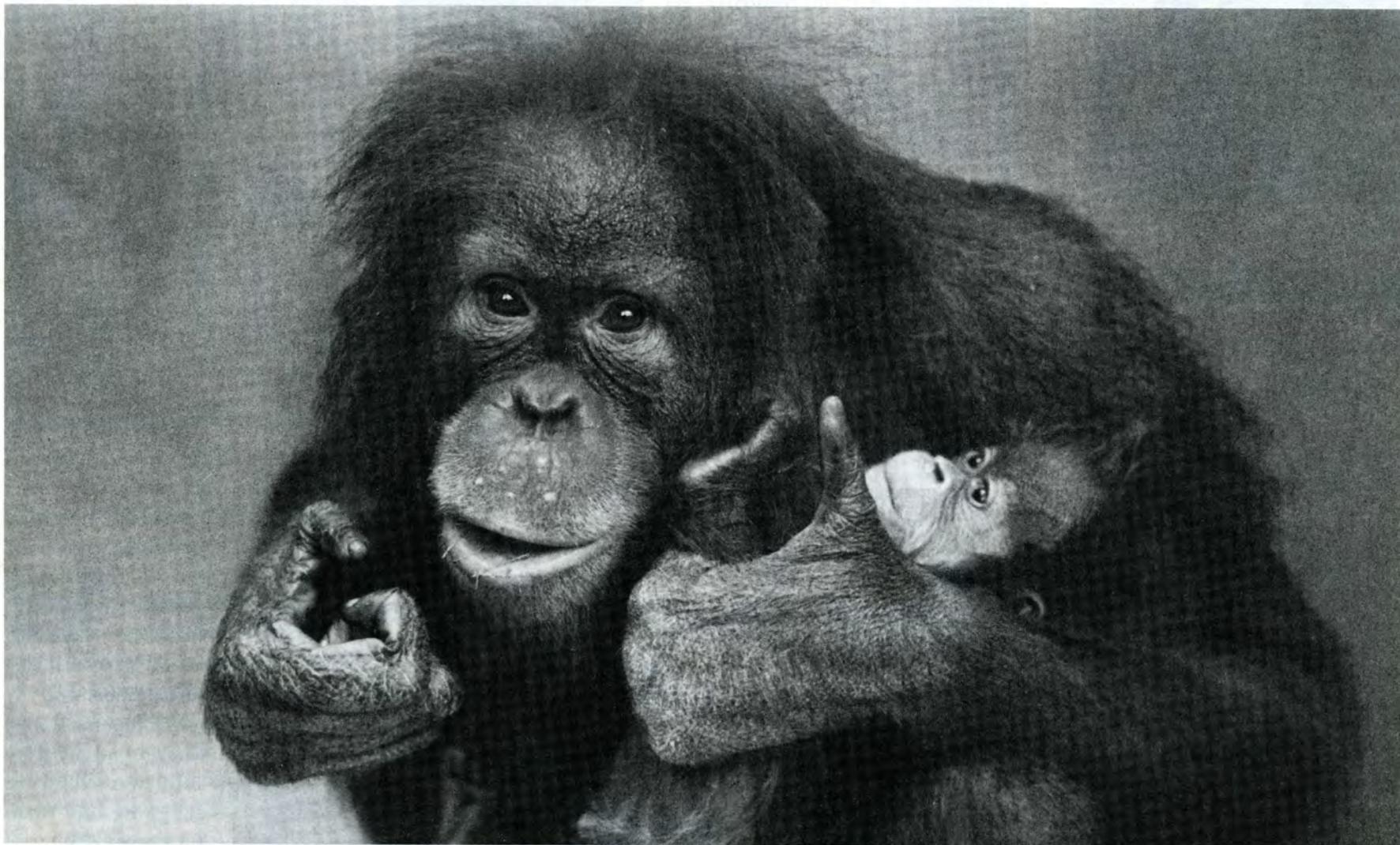




TOUCAN TALK

Published Bimonthly For Supporters of Miami Metrozoo



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One of the most important activities at a zoo is breeding endangered species. Over the decades we have amassed a priceless collection of species that are becoming increasingly threatened in their native habitats. Thus, there is an urgency to perpetuate our collections through successful breeding.

Metrozoo is an accredited member of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums. Its endangered species breeding efforts are coordinated through Species Survival Plans whose objective is to perpetuate genetically viable populations in captivity. In the best case, if SSPs are successful, zoo members and visitors will always be able to enjoy the sublime pleasure of looking at and learning from the animals in the zoo. At worst, zoos will ensure the preservation of species that have been decimated or whose habitats have been destroyed.

As we rebuild we continue to be blessed with successful breeding. If you've been following the "Zoo Births" column in Toucan Talk you've noted such species as orangutan, bongo and black rhinoceros. In this issue, we give you a behind-the-scenes look at events leading up to these important births and let you in on the reactions of those most closely involved. We show you how hard our veterinarian and keepers work to care for our mothers and babies.

If you ever wondered what it's like to see a baby rhino right after it's born or if you're curious about what a newborn hedgehog looks like, if you've ever wanted to know how high risk pregnancies are monitored or what happens when an antelope needs a C-section, this issue is for you. There are some pretty pictures of the little ones too, but don't let this issue of Toucan Talk serve as a vicarious visit. These babies are growing fast. Come and see them soon!



Welcome Berani!

Eight and a half years ago, one of our female orangutans, "Merah," gave birth to a female which was named "Talu." The birth was a special one because Talu was the first - and only - orangutan born at Metrozoo. Until now, Merah became a grandmother this year when Talu gave birth to her first offspring, "Berani."

Orangutans once ranged throughout Southeast Asia. Remains have been discovered in southern China, Vietnam and Java. Now, though, they are confined to a few areas in Sumatra and Borneo. Their population is diminishing as a direct result of human exploitation and population expansion and deforestation. In the wild a female orangutans give birth four to five times. A 40 percent infant mortality rate is normal. Even under the best conditions, the number of surviving infants per female is only two to three. Most devastating to the birth rate has been illegal trade of these animals. Not only do collectors kill mothers in order to steal infants but five out of six infants also die from stress or negligence during transport. Today, every birth, every infant, every mother is important to the success of the species which is classified as vanishing.

Talu's pregnancy was somewhat unexpected by the zoo staff. She was just reaching sexual maturity and mating had never been observed. Jasper, our dominant male orangutan, had been seen on several occasions manipulating Talu's hand, arm, foot or leg, but this seemed to be triggered by strangers entering the orangutan area and did not appear to be courtship behavior.

Our first suspicion of a pregnancy came in October 1992 when Talu began to appear uncharacteristically withdrawn and quick tempered. This concerned us, so we began to look for other behavioral and physiological changes and began to see symptoms that generally occur during the second month of pregnancy. To confirm our observations, a urine sample was sent to the lab. The test results were positive. We estimated that Talu would give birth in early 1993, based on normal gestation for orangutans of approximately eight to nine months.

