



# ZOO NEWS

PUBLISHED FOR FRIENDS OF THE ZOO REFERENCE FALL 1980

REFERENCE  
(DO NOT REMOVE)

## Behind the Scenes

by Donald J. Kuenzer, General Curator

One of our prize possessions takes on new meanings, new possibilities. People often ask why we keep our male and female Lowland Gorillas in separate exhibits. "They are no longer compatible and the female is beyond the age of conception," I explain. Yogi, who came from Africa, has been at the Zoo for 30 years and spends her time reclining and basking in the sunlight.

Timmy, on the other hand, thrives in the limelight. Onlookers are fascinated by his showmanship. When you see him completely motionless turning eyes right to look at people, he's thinking about his next move. If he sees someone he doesn't like (one particular Keeper, for example), he makes a lunge, puts a shoulder to the glass and shakes the timbers of the Cat and Primate Building.

For a long time we have wanted to take positive steps to increase our gorilla family at the Zoo. They are an endangered species. For obvious reasons, we cannot just pick up the phone and make a purchase. Importation from the wild is out of the question. There are 129 locations outside equatorial Africa known to have 342 female gorillas. Most are reluctant to even talk of selling a gorilla (the last pair brought \$60,000). The going rate now is \$100,000.

Our next alternative was to propose a breeding loan agreement where we could share the offspring. This also met with opposition. Twenty-year-old Timmy had not sired any youngsters, was not a proven breeder, and infertility could be a real problem. Dr. Wallace Wendt, Zoo Veterinarian, made arrangements with Dr. C. J. Hardin, Veterinarian for the Toledo Zoo, to electro-ejaculate Tim to obtain a semen sample. Dr. Hardin is



Will Richmond

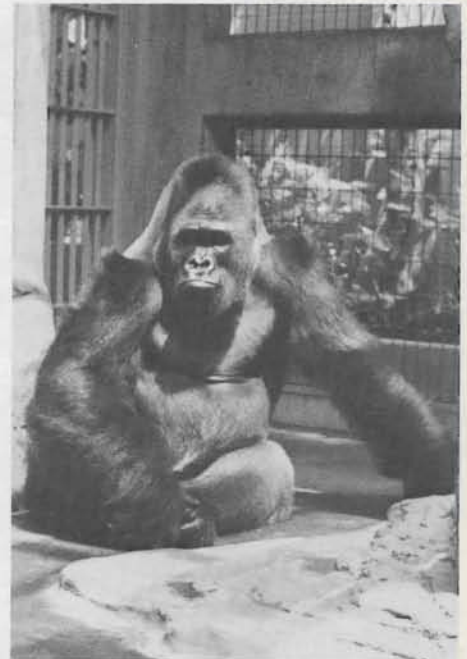
Watching over Timmy as he wakes up are Metroparks Zoo Veterinarian, Dr. Wallace Wendt, and Dr. C. J. Hardin, Veterinarian for the Toledo Zoo.

noted for his proven expertise in this work.

We set up an operating room in the basement of the Cat and Primate Building, and Tim was put to sleep. It required six men to lift him, 410 pounds of one beautiful animal. The following weeks seemed interminable while we awaited test results.

Tim passed with flying colors. On a gorilla fertility scale, he would be rated highly. Dr. Beck, of Chicago's Brookfield Zoo, recently did a survey and 12 of 22 adult males tested were classified as sterile or strongly suspect.

Now that fertility is proven, we are again actively approaching other zoos. Needless to say, they are willing to discuss breeding loans and we are ready to talk business. Eyes right, Tim!



Lori Vance

Zoo News thanks Lori Vance for this excellent photo of Timmy, the Lowland Gorilla. Lori, from Tucson, Arizona, took the picture when she was visiting our city.

## Royalty States Case for Wildlife

Prince Philip was a guest of the New York Zoological Society on October 1st to plead the case of endangered wildlife. He spoke to 2,700 invited guests on behalf of the Society's Animal Research and Conservation Center.

The Prince stated that "the beginning of conservation is self-restraint, not self-indulgence." He warned that ignorance could risk "the whole future of our world" because of conflicts of interest, from those of individual parents and farmers to nations wanting cash more than the preservation of resources.

