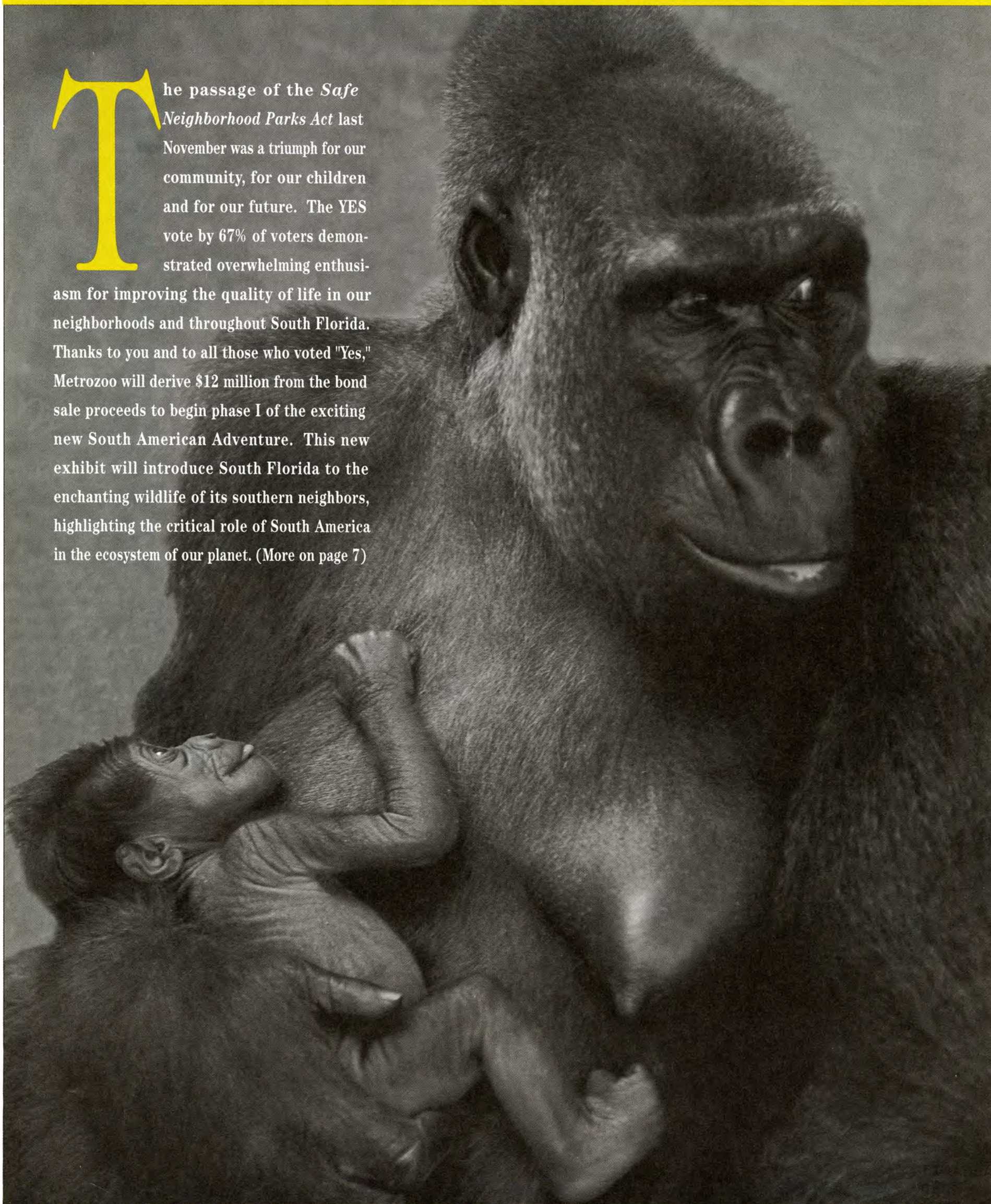


TOUCAN TALK

THIS ISSUE SPONSORED BY
JOHN ALDEN FINANCIAL CORP.

A TRIP TO THE ZOO THAT COMES TO YOU!

The passage of the *Safe Neighborhood Parks Act* last November was a triumph for our community, for our children and for our future. The YES vote by 67% of voters demonstrated overwhelming enthusiasm for improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods and throughout South Florida. Thanks to you and to all those who voted "Yes," Metrozoo will derive \$12 million from the bond sale proceeds to begin phase I of the exciting new South American Adventure. This new exhibit will introduce South Florida to the enchanting wildlife of its southern neighbors, highlighting the critical role of South America in the ecosystem of our planet. (More on page 7)





Cover Photo: Frederika and her baby
by Ron Magill

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Toucan Talk
Volume 23, Number 1
January/February, 1997

Published six times each year as a benefit to the members and supporters of Metrozoo.

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305-251-0401

BABY, BABY



It was a big event. Something that always means a lot to an endangered species, and a valuable addition to the diversity of the captive population's bloodline. And Metrozoo was fortunate enough to be the place where a new baby gorilla was born. On October 16, 1996, Frederika, a 22-year-old female western lowland gorilla, gave birth to a healthy and furry little creature.

Frederika's 9-month pregnancy went by without a glitch. The morning of the birth, keepers found her holding the baby against her chest. Since then "Freddy," as she is affectionately called by some, has proven to be a wonderful mother.