We had several concerns about Talu's pregnancy. At just over eight years old, she is very young for motherhood.

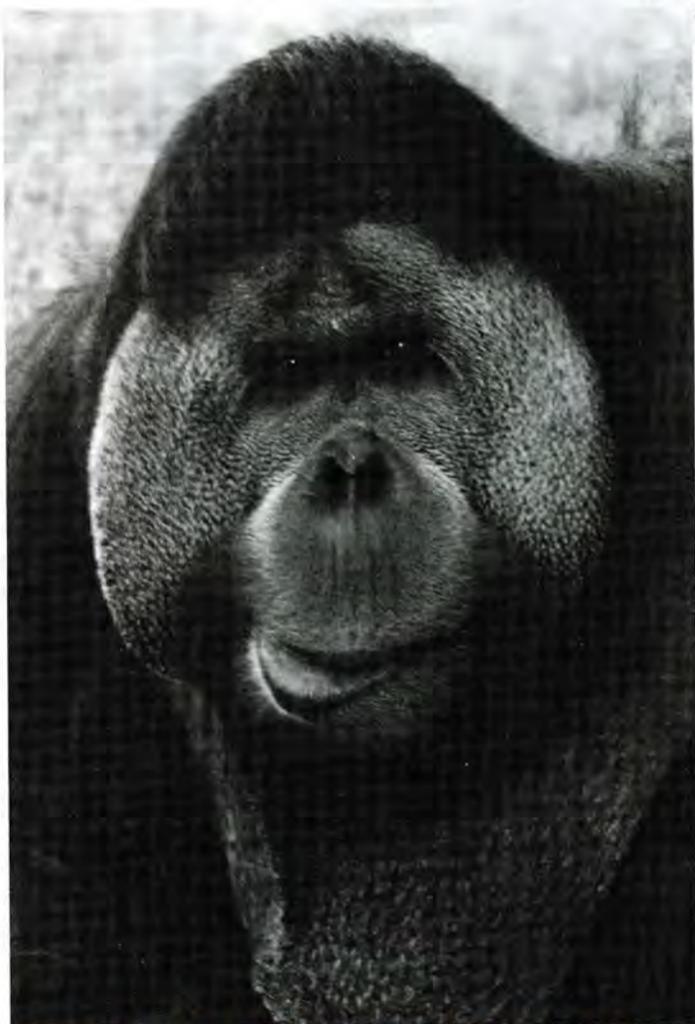
In addition, Talu had never observed other female orangutans with their young and had not had the chance to learn mothering skills by example as wild orangutans do. Nor did we have a qualified "aunt" to help Talu and "show her the ropes." Even though Talu had been mother-reared by Merah and, presumably, had strong orangutan instincts, we felt there was a high probability that Talu would have a problem birth or reject her baby.

On January 1, with the estimated due date two to three weeks away, we set up a 24-hour birth watch. Someone would be present at all times in case any problems arose. We also wanted to gauge Talu's overall health and look for clues that would tell us exactly when she would give birth.

During the day we kept an eye on her while managing our other duties. The night shift gave us more time to watch for unusual behaviors and take note of all normal activity, such as nest building, eating and grooming. Talu typically slept for most of the night, so often our greatest challenge was just staying awake and keeping warm! As the days went by, her abdominal movements, restless behaviors and nest building increased, along with our sense of anticipation.

During the second week of night duty Talu was observed coughing up small amounts of clotted blood. Immediately, warning flags were raised. The cause could have been as simple as a cut or sore in the throat area or as serious as a throat sac infection or bleeding ulcer. Compounding the seriousness of this symptom was the fact that Talu had been eating very little.

Zoo veterinarian, **Dr. Chriss Miller** decided to wait before doing extensive diagnostic procedures. Our greatest concern was Talu's lack of appetite. The last thing we wanted was to have her successfully give birth and then be



Jasper, our adult male orangutan, is Berani's dad.

**Orangutan photo
on cover by
Rick McCawley.**

Richard Arnold

physically unable to raise the infant. To ensure her health and that of her infant we needed to get her to eat. So we formulated a special "zoo cake" from primate chow, vegetables, eggs, honey, molasses and raisins. Initially, she ate this very well, but as time went on she turned her nose up at the zoo cake, too. We then decided to feed her anything she would eat, as long as it was healthy.

By mid-February, according to our calculations, Talu was overdue. She had been restless and seemed a bit uncomfortable with her large size for quite some time. We were increasingly concerned that she might have problems. But on February 14, our fears were put to rest. Around midnight, Talu's behavior suddenly and drastically changed. After rousing for a brief snack and seeming slightly more restless than usual, she unmistakably went into a very noisy labor. The whole zoo must have heard her bellows and the screams of the other orangutans who joined the chorus. The labor lasted just under an hour. Then, at 1:25 a.m. on February

**Berani**

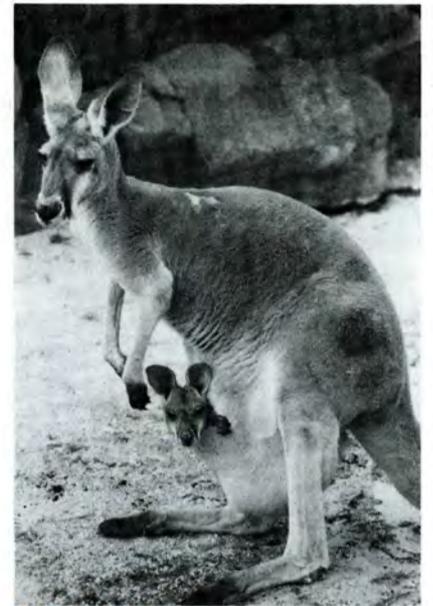
Rick McCawley

15, after a short period of silence, Talu gave birth.

All the worrying, all the long hours of night watch, all the extreme measures taken to help Talu paid off when she gave birth to a healthy male. The veterinarian, the general curator, zoological supervisors and the other primate keepers welcomed our 1:30 a.m. wake up calls to announce the birth they had so anxiously awaited.

