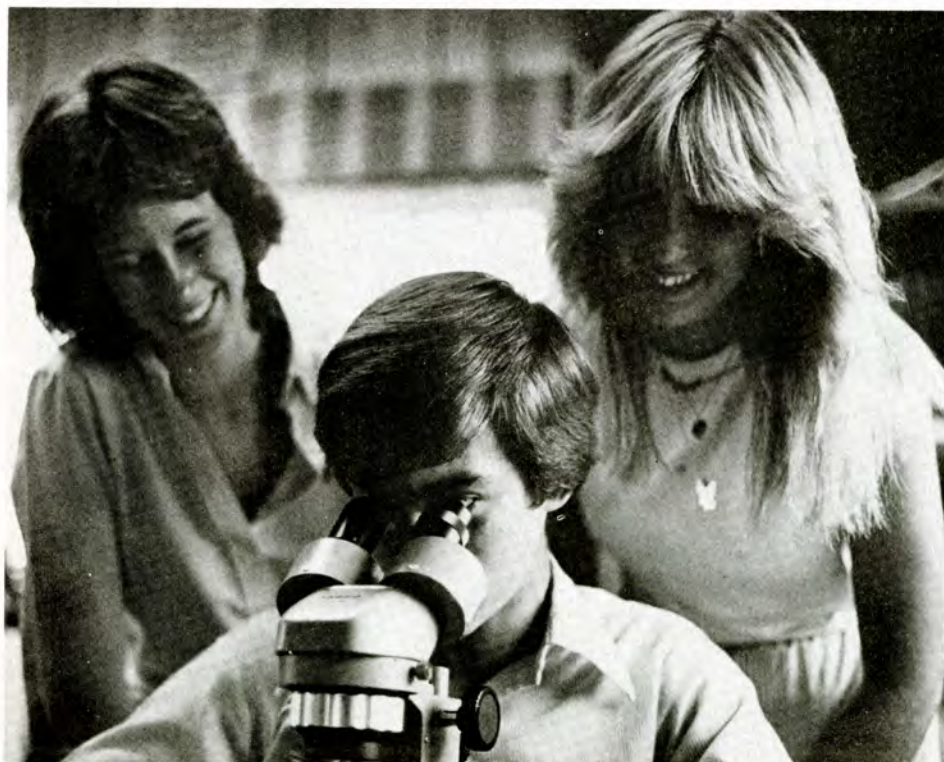
Dr. & Mrs. Monroe Scheiner  
7325 S.W. 162nd Street  
Miami, Florida 33157

After we receive your checks, we'll send you details and specific instructions for the Hunt. The deadline for applications is September 15th. The Hunt will be limited to the first 60 applications, so hurry.

If you are unable to attend in person, be there in spirit by mailing in a tax-deductible contribution to the Zoological Society.

Monty and Eve Scheiner  
Paul and Marilyn Gustman  
Howard and Marilyn Tendrich

## Present Under Glass



Tasco, a leading manufacturer of ocular equipment, has donated a wide assortment of microscopes and other materials to the Society's Education Department for use in its programs and classes. Thanks so much for broadening our scope, Tasco! (Photo by Micki Lewis)



## Metroboo!

Here's an unusual and exciting way to enjoy Halloween this year--haunt the zoo. In fact, you can now stretch Halloween over two days--Saturday, October 29th, and Sunday, October 30th at Metrozoo.

There'll be smiles and surprises galore, including Jack O'Lanterns, fortune tellers and haunted caves. Children under 12 get in free if they're in full costume. There'll also be prizes for the best costumes. And, of course, the magic of the animals is always there at the zoo.

Remember, that's from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the weekend before Halloween. At Metrozoo, the trick is really a treat.

## Application Form

### Couple #1

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Couple #2

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Couple #3

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# The Unkindest Cut.

## The County Budget & Metrozoo.



I've lived in Miami for 30 years, and for me one of the brightest stars in the city's firmament is Metrozoo. Considering my job and involvement, I could be called pre-

judiced, but even hard-core critics admit that our zoo is a thing of beauty. It also is a valuable asset to a community that sorely needs some assets and a reassessment of its values.