HERE COMES THE BRIDE...AND THE BABY?

Frederika came to Metrozoo from Oklahoma City on August 25, 1996 to become JJ's (Jimmy Junior's) companion. After a month in quarantine (a necessary phase to check Frederika's health and acclimation), keepers were pleasantly surprised to see that the careful process of introduction of the new couple had worked out smoothly. Frederika and JJ "hit it off" a short time after they were put together in the exhibit.

After finding out Frederika was pregnant, the excitement and

Continued on p.3

Continued from p. 2

expectations rose and preparations began. The animal science, veterinary staff, and primate keepers came up with a plan to house Frederika to make her more comfortable for the baby's birth. During the night, she was separated from JJ so she could be by herself. This arrangement was continued after the baby was born to allow her to rest and better bond with the infant. Gradually, they introduced the other gorillas, including JJ and Josephine, the other female, to the new baby. This gave staff a chance to replicate the behavior gorillas exhibit in the wild by bringing them together as a troop.

AND IT LIVES ON

Last year was one of mixed emotions for all at Metrozoo and for animal lovers in general. On August 16, Jimmy, our 30-year-old male and for so long the "star" of the Gorilla Exhibit, died of congestive heart failure. But only 2 months later, his son JJ fathered the little female which will carry Jimmy's memory for years to come. This birth also is meaningful because there are only 613 gorillas in captivity according to the June 30, 1996 edition of the International Species Inventory, and an estimate of 30,000–45,000 in the wild.

We hope you, your family and friends will come to Metrozoo to welcome this incredible addition to our animal collection.

Thanks to Steve Conners and Linda Owen for their valuable information.

GORILLA WATCH

With a hand-held computer, a stopwatch and a pair of earphones, Nina Bahr, a graduate student from the University of Zurich, Switzerland, spent endless hours at Metrozoo keeping a close vigil on Frederika, the female gorilla who recently gave birth. Nina has collected data for her research in other countries (Denmark, Holland and Switzerland) but Frederika was the only one, and the last of her study, in the United States. The following interview highlights some of her observations and the purpose of her research.

TOUCAN TALK: WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF YOUR STUDY?

NINA BAHR: The goal is to determine whether there is a hormonal difference between gorilla mothers who raise their infants competently and those who display various degrees of inadequate maternal care. To this end, I observed the expectant gorilla mother for two weeks before giving birth and for two weeks after birth. During that period I also collected morning urine samples (if you are wondering how, I did it with a