Our concerns over Talu's mothering skills were needless. Her instincts took over immediately. Slowly but surely, she managed to get the infant dry and keep him warm. She supports the infant's head, encourages him to nurse and is a doting and protective mother. The infant, whom we call "Berani," an Indonesian name meaning "bold" or "brave," continues to thrive. Seeing Talu and Berani together is definitely worth a special trip to the zoo. ■

by Zoo Keepers Linda Owen, Barbara Palmer and Connie Wagner

**Red kangaroo**

Rick McCawley

ZOO BIRTHS & HATCHINGS

March 1 - April 25

Red kangaroo <i>Megaleia rufa</i>	
Sex undetermined	Mar. 7
Brush-tailed possum <i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>	
Sex undetermined	Mar. 10
Bongo <i>Tragelaphus eurycerus isaaci</i>	
Male	Mar. 10
Bennet's wallaby <i>Macropus rufogriseus fruticosa</i>	
Female	Mar. 12
Black & white colobus (2) <i>Colobus polykomos angolensis</i>	
Sex undetermined	Mar. 22
Hedgehog <i>Atelerix albiventris</i>	
Male	Apr. 4
Eastern leopard tortoise (3) <i>Geochelone pardalis babcocki</i>	
Sex undetermined	Apr. 22 & 25

Tiny And Spiney

What's covered with spines, fits in your hand and hisses and jumps when you touch it? If you said an East African Hedgehog, then you would be correct. If not, you haven't been to our Children's Zoo in a very long time.

Unlike their name implies, hedgehogs are not related to pigs. Their closest relatives are in fact moles and shrews. Hedgehogs get their name from the way they root around for worms and insects which is similar to the way hogs search for food.

The small, secretive hedgehog's main form of defense is its spines. Also called quills, these are modified hairs that are rigid and pointed. When frightened or nervous the hedgehog rolls up into a ball and looks like a little pin cushion.

Over the years the zoo has maintained a small group of hedgehogs to use in our educational outreach and Children's Zoo programs. A number of attempts have been made to breed them, without success. As our animals have grown older we have had to depend on private breeders and donations to replace our aging individuals.

On April 4, 1993, however, a miracle occurred. Two baby hedgehogs were born. One was stillborn, the other is a healthy little male. The keepers named our new addition "Pokey." He will eventually join our outreach program to help us educate the public about animal adaptations and wildlife conservation. ■

by Damien Kong,
Education Specialist

Eye Witness Report

"My daughter Linda and I were so excited to be among the first to discover the birth of a hedgehog at the zoo. It was a Sunday afternoon and we were there to clean and feed the animals in the ARC, something the volunteers do every day. We were alarmed when we noticed some blood on the shredded paper in Sibyl the hedgehog's cage. We called Jeanette Pineda, the zoo keeper on duty, she examined Sibyl and everything seemed to be okay. It was actually keeper Joy Stahl who first saw the tiny babies. They were twins, but only one survived. It was about one and half inches long, shaped like a jelly bean, with rubbery spines on its back. The veterinarian instructed us to clean the cage very carefully and then leave mother and baby alone. For two weeks, no one was allowed to look in on them except the zoo keepers so I feel especially privileged to have seen the baby so soon after it was born."

—Barbara Crutchfield, Zoo Volunteer



Barbara Crutchfield

East African hedgehog, "Pokey", practically newborn.

Working quickly and quietly, under less-than-ideal conditions, Barbara Crutchfield captured this first photo of our baby hedgehog.

Sing Along Sundays

Miami-based children's recording artist Sari Mitchell will be a featured performer in the Children's Zoo this summer. Children of all ages enjoy her energetic, participatory renditions of favorite and original songs including her newest, zoiest song "Walk Through the Jungle." All performances include sing alongs, dance contests, audience participation activities and musical games.

July 11

July 18

July 25

August 8

August 15

August 22

September 12

September 19

September 26

It's easy to get all wrapped up in learning about reptiles and other animals when you experience "Close Ups" in the Children's Zoo.

Up Close A

A few weeks ago a young father from Minnesota brought his family to Metrozoo. While exploring the Children's Zoo, he and his children noticed a young woman sitting beneath a tree with a sleeping, three-foot snake coiled languidly around her forearm. No, it wasn't a snake charmer. It was a zoo volunteer, who called the family over to meet her reptilian friend close up.

When the children saw the snake, they approached with equal parts revulsion and curiosity. The snake raised its head and began flicking its tongue. The father folded his arms across his chest and set his face in a stern expression so not to reveal the fact that he was freaking out. "Give me strength! A snake!" he exclaimed inwardly, "I guess I should act brave. I don't want to set a bad example for the kids." He inched away to a "safe" distance.

"This is 'Herman,' our ball python," said the volunteer. The snake craned his head toward the children. "He's so sensitive to vibrations that he woke up just from feeling you walk over here." Flick! Flick! went his forked tongue. "He's smelling you with his tongue," explained the volunteer.

"Smelling with his tongue?" the children echoed, sticking their own tongues out and making faces at each other.

"You kids cut that out," warned the dad from across the yard.

"I was just smelling her, Dad!"

"Herman's picking up particles from the air with his tongue and transferring them back to an organ in his mouth that allows him to smell you," the volunteer told them patiently. "Smelling is important to snakes because

they lack other senses such as external ears. Some have very good vision, some, like Herman here, have poor vision, so they depend on smell to analyze things around them. Herman is checking you out. He wants to know if you are predator or prey."

"Why is a snake going to pray?" asked the littlest one.

"Not pray as in prayer," explained the volunteer, "prey as in dinner. If you are a predator, you might eat the snake. If you are prey, you might be something the snake would eat. Which do you think you are?"

"We're not anything! We hate snakes! Snakes are slimy! Snakes are gross!" They unleashed their fears and misconceptions about snakes.

"So you think snakes are slimy. Maybe you'd like to touch one and see if that's true."

"You mean we can touch him?"

"What if he thinks we're prey?"

"We thought the zoo was just for looking!"

"Slow down, slow down," the volunteer cautioned. "Just be still and I'll show you how to touch the snake. First of all, he won't bite you because he has already figured out that you are not something to eat. What do you think Herman likes to eat?"

"Hamburgers!"

"Chicken wings?"

"Tacos!"

"Now don't be silly. Tacos might give a snake heartburn!" They all laughed and wondered what the snake would look like after eating a taco. "Actually, Herman's favorite food are mice. Do any of you have a pet mouse?"

The answer was no. The volunteer held out the snake and instructed the children, one at a time, to gently stroke the snake along its back, being careful to move their hands in the direction of his scales.

"He's so dry and smooth," said one child.

"His scales are kinda' bumpy," said another.

"He's wrapping his tail around me," said the third nervously.

"Ball python's are constrictors. They constrict on our arms to hold on but, as I said, they know by smell the signature of a human and that we're not animals they consider prey. If you were to play with a mouse or a rat and have that smell on you then you would stand a good chance of being bitten. Our rule is that if you have handled a mammal or any prey item of that particular type of snake then you must wash your hands before you handle a snake." The volunteer gently unwrapped Herman's tail and gave each child several turns to feel the snake as she answered their many questions.

Meanwhile, Dad was still standoffish. He had his camera out and was using a zoom lens to capture the amazed expressions on his kids' faces as they experienced



Photos by Rick McCawley

nd Personal



the feeling of a real live snake .

"C'mere Dad! You've got to feel it. It's just the coolest thing. Wait'll you touch him!"