The Duke of Edinburgh and husband of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is president-elect of the Wildlife Fund-International and will take office in May.

## From the President

Robert S. Reitman

Issue 4 on the November 4th ballot deals with a subject of major importance to the Zoo, and hopefully to you as a Friend of the Zoo. This is the half-mill Metroparks levy.



As a tax-paying citizen, I support the levy issue because the Park System is one of our greatest natural assets serving everyone in our area.

By way of background, Cleveland Metropolitan Park District, commonly called Metroparks, was established by State law in 1917. It is a separate unit of government, not a part of county or city government. It is administered by a Board of three unpaid Park Commissioners appointed to three-year terms by the Senior Judge of Probate Court. Present Board members are Eleanore B. Kapel, President; Joseph P. Madzelonka and G. Stanley Mottershead, Vice Presidents.

Metroparks, often referred to as the "Emerald Necklace," is composed of 11 major reservations and the Zoo, with a total spread of 18,500 acres. Full-time employees number 400, and in summer months the work force doubles when high school and college students are hired during the peak visitor season.

Operating revenues are derived from two main sources: 70% from taxes levied upon real estate, and the remainder represents the combined total of golf course greens fees, concession income, Zoo admission fees, Ranger Department court fines and State sales tax returned for local government use.

In this connection I would like to clarify a common misconception. People often think that admission fees cover the cost of operating the Zoo. The fact is that total operating expense in 1979 amounted to \$1,800,000, and income from all sources including admissions

totalled only \$840,000. This shortfall must be covered by increasing the number of persons who visit the Zoo and by tax revenues. We do not endorse an increase in admission fees despite this deficit.

As President of Cleveland Zoological Society, my basic concern in Issue 4 is centered on the Zoo. By reason of repeated deficits, the Zoo needs significant refurbishing. In addition, there are many plans and areas for new development which cannot be funded without additional tax revenues. The levy will produce 60 million new dollars for the Park District over a 10 year period. At least half of that total is slated for investment in the Zoo, and most of the Zoo's share would come from the first years of income (1981-1985).

To define the levy, a half-mill is 50¢ per thousand dollar tax valuation. The cost to the owner of a \$70,000 home would be only \$12.15 per year.

I hope you will carefully consider Issue 4, discuss it with friends and neighbors, and above all, cast an affirmative vote on Election Day.

## ZOO NEWS

Editor: Margaret Corell

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Michael Vitantonio, *Zoo Director*  
Donald J. Kuenzer, *General Curator*  
Charles R. Voracek, *Public Information Officer*  
Ronald G. Seeley, *Park Manager*

### Zoo Hours

Open daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Closed December 25 and January 1.

### Admission

\$2—12 years and older. \$1 ages 2 thru 11. Under 2—free. *Free admission* 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday thru Friday, except holidays.

### Parking

\$1 per vehicle. \$2 per bus.



*Will Richmond*  
New to the Zoo are the Thompson Gazelles purchased from Stoneham Zoo in Boston. Called Tommyes, they are graceful, colorful, and fast (ask the photographer). Both were born in May of last year.

# Sunday Film Program Set

Zoo movies will be resumed this fall with a line-up of entertainment for the viewing pleasure of grown-ups and youngsters alike.

Charles Voracek, known to many of you, will conduct the film programs and be available to relate interesting sidelights and answer questions.

The Sunday sessions start at 2:00 p.m., and will be held at the Administration-Education Building near the No. Three (Fulton Parkway) visitor parking lot.

This is one of the many privileges extended by Cleveland Zoological Society to Friends of the Zoo members, so bring your card, your family, and enjoy a delightful two hours seeing these Disney films.