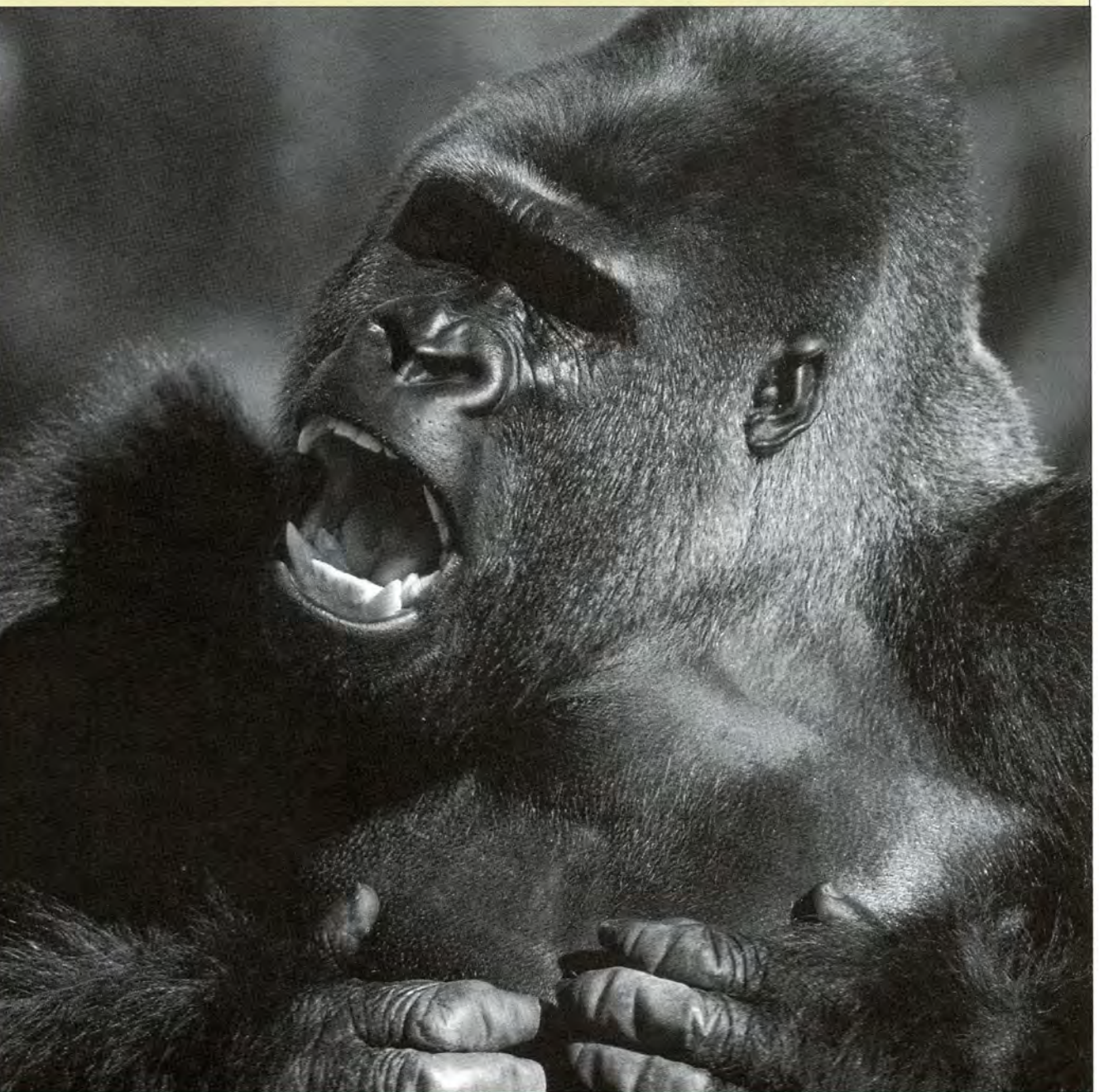


Photo: Ron Magill

disposable syringe from the floor!).

TT: HOW DID YOU RECORD THE BEHAVIORAL DATA?

NB: I used a hand-held computer into which I entered the different behaviors as 4-digit codes pre-assigned to each behavior. Once the data for 1-hour observation was entered into the hand-held computer, it was transferred to a tape recorder. Back in Switzerland, I will transfer this information to another computer to compare with data obtained before.

TT: HOW OFTEN DID YOU CONDUCT YOUR OBSERVATIONS?

NB: I observed Frederika for one whole hour at four randomly chosen times a day. This way I got a good representation of her behavior throughout the day.

TT: WHAT WAS THE FUNCTION OF THE OTHER "TOOLS" YOU USED TO CONDUCT YOUR OBSERVATIONS?

NB: The stopwatch was set to beep every 30 seconds to remind me to record the states. The behaviors are classified as either "states" or "events." States are behaviors that are common and generally last longer than 15 seconds, whereas events generally do not. For example, Frederika's positional

behavior was recorded as states because she always had to be either sitting, walking, climbing or standing usually for more than 15 seconds. Events, such as tickling JJ's feet, didn't occur very often and generally didn't last for more than 15 seconds. Events were recorded each time they occurred. The earphones were used to filter out noise, deter visitors from interrupting me during my observations and also to hold the stopwatch against my ear. I also used a wrist watch to make sure every 10 minutes I observed Frederika's position in relation to JJ. I also used an umbrella, but I guess that one is pretty self-explanatory.

TT: WHAT WERE SOME OF YOUR OBSERVATIONS WITH FREDERIKA?

NB: Before the birth, Frederika would avoid JJ's proximity. She spent most of her time in the moat and, even when on the paddock, she would maintain a comfortable distance from JJ. After the birth, their relationship appeared to become more relaxed. Occasionally they would even sit in direct body contact to each other. Indeed, JJ's presence seemed to encourage Frederika to be more attentive to her daughter. JJ has proven to be a gentle and concerned

father. If the baby whined, he responded with a reassuring grumble or even approached Frederika and the infant. I also observed JJ grooming or touching Frederika in what seemed to be an attempt to get closer to the baby.

TT: WHAT DO YOU HOPE YOUR STUDY WILL ACCOMPLISH?

NB: I hope the results of my study will contribute to our understanding of how the captive environment affects maternal behavior and with this knowledge improve the management of captive gorillas.

TT: ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO ADD?

NB: I would like to thank Miami Metrozoo for allowing me to conduct my research here. It was a great learning experience. I want to specially thank the primate keepers Linda Owen, Kurt Mannchen and Scott Fuller for their help and patience with my study and for our interesting discussions. And last, but not least, I would like to thank the docent Karen Maciag for her wonderful hospitality and for sharing her knowledge of and enthusiasm for the primates at Miami Metrozoo with me.

Nina Bahr was at Metrozoo from August 20 to October 30, 1996.

**WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY SERIES
#1: ZOO ANIMALS**

Adults, advanced amateur photographers
35mm camera and telephoto lens needed
for course

If you are a serious photographer come and take a special photo safari with us! Led by professional photographer and Education Specialist Ricardo Stanoss*, your adventure begins with an early morning opportunity to catch the animals at the beginning of their day. Then it's off to your "base camp" for a technical session on equipment (cameras, lenses, filters, etc.), exposure, composition and lighting. Next, a photo shoot session will follow the keeper's talk schedule. Prepare your camera with your longest lens and be ready for our "wild" models. Lunch will be provided.

Date: Saturday, February 22
Time: 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Cost: Member \$35
Non-Member \$50



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

*Since 1987, Ricardo Stanoss has photographed the spectacular wildlife and scenery of Brazil, Argentina and South Florida. His work appeared in *Select*, a Photography Showcase Magazine, distributed world wide and our own *Toucan Talk* newsletter along with other foreign publications. Ricardo was a Professor of Basic and Advanced Photography in Buenos Aires, Argentina. His work has been displayed in six photographic exhibitions in various South American fine arts museums.