"No, thanks. I'll pass."

"Are you chicken?" they asked.

"No way. It's just that... Um...

I promised to get some pictures for your mom. Yeah, that's the ticket."

The kids tugged at the straps on the camera bag.

"We dare you, Dad! It isn't even slimy!" they said.

Reluctantly, he relented, egged on by his offspring. "Maybe I'll just touch the tail real quick."

The volunteer held up the snake and the dad gingerly reached out and touched it. She was full of fun facts. "Snakes have heat sensors along the edge of their mouths called labial pits," she said.

"Really?" said the dad.

"They are so sensitive to heat that they can detect changes in temperature as slight as the heat of a flashlight, even when it's sunny."

"No kidding!"

"By eating mice, and other small rodents they eat insects, too. They provide an efficient, low cost, non-polluting kind of a natural pest control."

"Hmmm," interjected the dad thoughtfully. "This has got me thinking. I used to see these little garden snakes in the yard every spring. They scared the heck out of me. I'd try to whack 'em with my hoe, but they were a lot quicker than I was. Then our neighbor got a couple of cats and I think the cats must have chased the snakes away because

I don't see those snakes any more. But you know something? Now in the fall we seem to have a lot more grasshoppers. I never really made this connection before, but do you think that has something to do with the snakes in our yard being 'extinct,' so to speak?"

"That could very well be," the volunteer replied. "Did you know there are areas of Southeast Asia, for example, where rodent and insect populations are increasing rapidly due to over-harvesting of the reptiles and

In general, people remember 20% of what they are told; 30% of what they see; 50% of what they see and hear; 70% of what they say; and 90% of what they do. That's why we created Close Ups, informal demonstrations of live animals, in the Children's Zoo.



at Metrozoo. You get yourselves down there."

"Thank heaven for our members," said the volunteer.

"Well, I have to admit I had my doubts, but here we are and we've loved every minute of it. Even with the damage that you still have, this is a wonderful zoo. And giving my children this personal explanation and demonstration of the animals is the best. I just wouldn't have missed this for the world." ■

by Barbara Brady

amphibians that feed on them? This means not only that crops are being devastated by insects, but also that diseases carried by rodents are on the rise. All because there aren't enough snakes and frogs. On a micro scale, your situation at home is like that. Your backyard may be small, but it's still an ecosystem."

"Well I'll be," said the dad, who by this time had the snake wrapped around his waist and the kids were taking pictures of him. "I just might have to get one or two of these to keep around the house. This is really neat."

"Oh, sure," the sarcastic young ones replied. "Yeah, right. Mom is gonna love that!"

"You know, we almost didn't come to Metrozoo," the dad said. "Up in Minnesota where we come from, everyone had told us there wouldn't be anything to see here, that only about ten percent of the animals were left since that big storm."

"Funny how the facts get all twisted as they travel," said the volunteer.

"My kids wanted to see animals," he continued, "so we were planning to go up to Lion Country Safari."

"A great place! You really should try to visit there."

"But just as we were leaving the motel, the phone rang. It was a friend of mine who happened to be a zoo member. When I told him we were going somewhere other than the zoo to see animals, he flipped out. He said, 'There's plenty to see

You can experience "Close Ups," every day in the Children's Zoo between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. You can see and touch animals ranging from alligators to hedgehogs to great horned owls. We hope you'll visit us soon!

But it's hard not to approach a snake with caution.



6

Beast Buddies

Beast Buddies are junior high through high school-age kids who help with special projects to support the Zoo Rebuilding Fund. The young people were brought together last Spring by board member Diane Sepler. "They had many ideas for how they could help," said Ms. Sepler. "They've had car washes, roller skating events, even golf tournaments." We're grateful for their help raising money and creating more awareness of the zoo among peers.

It's an exciting time at the Zoological Society of Florida. A \$15 million fund raising campaign to rebuild and enhance Metrozoo is well underway. We've already received major donations from friends like **Austin Weeks**, the **Knight Foundation**, **Betty Miller**, **Lee Bynum** and others. Members of your board are meeting now with community leaders to move our campaign forward.

This overall effort is supported by a three-phase program that will go a long way toward moving Metrozoo to greatness. Here is a brief description of what is underway.

A Grand Entrance

Plans are being finalized for a major new donor garden at the entrance to the zoo. The Avenue of the Giants will include large trees that will represent pace-setting gifts in the campaign to rebuild our zoo. The Tribute to Life Plaza will feature a 40-foot globe made of sculptured pieces representing many of the world's endangered species. This will also provide recognition for donors.

We have received widespread support for this ambitious fund raising effort. Our Honorary National Zoo Rebuilding Fund Committee is a real who's who of the entertainment and environmental world. The list includes actors, actresses and musi-

Exciting Times, Ambitious Plans

cians: **Burt Reynolds**, **Loni Anderson**, **Shari Lewis** and **Lamb Chop**, **Michael Tilson Thomas**, **Betty White**, **Don Johnson**, **Melanie Griffith**, **Dyan Cannon**, **Stephanie Powers**, plus authors **Michael Levine** and **Bernadette Vallely**. Environmentalists **Thomas E. Lovejoy** of the Smithsonian Institution, **Kathryn Fuller** of the World Wildlife Fund, **Rich Block** of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, **Thane Maynard** of the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, **Renee Askins** of The Wolf Fund, **Russ Mittermeier** of Conservation International, **Liana John** of the Brazilian Environmental Report, **Nathaniel Reed** from the Board of the National Geographic Society are also on the national committee. Former congressman **Dante Fascell** also continues his involvement and support of our organization.

An Environmental Symposium

We have invited leading political

leaders, environmentalists and scientists to come to Miami in late January, 1994, to talk about action steps that can be taken to address major areas of environmental concern, namely the oceans, the rain forests, endangered animals and the global ecosystem. So far, we have formal acceptances from **Jean Michel Cousteau**, **Richard Leakey** and **Thomas E. Lovejoy**. We also have invited a major Washington-based political leader to present a state of the nation environmental report. We're sure to have more news on this in the near future.

A Major Education Center

We have begun conversations with key South Florida education leaders about establishing a university level education center at the zoo. We would hope to attract top environmentalists from all over the world to come to South Dade to put our community on the map as a major center for environmental studies.

This is a busy time. We need your support to make all of this happen. If you are interested in helping on any of these projects, please feel free to drop me, Glenn Ekey or our new Director of Volunteer Services, Agnes Spurlock, a note and let us know how you would like to help. We look forward to hearing from you. ■

**by Frank N. Hawkins, Jr.,
President, Zoological Society
of Florida**

Money To Grow Trees On

Our neighbor in South Miami, **Robert Morgan Vocational Technical School (RMVTS)** was heavily damaged and its student body drastically reduced because of Hurricane Andrew. Did that dampen the success of their 1992-93 community service projects? Not at all. On Friday, May 7, they presented Damien Kong with \$2,000 for the

Zoo Rebuilding Fund!