## FILM SCHEDULE

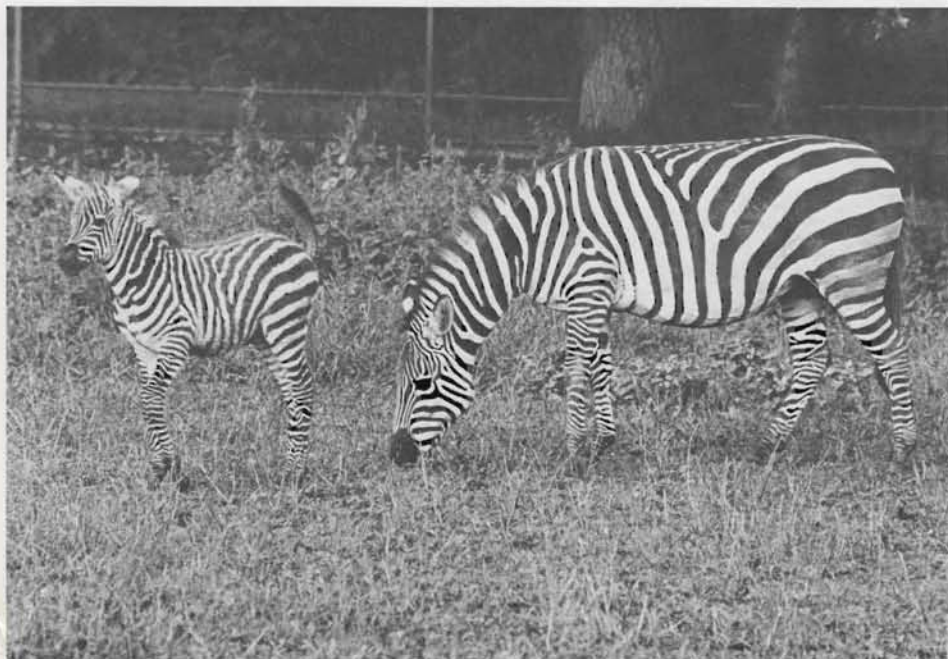
Sundays—2:00 p.m.

November 2, 1980 **"Winter Storage"** Chip 'n' Dale will get the series off to a rollicking start showing how they prepare for the cold months ahead. **"King of the Grizzlies"** The dramatic story of a man in the Canadian Rockies who rescues a bear cub and years later faces him as an enemy.

December 7, 1980 Opening this show will be Merlin, the Magic Mouse. Then The Road Runner pays a visit, followed by Elmer Fudd. **"Dunderklumpen"** is the feature with story and songs by Beppe Wolgers, the wonderful giant in Hugo and Josefin. The setting is a small island in Sweden where a young boy is led into a world of fantastic adventures by a little woodland creature known as Dunderklumpen.

January 11, 1981 Chip 'n' Dale return to greet you in the New Year. **"Stevie, Samson and Delilah"** Stevie, a six-year-old boy, makes friends with a lion and a tiger, Samson and Delilah. Stevie's father, who manages a wild animal preserve in Africa, keeps the two big cats on a Florida ranch. Circumstances prompt Stevie to steal away with his friends to the wilderness of the Everglades.

February 8 and March 8 will be announced in the Winter issue of Zoo News.



*Will Richmond*  
Betty and Ziggy of the Grant's Zebra family are the parents of a pretty little female born August 21. This is the eighth Grant's Zebra born here and the present herd numbers one male and three females. The little one is still nursing but is starting to nibble grass and hay.

# Bless the Docents

One of Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's best kept secrets is the Docent Association. Few people recognize the name, much less know the functions of the Zoo's volunteer organization.

An integral part of the Zoo's educational programs, the Docents currently number 51 active and dedicated people who give thousands of hours in service to the Zoo each year. They conduct guided group tours and operate the information booth as well as other information posts throughout the Zoo. They give more than a hundred small animal programs annually at schools, libraries, hospitals, nursing homes, and churches. They help with the Metroparks displays at the Sportsmen's Show and the Home and Flower Show at the Convention Center.

Docents are initially required to attend the Zoo-Logic Course and to provide at least 50 hours of service every year. Those who wish to be tour guides must attend additional training classes given by Charles Voracek, the Zoo's Public Information Officer. Mr. Voracek is the Docents' advisor for the Zoo and was instrumental in establishing the organization in 1972.

One of the highlights of the Docent year is the annual Christmas sale held at the Gift Shop. The sale features animal motif and craft items, all handmade and reasonably priced. Coffee, tea, chocolate and calorie-laden goodies will be available.

The Docent Association has become a self-sustaining organization through their successful fund raising efforts. The Christmas sales and the current "Old Cat and Ape Building Memorial Brick Sale" have provided funds which are earmarked for Zoo animal purchases.