JUNIOR ZOOLOGIST SERIES

EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURES FOR KIDS

Ages 8-12

The second edition of this Series, especially designed for grades 3-6, will provide an in-depth look at conservation.

Our series consists of three 2-hour classes with classroom discussion, visits to exhibits, and talks with Zoo staff.

This spring our Jr. Zoologists will examine the problems that are leading our planet to a dangerous loss of biodiversity. Zoos, working with conservation organizations, are trying to prevent the extinction of at least a handful of species. There are some things that we all, as individuals, can do to help. Our Jr. Zoologists may be the ones to lead the way!

Dates: Saturdays, January 18, February 1 and 15
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Cost: Member \$24, Non-Member \$32

MINI-CAMPS

Ages 7-10

School may be out for the day, but camp is in at the Zoo! Spend your day away from school exploring new worlds with our Education staff.

THE NEW WORLD

Monday, February 17, 9:00- 4:00 p.m.

When Columbus set out to find a new route to India, little did he know that he would discover a new land filled with animals and plants never before seen by Europeans. The New World is made up of North, Central

and South America. In this camp we will explore and meet animals of the New World.

THE OLD WORLD

Friday, March 28, 9:00- 4:00 p.m.

The Old World is comprised of Europe, Africa, Asia, and even isolated lands like Australia and New Zealand. Many of the animals of this region are well known to us while many are still only now being discovered. Come and meet some of the animals of the Old World in Zoo Mini-Camp.

Cost: Member \$40, Non-Member \$45
Fee includes snacks, beverages and all craft materials. Bring brown bag lunch!

BREAKFAST WITH THE BEASTS

JUST FOR FAMILIES

Rise early for a delicious continental breakfast with some of the wild residents of Metrozoo. Each month is a different adventure to be enjoyed by the entire family.

TIGERS!

Saturday, January 11, 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Do you think you know everything about tigers? Come to see what tigers and your loving kitty have in common!

LIONS!

Saturday, February 8, 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

The "King of the Jungle" actually lives in the African savanna...Is it true that only female lions hunt

while the chauvinistic males sleep? Come see our lion family awake!

ZOO KEEPERS!

Saturday, March 22, 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Come meet some of our keepers. They work hard taking good care of our animals. Is the word "glamorous" descriptive enough for their job? Do they play with tiger cubs and pet koalas and get paid for it? Come have breakfast with our zoo keepers!

Cost: Adult Member \$10, Non-Member \$15
Child (12 and under) Member \$6, Non-Member \$8

HABITAT SAMPLER FIELD TRIP

Get to know a bit of "Wild South Florida" on this family field trip to the Everglades led by Metrozoo keeper, Scott Fuller. This one-day expedition explores the familiar and not-so-familiar wilderness region that is in our own backyard. Whether you are a lifelong resident of this area or a new arrival, you'll see the "river of grass" with different eyes. Participants will meet at the Zoo parking lot to board the bus. It'll be a full day, so bring a lunch and snacks in recyclable containers. We'll provide the beverages.

Date: Saturday, March 8
Time: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Cost: Adult Member \$20, Adult Non-Member \$25
Child (12 and under) Member \$10, Non-Member \$15

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____
I'm a Member: Membership # _____ I'm not a Member _____
For children's programs, complete the following:
Parent's or Guardian's Name: _____
Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____
Method of Payment (Please do NOT send cash):
Credit cardholders may register by phone.
 Check American Express MasterCard Visa
Card _____ Expiration Date: _____
Customer Signature: _____

Program/Session	Name of Participant	Age/Grade	Fee

Mail this completed form with your payment to:
Education Department / Zoological Society of Florida
12400 SW 152nd Street
Miami, FL 33177-1499

TOTAL: \$ _____

All program registrations subject to a \$10 cancellation fee.

"ZOO TO YOU" MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The Zoological Society of Florida (ZSF) is bringing the Zoo to you by visiting your company and providing your employees with the opportunity to join ZSF from the convenience of their workplace. We set up in your company cafeteria during lunch time or in any other high traffic area and share the benefits of membership in the Zoological Society with your employees.

The ZSF's corporate drive is an excellent way to promote your company's commitment to our community as well as provide your employees with year-long family benefits such as free admission to Metrozoo and 150 other zoos and aquariums in North America, discounts at our gift shops and a subscription to *Toucan Talk*. Membership donations provide for the care and feeding of animals as well as for the acquisition of new ones for the Zoo's collection. Memberships also enhance our educational programs and provide for the building of new exhibits. Membership also brings you closer to the Zoo through events planned for members-only, such as our "Echo of the Elephants" film premiere and our baby gorilla viewing. We are planning a Zoological Society Member's Day in the Spring which promises to be a great time for your family.

If you are interested in having the Zoological Society visit your company, please call José Sotolongo at 305-255-5551.

ADOPT AN ANIMAL

SHY RED-HEAD LOOKING FOR LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP. LOVE THE OUTDOORS, TREES AND THE ZOO. BE MY "ADOPT VALENTINE" AND WE CAN SWING AWAY TOGETHER.

Call the Zoological Society of Florida to Adopt an Animal at 305-255-5551 and take advantage of a special Valentine Adopt Kit (\$40 until February 2).