Metrozoo has garnered more national publicity than any other single element in the community, except for crime, drugs and riots. Some might argue that Christo's "Surrounded Islands" made a bigger splash in the media, but after all the pink plastic has been rolled away, Metrozoo remains, here today and here tomorrow.

While all the publicity for Metrozoo is well and good, we should not allow it to make us complacent and dull our perception of the problems that the zoo faces. One of my greatest fears is that because of all the publicity and public acceptance, many will assume that Metrozoo no longer needs support. That's not the case at all, because today we need your support more than ever.

Just consider, every year since the Preview Center opened in 1980, we have been able to announce growth and expansion at Metrozoo to make it a better experience for residents and tourists, to increase our ability to protect and preserve wildlife, and to make Metrozoo a more valuable community resource--a focus of community pride. Next year, for the first time, we may not be able to make an announcement of growth or expansion at the zoo. Here's why:

Because of recent decisions about the property tax millage rate, Dade County is forced to seriously consider slashing its budget by **20 million dollars** for fiscal year 1983-84. Metrozoo is as susceptible to budget cuts as other county departments. Should budget reduction become a reality, it would be a devastating blow to a zoo that is not yet complete. In the arena of government funding, once you have lost funding, you never really recover it. Even though the dollars might be replaced in the future, you lose the immediate opportunity to grow. The momentum, the continuity and consistency of a program, and time--all these are lost and cannot be replaced.

I sincerely believe, as I hope you do, that Metrozoo makes a positive statement about our community. It is an indication of what can be accomplished through the commitment and active support of concerned individuals like you.

Please read the President's message in this issue closely. He will tell you what I can confirm--the Society and Metrozoo need your continued support.

*Bob Yokel*  
Bob Yokel

# President's Message

## An Open Letter To The Metro-Dade County Commissioners.

Dear Commissioners:

As president of the Zoological Society of Florida, I feel a responsibility to write to you now, at budget time, regarding our new zoo, and the potential impact upon it of your recent order to the County Manager to reduce his proposed budget for the coming fiscal year.

Our organization--now 20,000 strong and growing daily--has been doing everything possible to minimize the amount of subsidy necessary to operate and complete Metrozoo. Our Adopt-an-Animal program and our Corporate Donation program, among others, garnered more than \$145,000 toward the construction of a nursery/clinic. Further, our volunteers have donated well over \$85,000 in man-hours. In addition, we fund in full the \$100,000 education program at Metrozoo.

Metrozoo itself has also made great strides--last year, only three zoos earned more in admission revenue than Metrozoo. At the end of this year, we may be second only to San Diego. And Metrozoo's operational cost per acre, a standard barometer for judging operating efficiency, is significantly lower than any major U.S. zoo. Yet, even this is not enough.

Not a single major zoo in America or Europe exists without significant government subsidies. Our zoo, already more than twice the size of the San Diego Zoo even though it's not yet completed, is as demanding a zoo to operate as any in the country. But its budget is woefully lacking. This is no overstatement, as the following table illustrates:

### Budget Comparison: Metrozoo vs American Zoos of Similar Size & Scope

Zoo	Budget (000's)	Increase Over Previous Year	Capital Improvements	Operational Efficiency (Operational Cost Per Acre) (000's)
Brookfield	\$14,100	136%	\$1.16 Million	\$70.5
Philadelphia	6,000	23%	4.79 Million	143
San Diego	26,255	61%	3.12 Million	208
Bronx	19,270	28%	1.10 Million	75
National	9,158	17%	3.0 Million	54
Minnesota	5,200	18%	1.0 Million	37
<b>Miami (proposed)</b>	<b>\$5,264</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>	<b>\$23</b>

It seems clear that we've developed a state-of-the-art project and are now trying to operate it with a totally inadequate budget, based upon standards of zoos far less demanding. Then, there's the issue of completion. The zoo industry itself recognizes ours as the premier new zoo, with the potential of becoming the greatest of them all. Yet, we see little evidence of a commitment towards completion. Negative comments from visitors are increasing steadily about the long deadend walkway and the monorail tour over a construction site. The tourism industry, too--tour operators in particular--takes a "we'll see you when you're finished" attitude.