This year we devoted our community service to organizations affected by the Hurricane," said **Cathy Reid**, the school's Business Education Department Head. "We raised money for tree planting at three area schools, including our own, and the zoo. We also adopted 25 families for hurricane relief."

How did they do it? Through their affiliation with the **Future Business Leaders of America**, a national organization for high school students in business education, that's how.

"A whole FBLA district in North Dakota adopted our school," said Reid. "**The Valley City Multi District Vocational Center** and other schools in and around Valley City, North Dakota sent their FBLA fund raising proceeds to us. We also had our own fund raisers, candy sales and bake sales."

FBLA chapters have been extremely helpful to the zoo over the past year. All these future business leaders are the future of the zoo. ■



Chris Starmont, president of the FBLA chapter at Robert Morgan Vocational Technical School, presents a money tree, representing his school's \$2,000 donation, to zoo education specialist Damien Kong.

Golfers Go Ape

The Sixth Annual Golf Classic kicked off in a traditional fashion with three Scottish bagpipers playing traditional Scottish tunes as 96 golfers headed for their starting tees. The competition was fierce, but golfers were not allowed to take themselves too seriously. Our gorilla mascot made sure of that. He zipped around in his golf cart, distracting players with exploding and lopsided golf balls. It made for a great day. The results of the Best Ball Foursome tournament were as follows: **Rick Clark, Jeff Gaudino, Bob Kahn, Steve Mocarski** won Low Net Team at 20 under. **Bob Lamont** won Low Net Individual and **Herb Smith** won Low Gross Individual. The tournament concluded with food and refreshments graciously

donated by **Hooters, Silver Eagle Distributors (Budweiser)** and **Coca-Cola**. Tournament co-chairmen, **George Kunde** and **Bob Sprecher** and Tournament Committee member, **Loy Crumbley**, were on hand to conduct an auction featuring two cruises and the raffle. Special thanks to the organizations, restaurants and individuals who helped make the tournament so successful. ■

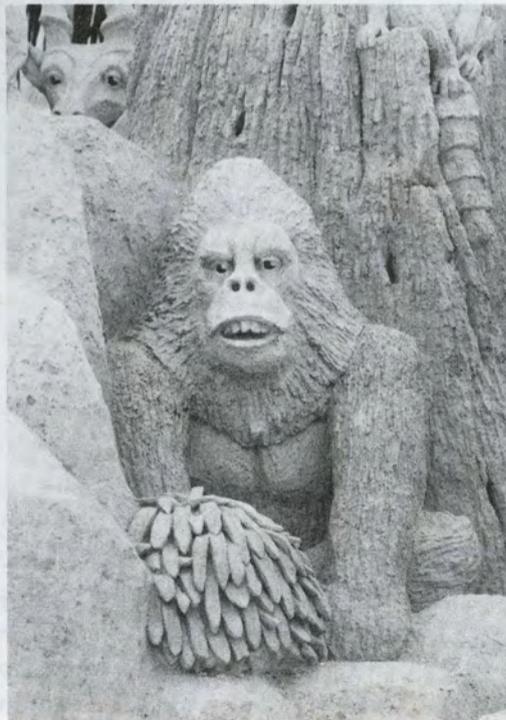


When the competition got too tense, our mascot provided comic relief!

Super Sand Sculpture

This year we made an exciting – incredible, even – contribution to the **Dade County Youth Fair**. We sponsored a 40-foot wide, sand sculpture that rose 18 feet into the air. The sculpture, made from 92 tons of compacted sand and water, took two weeks to complete. Two sculptors from Sandscapes, a company specializing in sand sculpture, executed the design. Students from **Coral Park High School** crafted large papier-mâché animals that helped create a jungle effect in the exhibit. Our Wishing Well filled up quickly with many people making contributions to the Zoo Rebuilding

Fund. Our Gift Shop had a large retail area featuring T-shirts, animals and lots of other items. Kudos to **Marlene Hawkins** and her staff for doing a terrific job. ■



Two sculptors created these elaborate designs using only sand and water.

Photos by Jay Good

Progress Report

The following repairs have been fully funded:

Zoological Society Building	\$300,000
Administration Building	175,000
Gift Shop	50,000
Trailer Offices	30,000
Zebraaar Umbrellas	35,000
Warehouse	50,000
Florida Panther Pens	5,000
Shipping Pens	30,000
Monorail 1 Restroom	10,000
Perimeter Fence & Gates	484,000
Walkway Fencing	30,000
Monorail Guideway Column	1,500,000
Rest Areas	30,000
Signs & Graphics	150,000
Water Fountains	6,000
Shade Structures	30,000
Animals	80,000
Reptile Trailer	10,000
Lion Night House Doors	2,000
Chimp Night House Doors	2,000
Gorilla Night House Doors	2,000
Electrical Wiring	20,000
Guard Houses	15,000
So Far We've Raised...	\$3,046,000

But we still have a long way to go:

Entrance/Exit Gates	\$75,000
Classroom	50,000
Amphitheater	55,000
Picnic Shelters	10,000
Picnic Restrooms	5,000
Wings of Asia	3,000,000
Zoo Kitchen	70,000
Zoo Hospital	85,000
Quarantine Building	5,000
Brooder Hatchery	10,000
Children's Zoo	1,000,000
Holding Pen Fencing & Gates	60,000
Quarantine Pens & Gates	200,000
Monorail Stations	40,000
Monorail Barn	900,000
Trees	4,267,000
Shrubs	480,000
Ground Cover	60,000
Sod	13,000
Irrigation	180,000
Bird Quarantine	2,000
Primate Quarantine	2,000
Balem Cages	100,000
Giraffe Barn	45,000
Koala Building	65,000
African Elephant Barn	25,000
Generators & Pumps	20,000
Vehicles	25,000
Otter Water Conditioner	5,000
Otter Night House	25,000
Clouded Leopard Roof	3,000
Crocodile Breeding Facility	25,000
Eucalyptus Grove	25,000
Animal Shade Structures	20,000
Animal Transport Trailers	20,000
Reed Fencing	20,000
Flag Pole	15,000
We Still Need To Raise...	\$11,007,000



The Earth In Literature

Here is a Gabon Pygmy chant that has been through a number of linguistic filters but retains its essential eloquence. We found it in "Technicians of the Sacred: A Range of Poetries from Africa, America, Asia & Oceania" edited by Jerome Rothenberg (Doubleday, Inc., New York, 1968). Rothenberg gives the following citation: "Translated by C.M. Bowra from R.P. Trilles, *Les pygmées de la forêt équatoriale* (Paris, 1931), in Bowra, *Primitive Song* (World Publishing Co., Cleveland, 1962), pp. 44-45."