CONTROLLING ALL YOUR WEALTH

**By Margaret May Damen, CFP, CLU, ChFC
American Express Financial Advisors**



Margaret May Damen

Starting with this issue, Toucan Talk will bring to you information on estate and financial planning written by

different guest writers. Also, the Zoological Society, in conjunction with representatives of the legal and financial community, will hold seminars on those topics every other month. For information call Howard Lipman at 305-255-5551.

Ed Cappello wanted to sell his \$3 million business to fund his and his wife's retirement. But there was a problem: capital gain. Because he had started his business with only \$30,000, almost all of the sale proceeds would be subject to capital gain tax of \$800,000—leaving them with only \$2.2 million.

Ed went to a financial advisor friend for help. The advisor told Ed he could sell his business, avoid capital gain tax, receive a retirement income, and share his wealth with his community! How? By careful use of his **social capital**.

Social capital, the advisor explained, is the part of our wealth we

can't keep; instead, it goes to meet the needs of others. Typically, we "pay" our social capital as taxes, but there is another way: charitable giving. The advantage of charitable giving over paying taxes, the advisor said, is that we can **control** how our social capital is used. With taxes we cannot have this control.

Ed asked how this was done. His advisor explained that the first step is to establish something called a **charitable remainder trust**, or CRT, naming himself as its income beneficiary and trustee. He names a non-profit organization, such as ZSF, as charitable beneficiary at his death. Then he **gives** his business to the trust, getting a nice income tax deduction.

Next, as the trustee, he sells the business and invests the proceeds. From investment earnings he and his wife receive a lifetime income of eight percent—about \$240,000 a year. At their death, the balance of the trust assets go to their charity. Their children receive a \$3 million "wealth replacement" inheritance from life insurance Ed had purchased with tax savings.

Ed took his friend's advice. Today, through the wise use of social capital and a CRT, he and his wife **control all** their wealth—even the part they can't keep.

The case depicted in this article is hypothetical. For more information contact Margaret May Damen, American Express Financial Advisors at 561-994-9534.

JOHN ALDEN HELPS ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA

By Richard Westlund

For the past three years, John Alden Financial Corporation has been an active corporate partner with the Zoological Society of Florida (ZSF), working to support Metrozoo. As a leader in the health insurance industry and one of Miami's largest employers, John Alden is committed to helping make South Florida a better place to live.

"Metrozoo is one of South Florida's greatest assets," said Kerry D. Clemmons, senior vice president, and a member of ZSF's Board of Directors. "We want to help build a world-class zoo that serves as a unique resource and attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors to our area."

In 1994, several senior human resources managers from John Alden began a long-term process of strategic planning and teambuilding with the Zoological Society's professional staff. Those in-depth skill-building sessions included topics like management development, communications methods and employee recognition, like the recent "Wall of Wonder" celebration.

"We assisted the Zoological Society in defining its role as a supporting organization for Metrozoo," said Clemmons. "The sessions, which extended over 18 months, produced very positive results."

In addition to providing professional development services, John Alden has provided medical insurance to ZSF staff for the past three years at no cost—a major benefit for a non-profit organization. John Alden's Environmental Committee has adopted Metrozoo animals in the past, and the company has conducted employee membership drives and held employee picnics at Metrozoo to build awareness and support for ZSF and Metrozoo among its work force.

"We need to work together as a community for Metrozoo to achieve its full potential," Clemmons said. The Falcon Batchelor Komodo Dragon Encounter which opened in January 1996 thanks to a generous private donation, is an excellent example of what teamwork can accomplish. "Public-private partnerships involving concerned individuals and corporations are critical to ensuring the future of Metrozoo."

On the corporate level, John Alden focuses on educational, environmental and youth programs. The company received the Large For-Profit Outstanding Partner award from the Dade School District for its volunteer assistance for Perrine Elementary School. John Alden also is a partner with Braddock Senior High School, providing a special career education program for seniors.

"We feel privileged to support the

Zoological Society of Florida," said Clemmons, whose personal favorite animal is the orangutan. "The Zoological Society is one of the region's most important non-profit organizations, and truly makes a difference in our community."