So, while both private and public sector representatives yearn for a "major attraction" for our area, here we sit with the unrealized potential of one of the world's major zoological parks. It is a unique facility in a state that is already filled with attractions.

If we wish to halt the increasing exodus of our residents, and to attract new industry that will help us regain our position as the leading county in Florida, then we must give paramount importance to the long-term quality of life for our citizens. Educated young professionals will move to this area only if we can offer them and their families this intangible benefit. What do we mean by quality of life? For one thing, the presence of educational, recreational and cultural opportunities. Metrozoo offers all three. In fact, in our opinion, no other single project in Dade county can provide the mass appeal and visible investment in our future as effectively as Metrozoo.

We ask, therefore, that you not only consider approving Metrozoo's requested budget in full, but also that you increase it by \$1 million for continued construction and operation, and that you more firmly commit Dade County to the completion of one of the most important and timely projects in its history. We understand the difficult decisions that you face while determining next year's budget, but we also recognize that we have a world-class facility in its infancy. It must be given room to grow.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Our board of governors and all our members have made it clear to me that they are committed to supporting Metrozoo throughout the budget and budget-hearing process. We all look forward to your full support as well.

Sincerely,

*Ron Esserman*  
Ron Esserman

# The Gallop Poll

By  
Dr. Bill Heuson



How can you help raise money for the much-needed animal hospital at Metrozoo? By horsing around!

On September 3rd and 4th, attend exciting horse shows at the Equestrian Center in Tropical Park, at Bird Road and the Palmetto Expressway. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. you can watch Arabian horses being put through their paces, and learn how the shows are judged. Admission to these entertaining and informative shows is only \$1.00 for adults and 50 cents for children. The tickets are good all day.

The horse shows are organized by the Sunshine State Arabian Club and the Zoological Society of Florida to raise funds for the animal hospital. They've already collected \$10,000 through previous shows and are counting on your help to make a dream come true.

Can you do a good turn and have a good time as well? Of horse!

*Continued From Page 1*

Rice was our staple food. We had rice with everything. Fried rice, steamed rice, rice with almonds, raisins and rice. It got to the point where I felt like yelling--"All rice, already!"

We spent the next few days studying the slide traps used by Tony and wondering how we could adapt them for use on the Sumatran rhino. The traps are actually 8-foot-deep pits dug in the ground. Two doors cover the pit. When an animal steps on them, the doors open downward, forming ramps for the

# Docent Doings

By Freda Houser

Taxonomy. Artiodactyla. Ungulates. These words might sound intimidating to the average person, but after attending docent classes twice a week, two hours a day, for eight weeks, they trip lightly off the tongue.

Docents play an important part in most cultural and educational institutions. At the zoo, their task is to educate the public to respect and understand animals. Before they can educate others, however, they must learn an awful lot themselves. This is where docent training comes in.

Docents attend lectures and study a text. The lessons are made interesting and reinforced by slides and artifacts. The expertise of Dr. Gordon Hubbell, Metrozoo's education director, and of curators, zookeepers and docents who teach

the class is apparent as the trainees confidently take the final examination at the end of the course.

It's not enough, however, to know a lot about animals. A docent must be able to communicate that information effectively to the public. So, trainees tag along with veteran docents to observe different tour techniques. When trainees feel comfortable enough to give their own tours, it's time for the acid test--the "one-on-one." This means giving a tour of the zoo to a member of the Education Committee--and doing it well.

Once that's done, trainees become provisional docents and participate in all docent doings. If you'd like to do likewise, call 255-2214. The next training session starts September 1st. And in eight short weeks, you could be saying "perrisodactyla" too.

## Officers:

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Buff March, 2nd Vice-President  
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Robert Harris, Treasurer

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Donald Rosenberg	

**SOCIETY OFFICE 255-5551**

animal to slide down on. The bottom of the pit is cushioned with three feet of grass to ensure a soft landing. Then the animal is lured into a crate and transported by helicopter to the breeding compound, called the "gene pool".

Could we follow the same procedure with the Sumatran rhino? Only time will tell. More when we reach Sabah.

*Bill Zeigler*

To be continued in next issue. *Bill Zeigler*

## ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA

12400 S.W. 152nd Street  
Miami, Florida 33177



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Organization  
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