Elephant hunter, take your bow!
Elephant hunter, take your bow!

In the weeping forest, under the wing of the evening the night all black has gone to rest happy: in the sky the stars have fled trembling, fireflies shine vaguely & put out their lights: above us the moon is dark, its white light put out. The spirits are wandering.

Elephant hunter, take your bow!
Elephant hunter, take your bow!

In the frightened forest the tree sleeps, the leaves are dead the monkeys have closed their eyes, hanging from the branches above us: the antelope slip past with silent steps eat the fresh grass, prick up their ears lift their heads and listen frightened: the cicada is silent, stops his grinding song.

Elephant hunter, take your bow!
Elephant hunter, take your bow!

In the forest lashed by the great rain Father elephant walks heavily, baou, baou careless, without fear, sure of his strength Father elephant, whom no one can vanquish: among the trees which he breaks he stops and starts again: he eats, roars, overturns trees and seeks his mate: Father elephant, you have been heard from far.

Elephant hunter, take your bow!
Elephant hunter, take your bow!

Shaping The World Through Sculpture

You wouldn't expect to see a jaguar and a Florida panther face to face in nature. And certainly not in the zoo. But you might in an art gallery. Especially if it's an exhibit of works by **Melodie Gotsis Tyrrell**. Then you might find sculptures of these two mighty North American cats displayed nose to nose. Ms. Tyrrell is contributing a portion of the proceeds from these, her two most recent sculptures, to the Zoo Rebuilding Fund.

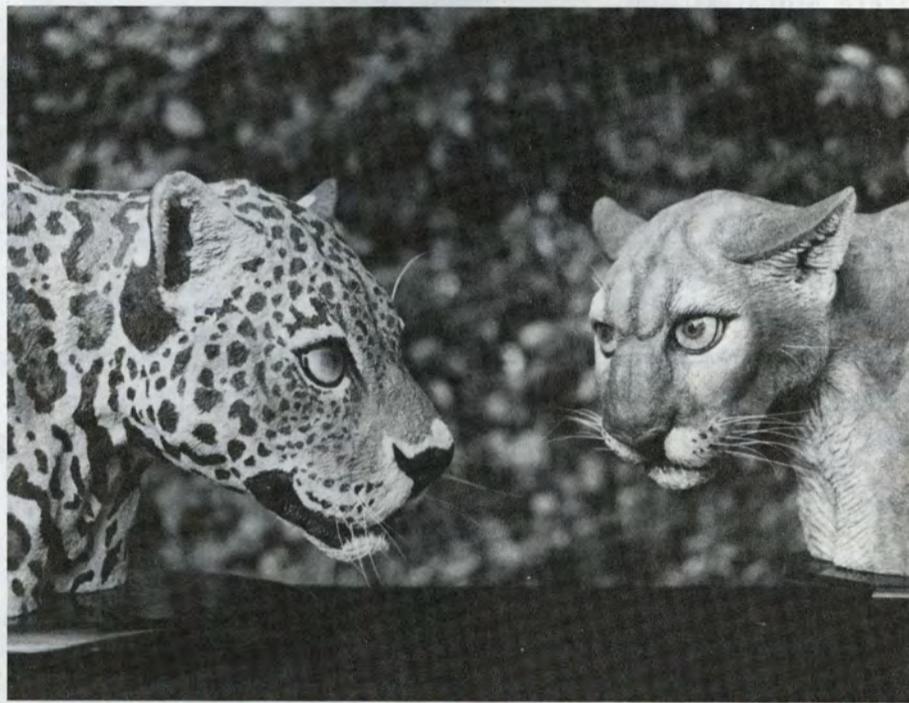
When Ms. Tyrrell creates her meticulous portraits of animals, artistic appreciation is not her primary goal. "I'm a wildlife artist whose main concern is to educate the public to the plight of endangered species and habitats throughout the world," she says. Referring to her Florida Panther sculpture, she points out that her limited edition of 15 represents approximately one half of the remaining wild population. "Maybe my work can evoke admiration and understanding from individuals who have yet to recognize the importance of species diversity."

Ms. Tyrrell, a member of the zoo, often begins a new sculpture with a trip to Metrozoo where she photographs and sketches animals in the collection. She also draws on her extensive library of photographs and reference books and her knowledge of animal behavior and evolutionary biol-

ogy to create an original design from which only 15 clay replicas are made.

Working with the soft clay, she reshapes each piece, changing the position of the ears or the facial expression. Minute details such as the fur, whiskers and eyes are also worked by hand before the sculptures are fired. To re-create the subtle coloration of each animal, Ms. Tyrrell applies several washes of acrylic paint and then brushes in the markings. "I regard my subjects not just as a species, but as individuals," she says. "I want each piece to have the quality of an original."

If you would like more information, you can reach the artist at 305-893-6678. ■



Artist, Melodie Tyrrell is contributing a portion of proceeds from these two limited edition sculptures to the Zoo Rebuilding Fund.

We'd Like To Get To Know You Become a Zoo Volunteer!

Do you have some free time? Are you looking for a new challenge? Why not become a Zoo Volunteer! Perhaps your interest lies in education, clerical work, gift shops, carpentry, special events or language. Or maybe you would just like to "dig in the dirt" and participate in a new horticulture project. We are looking for people with all types of talents and skills to join our volunteer team.

The most important ingredients for becoming a zoo volunteer are YOU, your enthusiasm and a commitment of your time!

To learn more about the wide variety of volunteer

opportunities available, we invite you to attend a special "Get Acquainted" Class on Saturday, July 10, at 10 a.m. at the zoo.

Volunteering at the Zoo is a special way of making new friends, achieving personal growth and helping in the regrowth of Miami Metrozoo. It offers a chance for you to truly make a difference! Give the Volunteer Services Office a call at 255-5551 to sign up for the Get Acquainted Class on July 10. We look forward to meeting you! ■

**by Agnes Spurlock, Director of
Volunteer Services**

Motherhood The Hard Way

This is the story of Marcy the Bongo's first successful birth, as told by zoo veterinarian Dr. Chriss Miller.

Marcy" is one of our four adult female bongos. Until recently, Marcy was our only bongo cow that had not produced and raised a calf. She had been sent to us in 1988 from the San Diego Zoo and lost a mid-term calf that she was carrying during shipment. Following this tragedy, Marcy was given a little while to settle in before becoming acquainted with the herd sire "Beau."

Marcy mixed in well with all "the girls." Soon, Beau decided he liked her, too. She became pregnant and carried her next baby to full term, but when it was time for the calf to be born, in March 1989, it tried to come out twisted. After numerous attempts to deliver it normally, Marcy required surgery to remove the calf. Sadly, it was already dead.

After this second loss, Marcy was given a long rest and recovery period before Beau and she were reunited in May 1992. The keepers, supervisors and I monitored her progress and health carefully throughout the 10-month gestation. When the time came for her to give birth, everyone would be ready in case she was still to have a difficult time.