*Maryanne Moravec*

## DOCENT CHRISTMAS SALE

AT THE ZOO  
Wade Hall Gift Shop  
Waterfowl Lake

Weekends  
November 28, 29, 30  
December 6, 7  
December 13, 14

## Notes from the Zoo Director

Michael Vitantonio

The American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums held its 56th Annual Conference the week of September 14 in Chicago. In attendance from Metroparks Zoo were Donald Kuenzer, Curator; Dr. Wallace E. Wendt, Zoo Veterinarian; Ellen Leach, Animal Keeper, and myself.

The major message imparted to the 722 representatives of 206 American and Canadian zoos and aquariums through the professional and scientific papers and workshops, was that most of the great exotic wild animals with which people have become familiar over the years will be gone by the end of the century. Therefore, an increasing function of the zoos in the future will be to breed animals in captivity to preserve the species as opposed to just exhibiting an endangered or threatened species.

The Metroparks Zoo has been practicing selective breeding for many years and is a member of the International Species Inventory System (ISIS). As a member of ISIS we have on record all animals in captivity, allowing us the availability of the best breeding program.

If we are going to maintain our esteem and reputation as one of the fine zoos in the country, it becomes imperative that Issue #4 passes on November 4 at the general election. The monies generated by the passage of this one-half mill levy for ten years will permit the Metroparks System to implement the Zoo's Master Plan—The New Dimension for the 1980's which will provide for the updating and refurbishing of existing facilities as well as provide for the new, exciting continental exhibits.

In today's world of vanishing wilderness and wildlife, a vote for Issue 4 will assure the continuation of the preservation and conservation of the lands in the Emerald Necklace including the Metroparks Zoo and its program of education, conservation and propagation.

New acquisitions: One male and three female Black Spider Monkeys, a pair of White Nosed Monkeys, a pair of Mongoose Lemurs, and a female Ringtail Lemur. All will be housed in the Cat and Primate Building. Also on our new arrival list is a male Dromedary Camel.

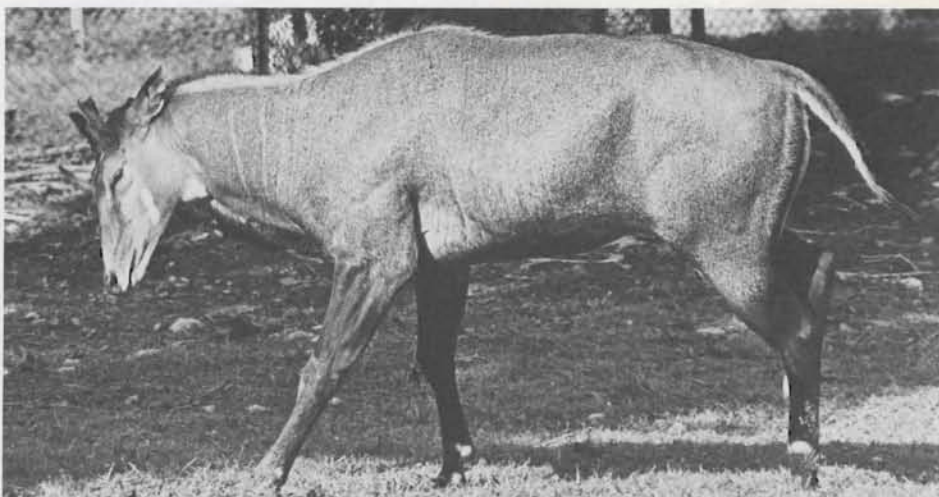
## Briefs

**Zippity Zoo Doo Will Be Back**—the Women's Committee tells us next July 15 the big tent will go up in the park and Zippity Zoo Doo once more will be in full swing. This annual event started in 1973 through the efforts of the late Mrs. Emma Coolidge. It was so successful and so much fun that many guests returned year after year. 1980 brought scheduling conflicts and the Women's Committee took a breather, much to the disappointment of many people. More on this later.

**End Of The Road**—a typewriter in use by the Zoological Society has expired and it has to go. If anyone has a usable typewriter you don't need, will you kindly let us know. The donation will be tax deductible.