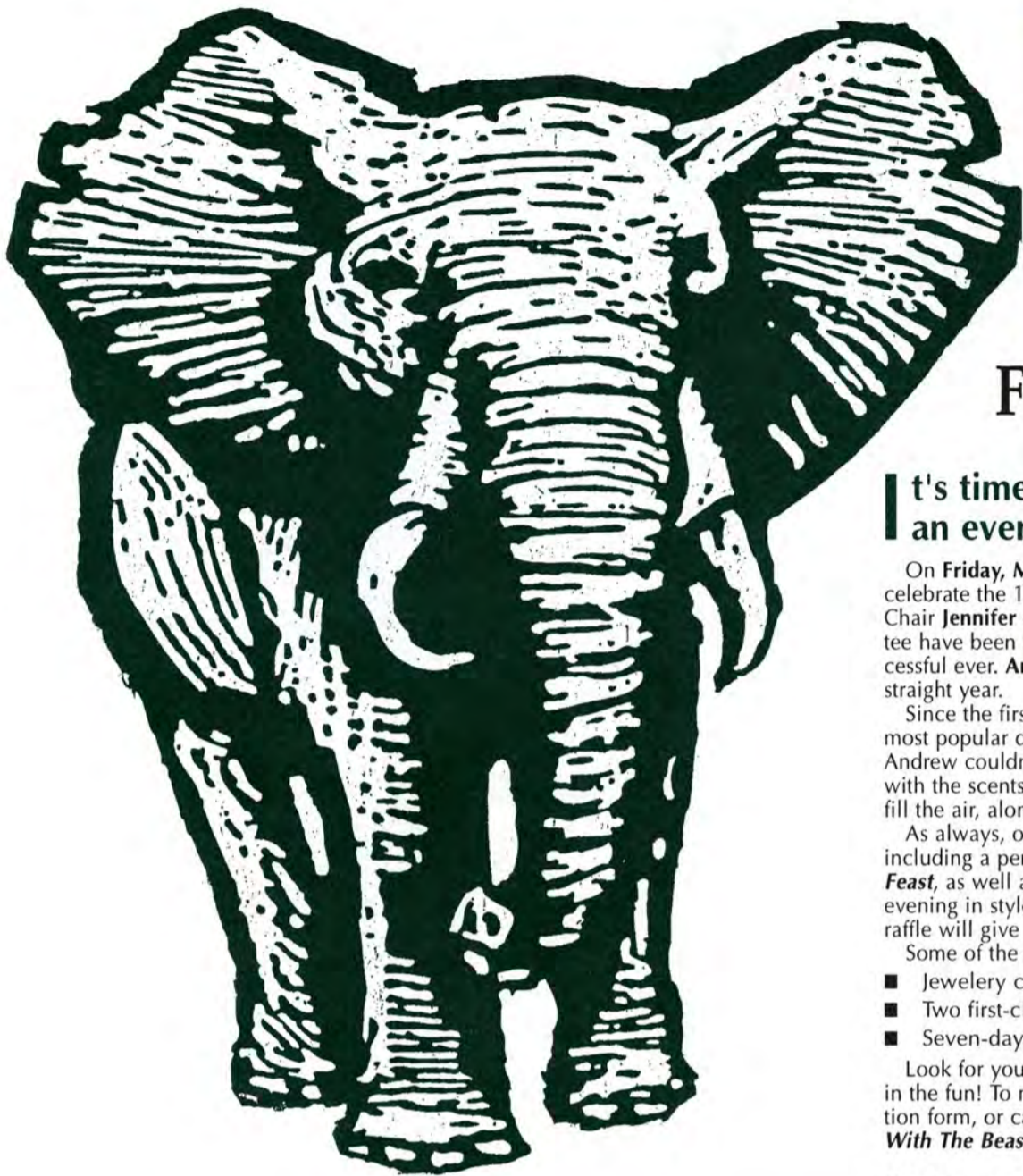
Kerry D. Clemmons

Kerry D. Clemmons, Ed.D., is one of South Florida's most distinguished corporate and community leaders. As senior vice president of the John Alden Financial Corporation, Clemmons is in charge of the company's Human Resources function.

Clemmons has spearheaded John Alden's ongoing corporate commitment by providing management guidance, financial donations, in-kind services and employee volunteer efforts to a wide range of local service organizations. In addition to his work with the Zoological Society of Florida as treasurer, executive committee member, and chairman of the budget & finance committee, Clemmons serves as vice chairman of the American Red Cross Board of Directors, and is helping the non-profit organization develop its own strategic plan. Clemmons, a member of the ZSF's Board since 1994, also is a Board member for the South Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and is serving as chairman of the Friends of Scouting 1997 Campaign, leading fundraising efforts to Monroe, Dade and Broward counties. For his many contributions to scouting, Clemmons received the Silver Beaver award, the highest honor for a scout volunteer.

From 1990 to 1994, Clemmons served as volunteer chairman of Cities in Schools of Miami, an education-business-community partnership that serves high-risk Dade County teenagers and their families. In 1994, Clemmons received the school district's Outstanding Community Leader award.

Clemmons earned a bachelor of science degree in psychology in 1969 from Florida Atlantic University. He obtained a master's degree in management in 1980 and a doctor of education (Ed.D) degree in 1982 from Nova University. Clemmons and his wife Nancy have a daughter, Jessica. His hobbies include flying, boating and SCUBA diving.



FEAST WITH THE BEASTS... A PERFECT 10!

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1997

It's time to take out your black-tie best for an evening of elegance in the jungle...

On Friday, March 14, Metrozoo will be the place to be as we gather to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of *Feast With The Beasts*. This year's Feast Chair Jennifer Getz and Vice Chair Alys Daly, along with the *Feast* committee have been hard at work to ensure this gala evening will be the most successful ever. American Express returns as presenting sponsor for the tenth straight year.

Since the first *Feast* was held in 1988, this event has become one of the most popular dates on South Florida's social calendar. (Even Hurricane Andrew couldn't stop this party!) The sights and sounds of the jungle, along with the scents and tastes of over 40 participating restaurants will once again fill the air, along with live entertainment throughout the evening.

As always, our elite Beastkeeper patrons will receive special treatment, including a personal basket containing distinctive accessories to be worn to *Feast*, as well as enjoy an exclusive pre-event reception to kick-off the evening in style. And for the third straight year, the *Feast With The Beasts* raffle will give some lucky party goers the opportunity to win exciting prizes.