On February 27, 1993, Marcy was restless all day. According to keepers' observations, she seemed to be searching for some secluded spot away from the herd. In the late afternoon, keeper **Lisa Roman** recognized the beginnings of labor contractions. When Lisa opened the gates to the bongo barn, Marcy readily came into her stall. I was notified of these events and Marcy was left alone with Lisa to watch over her.

Usually, bongos give birth very quickly once intense labor contractions begin. But Marcy just didn't seem to be a "usual" bongo. When she had been in labor for two hours and only the placental membrane had emerged, we knew she was in trouble once again. Marcy was tiring and seemed nervous about what was happening to her. She was injected with a mild sedative and I examined her in her stall. This calf was twisted, too. Unbelievably, though, it was

still alive. In fact, as I attempted to turn it in the uterus, pulling on its head or leg, it would pull back away from me!

Fairly quickly, I decided that Marcy would have her second Cæsarian section. She was further sedated, loaded into a truck and moved to the zoo's animal clinic. There she was fully anesthetized. An incision was made in her left side to reach the uterus and the baby was taken out. Everyone, including Marcy, breathed a sigh of relief as a male calf was delivered. While I stitched up Marcy's incisions, the keepers rubbed him down to stimulate breathing. With a few coughs and shakes of the head, he was alive and taking those first vital breaths.

When someone asked what the calf's name should be, the keepers' first response was "Stuckey" because

this was the calf who had gotten stuck. Well, the name stuck too.

As Marcy stood, a little shakily, recovering in the hospital stall, we all wondered what her response to Stuckey would be. She had never been a mother and with all her troubles plus the anesthesia and surgery, no one would have been surprised if she wanted nothing to do with the newborn. We all held our breath as he was placed in front of her. She sniffed at him a little. Then she started "talking" to him as only bongo mothers do. Stuckey responded naturally to his mother. The bonding process began with a head-to-toe bongo bath from Marcy's tongue.

So Marcy is finally a mother. Stuckey is growing bigger and more handsome every day. We are all proud of Marcy's accomplishment and we think Marcy is too! ■



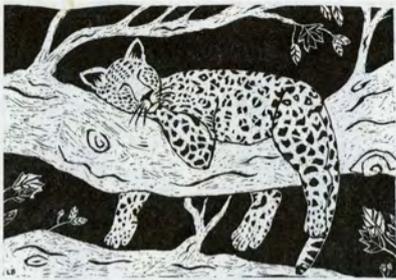
Rick McCawley



Springtime Fun

*Perfect weather was the backdrop for a fabulous family event: **Nabisco Springtime Fun Days** April 10 and 11. Each day visitors with their favorite toy animals joined a Toy Animal Parade that also featured zoo volunteers with some of our smaller real zoo animals. **Miami Children's Hospital** staff was busy at Dr. Ted E. Bear's clinic writing prescriptions for toy animals and sewing on new eyes and tails. Those rockin' rodents, **Alvin and The Chipmunks**, made a special guest appearance singing timeless tunes while children and adults danced, cheered and sang along. The Children's Zoo was full of fun activities. **Sari Mitchell** and kids from **Kids TV** led sing-and-dance-alongs. Clowns, **Blueberry** and **Muffin**, did face painting for kids, who were also allowed to do sidewalk art with chalk in the petting zoo. Thanks to our super volunteers and generous sponsors for a terrific weekend!*

Those who know each of our bongos well can see not only parts of Marcy but also of Beau, in his looks and personality.



Bookworms

Madeleine Carstaires,
zoo supporter.

"Florida Ramble"

by Alex Shoumatoff

"This is a fun book. Basically, it's a travel log from one guy's ramble through the state. He tells lots of humorous stories about quirky people, local folklore and history, which are woven extremely well into the natural history of Florida. His commentaries on how development has affected Florida are enlightening without being depressing. And it's illustrated with an absolutely hilarious collection of old Florida postcards."

Agnes Spurlock, Director of Volunteer Services

"The Rhino Man and Other Uncommon Environmentalists"

by Winthrop P. Carty and Elizabeth Lee

"In 1987, the United Nations Environment Program created the Global 500 Role of Honor for Environmental Achievement, a sort of Nobel Prize for environmentalists. This book profiles some of the winners — people on the front lines of the battle to save their community, country and world from environmental disaster. I found these people to be heroic and their stories exceptionally inspiring. The message of this book is simple: when it comes to saving the Earth the time to act is now. Every contribution, big or small, is valuable."

What Are You Reading?

If you'd like to share your latest wildlife read, send us title, author and a brief description of why it's important to you. With your name and daytime phone number. If your suggestion is published in Toucan Talk we'll give you a free zoo T-shirt. The address is "Bookworms" c/o The Zoological Society of Florida, 12400 SW 152 Street, Miami, Florida, 33177-1499.

The Biggest Little

There are five different species of rhinoceros — three Asian and two African. With the exception of the white rhinoceros, which was brought back from the verge of extinction in the 1960s through intensive management and cooperation of conservationists and governments, all are highly endangered. Worldwide, counting wild and captive populations of all species, there are only about 12,500 rhinos left of the 100,000 that inhabited the planet at the turn of the century. The African black rhinoceros

(*Diceros bicornis*) is down to an estimated 3,000. It is being slaughtered for its horn, which is valued for its supposed medicinal qualities.

Breeding is a slow process because the gestation period is 15 months. Metrozoo is doing its part having produced six baby rhinos in the past six years. The most recent was born February

11 this year to "Cora" and "Toshi."

Lead Keeper **Martha Thaden** has been working with rhinos at Metrozoo since 1983. She and Andres Mejides were there when the baby was born.

"We knew that she was in labor

the Quarantine area. We missed witnessing the birth by about twenty seconds. We had driven by and turned around. When we came back the baby was out and on the ground all covered with slime and sand with his little face up. He was pretty cute.

"It took him about thirty minutes to stand up. He stood up and fell down, stood up and fell down. When he stood for more than about fifteen seconds and actually took a couple of steps, I counted that as standing up. And within an hour



and a half he was able to move around well."

because she was obviously distressed," said Thaden. "My philosophy on the birthing of any animal is that people ought not to be standing around watching it. That's stressful to the animal. We weren't going to sit there and bother her, but at the same time we wanted to be nearby. So we got in a truck and made loops around

Keeper **Tom Condie** got into work a little early on February 12 to check on "Tucker." Just as he had hoped, the 13-hour-old newborn was healthy looking. After giving him as thorough a "visual physical" as Cora would allow (she always tried to position herself

Where No Zoo Keeper

Keeper Brett Bannor tells us how zoo life w

I was seven years old when the original "Star Trek" went on the air. Of all the futuristic technology, I could immediately see the advantages of the transporter device. I still can. Transporters would be such a boon to zookeeping.