**Recreational Vehicles Out-numbered Strollers**—when the Great Lakes RV Association held their show at the Zoo the last weekend in September. Visitor count was 11,667. The non-profit Association covers Cuyahoga and four surrounding counties. Membership includes RV owners, camping clubs, suppliers to the industry, insurance companies, bankers and retailers. WHK broadcast remote from the Zoo, and the Hikers Association held a steer roast Saturday and Sunday with proceeds going to campership programs for crippled and underprivileged needs.

**Attention Camera Buffs**—Zoo News can use Zoo pictures. Do you have any?



Will Richmond

The Nilgai coat changes color in the fall, from light tan to dark blue. In native India they are known as Bluebulls. This three-year old male came from Toronto Zoo, likes to be petted and will come to the fence for attention.

## Champs at the Zoo

### Metroparks Unorganized Softball League Report

The Zoo Crew softball team completed an undefeated season on August 14 by conquering the Brecksville Villains 16-12. Only last year's one-run playoff loss to Rocky River kept the Zoo Crew from a two-year unblemished record on the diamond.

The Brecksville-Zoo match was a ledge-hanger featuring sparkling defense, timely hitting, and a 20 minute outfield search for a missing contact lens. Curious passers-by alerted rangers to the spectacle of a "strange game with 30 people in a close circle crawling on the grass!" Ranger headquarters replied, "Now you see why we never field a team!"

Nonetheless, after the lead changed hands three times, the dust cleared and the skies darkened, the Zoo Crew's awesome offense had pounded out 25 hits and won its first Metroparks championship. The reward—a handsome trophy second in stature only to the famed Stanley Cup. Jeff Morrow was heard muttering, "And my money was on the Golf Course . . ."

Many thanks go to all our veteran and rookie players and especially to our loyal fans who, accustomed to our usual triumphs, began celebrating each victory long before and after the final out.

Steve Gove

# The Fascinating Marsupials—Mammals with Pouches

by Charles R. Voracek, Public Information Officer, Metroparks Zoo



*Will Richmond*

A kangaroo is a kangaroo, right? Wrong! If you've seen one kangaroo, you haven't seen them all, because there are some 52 different kinds of kangaroos spread around in Australia, Tasmania, New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, and although originally not found there, were introduced to New Zealand.

Legend has it that when the early explorers saw kangaroos in Australia, they asked the aborigines what the animals were. The answer was "kang guru" which meant simply, "I don't know." The explorers thought that was the name that the natives had for the animals and the name "kangaroo" stuck. So kangaroos are the "I don't know animals." And for a whole lot of years after the explorers discovered them, much about the natural history of kangaroos was a mystery to the outside world. It wasn't too many years ago that the strange reproductive cycle was documented. After a successful breeding and a short (33 day) gestation period, a kangaroo is born in the normal mammalian manner. The newborn kangaroo is very tiny (one would fit comfortably in a teaspoon) and crawls up the mother's midline into the pouch (marsupium) where it attaches itself to one of the nipples. The nipple swells inside the mouth of the baby so that the baby is firmly attached during its early developmental period. Baby kangaroos and wallabies are called "joeys" and remain in the pouch from four to six months before exploring the outside world. Little by

little the joeys spend more and more time out of the pouch and by about eight months, they are no longer permitted to live in the pouch. Mother may permit the juvenile to nurse, but the youngster has to stay outside with only the head inside.

The Giant Red Kangaroo is the largest of all the kangaroos; some large males may weigh 150 pounds or more and stand over six feet in height. The females are bluish gray in color and the Australians refer to them as "blue flyers." The males are generally reddish brown and are called "boomers." Kangaroos and wallabies are grazers and browsers and their digestive systems contain bacteria (like that of the ruminant hoofed animals) which act upon vegetation, particularly in the stomach and upper intestine.

The overly large hind feet provide kangaroos and wallabies with great speed and mobility. Normal hopping distance is three to four feet. When pursued, the hops become leaps and a red kangaroo attains speeds of 30 m.p.h. The distance between leaps may be as much as 40 feet. Kangaroos, when chased, can easily clear six foot fences.

The Bennett's Wallabies at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo trace their lineage back to Whipsnade Park (England) where the species are allowed to roam freely about the zoo grounds. More than 200 wallabies provide a great sight for visitors to that English zoo. Our wallaby herd has done very well since 1970 and from time to time surplus individuals

have been traded or sold to other zoos.