Some of the prizes for this year's *Feast With The Beasts* raffle include:

- Jewellery courtesy of Mayor's Jewelers
- Two first-class domestic round-trip airline tickets on American Airlines
- Seven-day cruise courtesy of Norwegian Cruise Line

Look for your invitations to be arriving soon, but it's never too late to join in the fun! To make your reservations today, complete and return the reservation form, or call us at 305-255-5551. Don't delay....come celebrate *Feast With The Beasts!*

THESE FINE RESTAURANTS WILL ALSO TEMPT OUR TASTE BUDS ON MARCH 14...WILL YOU BE HERE TO ENJOY?

Afternoon Tea Gourmet Bake Shop
Bijan's On the River
Boulevard Bar & Grill
Casa Juancho
Chef Allen's
Courtview Club at Miami JaiAlai
Creative Tastes Catering
Gaviña Coffee Company
Giacosa
Hooligan's Pub & Oyster Bar
Hooligan's Liquor Locker
I Papparazzi Restaurant
Joanna's Marketplace

Joe's Stone Crab Restaurant
JohnMartin's
Le Basque, Inc.
Lure
Málaga Restaurant
The Melting Pot
Norman's
The Old Cutler Oyster Company
Outback Steakhouse
Parrot Jungle Cafe
Prezzo
Restaurant St. Michel
Roasters 'N Toasters
Ruth Chris' Steakhouse
Señor Frog's
Tutto Matto
Tutti's Trattoria and Bakery
Victor's Cafe

WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU

Along with the support of American Express as Presenting Sponsor, please join us in saluting the restaurants and beverages suppliers that have been with us since the beginning in 1988. We thank them for their ongoing and loyal support!

RESTAURANTS

Christy's
Captain's Tavern Restaurant

Los Ranchos Restaurant
Olive Garden Restaurant

WINE, SPIRITS AND NIGHT CAPS

Beverage Cannery
Barnie's Coffee
Island Oasis Gourmet Frozen Cocktails
Silver Eagle Distributors
Southern Wine and Spirits
House of Seagram

FEAST WITH THE BEASTS RESERVATION FORM

Yes, I would like to attend *Feast With The Beasts '97*.

Please reserve the following:

- _____ General Admission tickets \$150 per person
- _____ Herd of Hippos (10 General Admission tix — \$1,500)
- _____ Beastkeeper tickets (\$500 per person)
- _____ Pride of Lions (10 Beastkeeper tix — \$5,000)
- _____ Raffle Donation (\$25 each or 5 for \$100)

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: (day) _____ (evening) _____
My/Our guests: _____

No, I cannot attend *Feast With The Beasts '97*, but I have enclosed my gift of \$ _____

Please make your check payable to the Zoological Society of Florida, or charge your tickets by completing the information below:

AMERICAN EXPRESS IS THE PREFERRED CARD OF *FEAST WITH THE BEASTS '97*.

American Express MasterCard Visa

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Cardholder Signature: _____

Print Cardholder Name: _____

Acknowledgement of your participation as Beastkeeper should appear in the *Feast With The Beasts* program as follows: _____ (e.g. Jennifer & Sam Getz)

Please consider your contribution as a donation; there will be no refunds.

According to IRS guidelines, only contributions over the value of dining & entertainment are tax-deductible. Tax-deductible amounts: Beastkeeper \$380/ticket, General Admission \$100/ticket.

INFORMATION THE "WILD" WAY

By Ron Magill



Photo: Ron Magill

You're probably wondering what this column is going to be all about. For those of you thinking it's going to be an introduction to a new mixed exhibit highlighting birds and their unique relationships with bees...Sorry! For those of you who think the title is *Toucan Talk's* way of making "Sex and the Animals" seem a little more tame and palatable...Bingo!

For the next several issues, I'm going to cover a unique topic that deals with animals and their reproductive behaviors. Now some of you may be saying to yourselves, "How could he?!?", or "What is the *Toucan Talk* coming to?!?", even though I'm sure the majority will read this with wide open eyes (if you're sure someone else isn't watching!). The bottom line is that "sex" is not a dirty word, and to approach it as such can deprive an individual from learning about some of nature's most fascinating and wonderful behaviors. The purpose of this column is to point out some of the unique facts about animal courtship and reproduction, while perhaps drawing some parallels to our own behaviors.

One of the most common behaviors visitors will see at Metrozoo is one that is technically called flehmen, which involves an animal (usually a male) approaching another animal that is urinating (usually a female) and actually tasting the urine! After doing this, the animal doing the tasting will then raise its upper lip and point its head up toward the sky with a somewhat goofy look on its face.

Granted, this is not a common behavior in humans,

but there is a good reason for it in the animal kingdom.

Through the urine, an animal releases something called pheromones which transmit significant information to the other animal examining that urine. First, if the animal is examining the urine through the flehmen behavior without seeing what produced it, it can tell if it's one of its own species, whether it's male or female and, if it's female, whether she is at the peak of her cycle (known as oestrus) and ready to be bred. If the animal is from the same species and of the same sex, it may create a confrontation over territory. Nature gives animals these finely tuned, heightened senses so that they can establish the "survival of the fittest" hierarchy and successfully reproduce without wasting effort on non-cycling animals.