Consider the Metrozoo keeper's morning routine: At the start of each day, he goes to the white tiger area and lets the cat out of his night house and into the paddock. Then it's off to the Malayan tapirs to let them out of their holding area and into the paddock. Next, the sun bears, giraffes, elephants, gerenuks, bongos... You get the idea. Just letting the animals

out every day is a big production. In the evening, the whole process is repeated in reverse. This isn't all we do, of course, but you'd be amazed how much of zoo management is moving creatures around.

With a transporter, it would only take a few seconds to beam the tiger from night house to paddock, another few seconds to beam tapirs and all the other animals. With just a couple of zoo keepers at the controls, we'd have all the animals where they need to be in minutes. And this is only the beginning.

Male silverback gorilla need a check up? Just push a

Baby In The Zoo

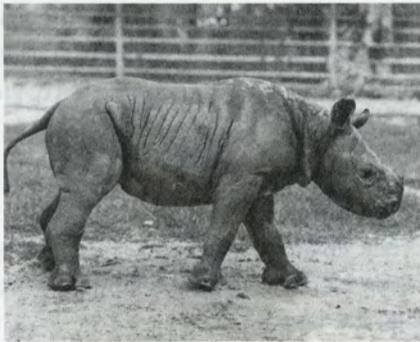
between him and the calf in case he might be a threat), Tom estimated Tucker's weight at 60 or 70 pounds, normal for a rhino baby. When he reported to his supervisors, he learned that a veterinary check up was scheduled for that morning. This meant Tucker would have to be separated from Cora. Tom was elected to handle the baby.

"Separating any mother from her child can be a difficult task," says Condie. "When you're dealing with rhinos, it can be downright dangerous. Fortunately,

our holding pens and gates are designed to accomplish tasks like this safely. The top rungs of the gate can be removed while the bottom rungs stay in place. As the mother is led into the adjoining

pen, she steps right over the lower rungs. When the baby tries to follow, his way is blocked.

"Like any normal infant, Tucker began to cry when he was left behind. Once Cora realized she was



separated from her baby, she began to storm around the pen answering the panicked calls of her child in distress. I raced into the baby's enclosure, scooped him up in my arms and headed out of the

pen. He thrashed and squealed, but the exam went smoothly and proved him to be in perfect health."

Tom didn't know until after the exam that the "little one" weighed in at 92 pounds! "If I'd known that,"

he said, "I never would have made it out of the pen with him."

"Tucker" is Cora's fifth baby and her fifth male. The staff was hoping this one would be a female because they are more valuable for breeding stock, but this progeny is welcomed and appreciated nonetheless. Tucker and Cora live in the

Quarantine area which is not open to the public, but can be viewed from the tram tours which run daily. ■

by Barbara Brady with Martha Thaden and Tom Condie

— photos by Rick McCawley

er Has Gone Before

ould change if only we could just "beam up."

few buttons and the great ape dematerializes then reappears in the veterinary hospital. Time to feed the Dama gazelle? "Beam up that hay and grain, Scotty!" And this is not to mention how much more pleasant it would be to clean up after our creatures!

The advantages to every department would be endless. For Maintenance, forklifts would be a thing of the past. No more driving loads of fencing, lumber, gravel, concrete and topsoil. Trees and shrubs would practically plant themselves.

Visitors too tired to walk to the car just "Energize!" (as captains Kirk and Picard would say.) Presto! Mom,

Dad, kids, stroller and souvenirs would be whisked away to their mini van. (You don't think people will give up their cars just because it's quicker to beam from Dade to Broward, do you?)

Alas, I'm afraid I shall never see the development of a transporter device in my lifetime. Maybe I'll start working on the Vulcan mind meld. Then I could telepathically convince my boss to give me a raise! Subconsciously influence the editor to pay me for these articles! Subliminally persuade people to preserve the environment... Well, I can dream can't I? ■

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Toucan Talk

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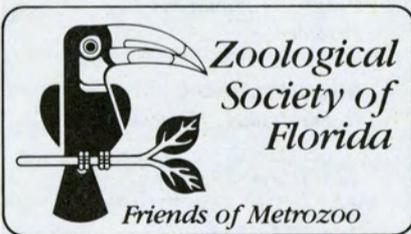


Speakers Bureau

Since creating their new program, entitled "Metrozoo - Past, Present and Future," members of our Speakers Bureau have been busy with presentations to groups all over Dade and Broward Counties.

"Metrozoo - Past Present and Future" tells our story from Crandon Park to Metrozoo. It is illustrated with slides that show the beginnings of the zoo, its growth and development, the terrible devastation of Hurricane Andrew and our rebirth since that event. The volunteers who wrote and developed the program also impart a vision of the future. "We show that the future is happening today," says K.T. Taylor, chair of the Speakers Bureau. "We really want people to be a part of our future by participating now."

The Speakers Bureau is a free service to the community. The presentation is geared to adults and is ideal for clubs, professional organizations or churches. Scheduling is very flexible with speakers available seven days a week and almost any time of day. Call 255-5551 for booking information. If possible, please call at least two weeks in advance of your meeting.



12400 SW 152nd Street
Miami, FL 33177-1499

Calendar Of Zoo Events

Saturday, July 10, 1993

"Get Acquainted" Class

Cost: Free

10:00 a.m. - Noon at the Zoo.

Do you have some free time? Are you looking for a new challenge? Why not become a Zoo Volunteer! The most important ingredients for becoming a zoo volunteer are YOU, your enthusiasm and a commitment of your time! To learn more about the wide variety of volunteer opportunities available, we invite you to attend this special class. Call the Volunteer Services Office at 255-5551 to sign up.



January 27, 28 & 29, 1994

Environmental Symposium

Save these dates for one of the most important environmental education events ever held in South Florida. The symposium will feature internationally renowned environmentalists, key White House officials and you! Stay tuned to "Toucan Talk" for details.

Sunday, August 22, 1993

Reforestation Project Kick Off

2:00 p.m. at the Zoo.

Free with Zoo admission or Membership

Come celebrate with us the beginning of two new horticulture projects. With sponsorship from Sun Bank/Miami, the National Tree Trust and the State of Florida Division of Forestry zoo volunteers will plant and nurture 5,000 trees. They will also work with Miami Sunset High School ESE students to install and maintain a Butterfly Garden at Metrozoo. This event will include a ribbon cutting party and other special surprises. Call 255-5551 for details.

We Still Need Your Help!

I want to help continue the rebuilding effort with a contribution to the Zoo Rebuilding Fund.
Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Form of Payment:

- Check MasterCard Visa American Express

Charge Card # _____ Expires _____

Signature: _____

Make checks payable to Zoological Society of Florida, 12400 S.W. 152 Street, Miami, FL 33177-1499.

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