The Bennett's Wallabies are smaller than the Giant Red Kangaroos, and adults average about 30 to 40 pounds. They are natives of Tasmania where they have been persecuted by ranchers who claim they compete for the grass intended for sheep and cattle. Some species of wallabies have become endangered or even extinct as a result.

One of the interesting behavioral activities of wallabies is the habit of licking the hands and forearms during periods of stress or nervous excitement. This habit helps to release a buildup of body heat and lessens the tension of the animal.

Kangaroos and wallabies may be viewed in the paddocks between the Bird Building and Pachyderm Building. The Giant Red Kangaroos have a single paddock; the wallabies roam about in three areas. Besides the grass in their paddocks, kangaroos and wallabies feed upon fruits, vegetables, high protein biscuits, and hay and grain. They get no meat.

There are currently nine Giant Red Kangaroos and 16 Bennett's Wallabies on display.

Longevity averages about 15 years for both species.



*Will Richmond*

# The Feathered Flock

Shown here is a small part of the Zoo's bird world under the direction of Tony Massa, Head Keeper. Tony's work carries over to his home where not infrequently he's helping some fledgling get a start or taking in small animals for shelter or pets. His present menagerie includes 30 Peruvian guinea pigs, Persian cats, German Shepherds, chinchillas, lizards, all kinds of birds, and he "doesn't bother to count the fishes."

Tony attended the University of Akron and for two years served as Curator of Animals at the Hiram College Biology Research Station. He has been at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for six years.



*Will Richmond*

Hybrid Catalina Macaw—Zoo News should have color magic for this page. First time out of the nestbox for picture taking, this eight-week-old nestling is the eleventh chick produced in a two-year period from a scarlet male and gold and blue female. Chicks remain in the nestbox about 10 weeks. Parents ignore them at this stage and it is up to them to search for edibles by trial and error method. They learn quickly. They are able to live on their baby fat during this vulnerable period.



*Will Richmond*

Schalows Touraco or Go Away Bird, named for its raucous call. From the forests of Africa, Touracos blend in perfectly with the foliage. These fruit-eating softbilled birds are very adept and precise in flight. Their nest is a flimsy collection of twigs. The Zoo has been able to breed a hybridized pair of wild caught Touracos producing two young and several infertile eggs.



*Steve Crompton*



*Will Richmond*

Three European White Storks hatched in March. They had a leg up on the fourth juvenile (right) that hatched four days later. Sibling competition was too fierce for it to survive. The chick originally weighed about four ounces, completely bare of feathers when Tony took him in. He carted the bird back and forth to work because he had to be fed two or three times an hour as late as midnight, a routine that continued for five weeks. He was named Godzilla because he looked and acted like a diminutive monster with a ravenous appetite. He is still human imprinted, begs for food whenever he sees a Keeper. During frigid winter months White Storks will be placed in the basement of the Bird Building to protect their extremities from freezing.

VOTE FOR ISSUE 4



*Will Richmond*

The Reindeer and Wild Turkeys send early Holiday Greetings. Distinctively American birds, this group of Wild Turkeys was artificially incubated, hatched and raised at the Bird Building. They have bronze-tipped feathering and are more streamlined for flight than the domestics. Five species exist: Merriam's, Florida, Rio Grande, Yucatan ocellated, and North American. The Mexican form was introduced into Europe about 1530 and returned domesticated by emigrants.

# A Day at the Zoo



Will Richmond

Cheeeese or cotton candy. Two dozen three-year-olds from The Happy Day Nursery School in Cleveland Heights liven things up at the Zoo.



Will Richmond

The West Side Baptist Christian School brought a busload of youngsters, grades one through six, for a day's outing in the park.