The pheromones are analogous to perfumes that humans may use. In fact, some of the world's most expensive perfumes have natural pheromones. Not only do they make the female feel receptive to males, but they also are an intense attractant to the males who may follow and court a cycling female for days. The main purpose is to successfully reproduce and pass on the genes to the next generation. As unusual as it may seem, flehmen is a key behavior in achieving that goal. So the next time you come to Metrozoo and see animals behave in a "strange" way, remember—nature has a good reason for everything in the wild kingdom.

If I don't get cancelled due to reader outrage, I'll be back next issue with some more interesting facts about the "birds and the bees."

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

(Continued from Cover page)

The Zoological Society of Florida played an active role in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act campaign, educating voters about the critical issues involved. A special issue of *Toucan Talk*, which had a circulation of 60,000, provided members and other voters with important background information for making their voting decision. ZSF Board member **Dan Licciardi**, Vice President and General Manager of Miami Jai-Alai, performed outstanding service as a member of the Citizen Advisory Committee for the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996.

The creation of the Act resulted from community concerns about the pressing needs of the County and city parks, affecting important quality of life issues for area residents. Dade County's needs were consistent with a nationwide pattern for critical capitol needs for parks, leading to the formation of the Trust for Public Lands (TPL). This national not-for-profit land conservation organization, through its National Public Finance Program, helps each community to generate funds to preserve its own unique environment.

Recognizing Dade county's unique needs to protect a vulnerable environment while accommodating the recreational needs of a burgeoning population, TPL organized an active and broad-based coalition. Leaders from the fields of business, environmental advocacy, law enforcement, parks and recreation, arts and culture joined a legion of private citizens to encourage voter support for the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act.

Proceeds from the bonds issued as a result of the Act's passage will benefit Metrozoo and other local parks. They will give Metrozoo a start on the exciting South American Adventure. With your help, the Zoological Society of Florida will raise the remaining funds needed to make this fabulous exhibit a reality. Thank you once again for supporting the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act and for your continuing trust and loyalty.

FEBRUARY

12 wednesday

10TH ANNUAL GORILLA GOLF CLASSIC

10:00 a.m. - Check in
 12:30 p.m. - Tee Off
 \$150 per player

It's time again to take a swing for wildlife! Join in the fun at the Crandon Park Golf Course while benefitting Metrozoo's conservation programs. For information call Debbie at 305-279-2298.

15 saturday

SEX AND THE ANIMALS

8:00 p.m.
 \$12 Members, \$15 Non-Members

Ron Magill, our own "Dr. Ruth of the animal kingdom," will once again delight the audience with his hilarious, yet informative, presentation for adults only. Call 305-251-0401 for reservations.

MARCH

14 friday

FEAST WITH THE BEASTS

\$150 General Admission,
 \$500 Beastkeepers

Feast With The Beasts celebrates its 10th anniversary! Don't miss this opportunity to stroll down the Zoo's walkways and enjoy "the best from the best" in gastronomy and entertainment.

For reservations call 305-255-5551.

A MESSAGE FROM...

The Zoological Society of Florida (ZSF) and Metrozoo start 1997 with a renewed optimism. One of the most exciting achievements of last year was the passing of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act. As you know, this will mean that virtually every city and area in Dade County will benefit but, most of all, that our children will have safer places to play. We are particularly thrilled about what this bond issue will mean to Metrozoo: \$12 million to begin Phase I of the South American Adventure, a collection of new exhibits to complete the unfinished area of the Zoo. Thanks to all the members who supported this initiative.

This also is a perfect opportunity to acknowledge the unabashed support of our past president, Sue M. Cobb. For two consecutive years, her determination and enthusiasm guided our efforts to help ZSF reach new heights as an integral part of the Miami Metrozoo system. Thank you Sue, your efforts have paid off.

We welcome new members Jorge Arrizurieta and Marc Osheroff to the ZSF Board of Directors, and we salute our new president, William Gallwey, III who, like all Board Members, serves our institution on an entirely volunteer basis. We look forward to a year of incredible happenings for the Zoo and ZSF. Thank you for being part of our "Zoo Family."

Glenn Ekey
 Executive Director
 Zoological Society of Florida

ZOO NOTES

► The "new and improved" Lakeside Grille Restaurant will soon be open to the public. The restaurant is better than ever, with two air-conditioned seating gazebos, a comfortable shaded area for eating "al fresco," an expanded menu with items ranging from hot dogs and pizza to Caesar salad and Cuban sandwiches, and the incomparable view of the lake. The complex is equipped with new restrooms and water fountains which provide a convenient stop for visitors. And remember: This location is ideal for birthday parties and group gatherings! For information call 305-233-0899.

The StoryTeller

► If there are little ones in your family, you might want to check at the Information Booth next time you visit the Zoo to see if the StoryTeller is in! A new program for our pre-school visitors, the StoryTeller is presented by ZSF Docents at various spots throughout the Zoo. Designed to create a positive attitude about other living things, StoryTelling combines the words of the stories with the visual images of the Zoo animals themselves.

You can usually find the StoryTeller somewhere on Zoo grounds on Saturday mornings. Times and locations will be posted at the bright yellow Information Booth, located just opposite the Flamingo Lake.

New Animals

► Don't miss the chance to see the new additions to the animal collection: the African crested porcupines, the rheas and the guanacos.

TOUCAN TALK



Zoological Society of Florida
 12400 SW 152nd Street
 Miami, Florida 33177-1499

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