## MEMBERSHIP IN FRIENDS OF THE ZOO

### What you get

Free admission and parking  
Free admission to Children's Farm  
Free Tour Train rides  
Free admission to reciprocating zoos

Sunday Film Programs  
Subscription to Zoo News  
Annual Friends of the Zoo Day

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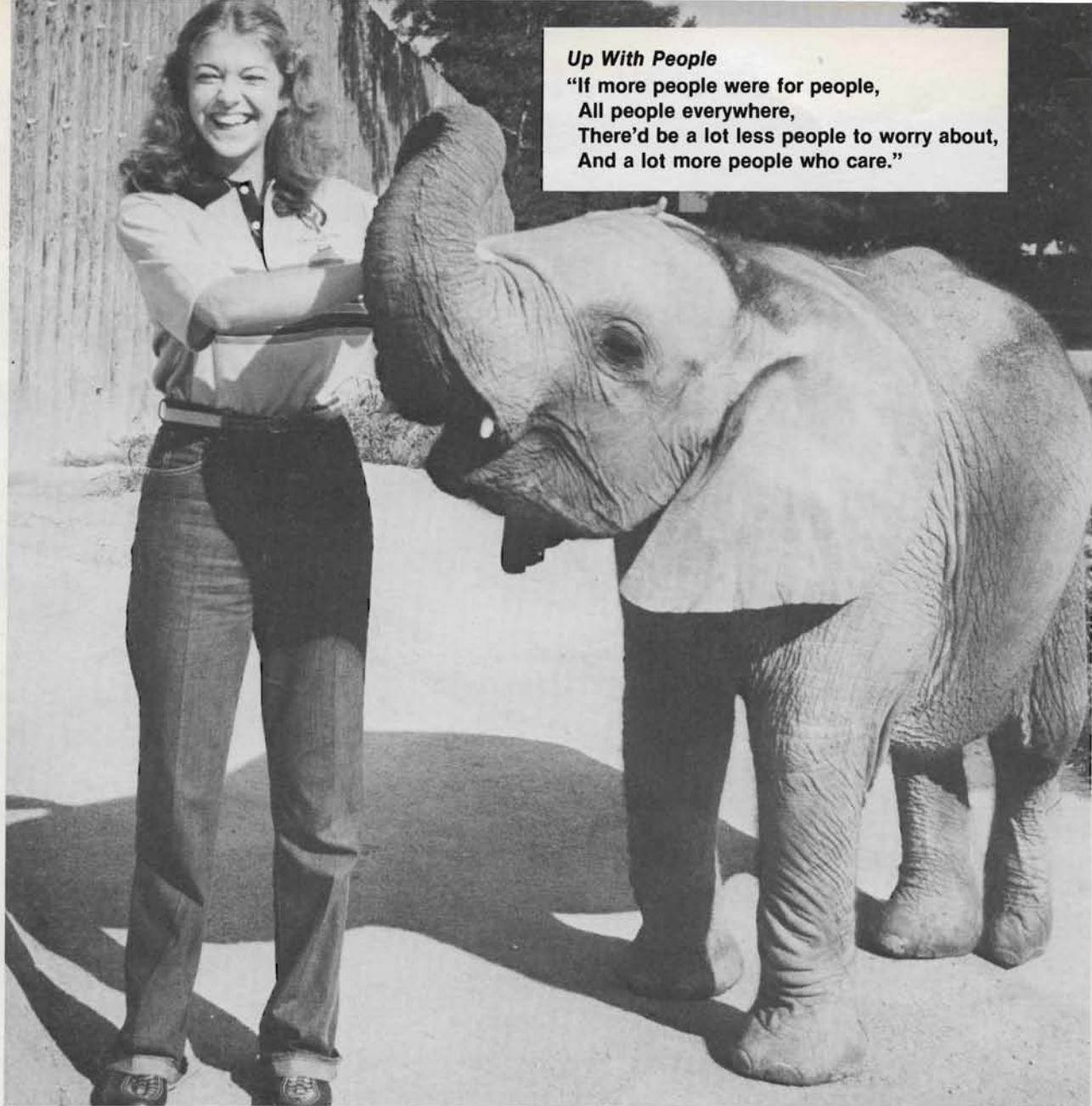
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**Up With People**

**"If more people were for people,  
All people everywhere,  
There'd be a lot less people to worry about,  
And a lot more people who care."**

*Norbert Hobrath*

**UP WITH PEOPLE** at the Zoo. Pictured here with Tiani is Julie Anderson, the 21-year-old lass from Minnesota who does promotion work for Up With People. More than 13,000 visited the Zoo Labor Day weekend. Accolades abounded. A cast of 100 bright, handsome, enthusiastic young men and women lifted spirits to the skies. Zoo News thanks all the wonderful guys and gals for great entertainment, and a special thanks to SOHIO, who sponsored the event. Do come back.

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