In winter, it's still happening at the zoo

O WINTER is upon us with her

O WINTER is upon us with her gloomy gray days and nippy weezes and nothing to do.

Weezes and nothing to do.

It's time put on those earmuffs, scarves, mittens and winter leakets and visit frisky polar bears splashing in the water, see lines swimning and playing with one another and exotic birds in a tropical setting at the Detroit Zoo, which, to the surprise of many, is open in the winter.

"It's become a hobby — how do you get people into the 200" said Bill Austin of the zoo's education department.

The 200 has been open during win-ter for 15 years although many peo-

ter for 15 years although many people are still not convinced.
Once, snow falling about them,
Austin and Sonny Eilot did a Sunday
televislon program from in front of
the Siberian tiger exhibit, urging
people to come see the tigers.
The next day, Austin received a
phone call from a woman who
watched the show inquiring when the
zoo would be reopened for the summer.

watched the show inquiring when the zoo would be reopened for the summer.

"I've come to the conclusion that native residents of Michigan have become accustomed to seasons and going to the zoo is a summer event," Austin said.

YET AUSTIN feels that the best time to see the animals is in the winter. They tend to be more alive and active. Instead of watching the polar bears sleep on the rocks in the swellering head of summer, you can watch them frolic in the snow and play in the water.

"After a fresh snow, watching the tigers playing in it is well worth the experience," said Austin.

"I'm certain that the animals get bored looking at people in August but by December they are curious again and you are a novelity toy."

Austin said the zoo tries to collect animals that naturally live in a climate similar to Michigans. Of the zoo's stock, only the giraffes and elephants do not go outside in the winter. The gangly giraffes, which can stand at least is feet high, would not be able to survive a fall on the icen the telephants just don't like the

cold. Usually, the elephants can be viewed indoors, but this year they cannot because of construction on the elephant house. WINTER VISITORS to the zoo can

cannot because of construction on the eleohant house.

WHNTEH VISITORS to the zoo can expect to have the facility to themselves. It is like owning your own wildlife sanctuary except for the occasional zoo staffer driving around the grounds. Instead of bearing the hustle and bustle of people, one can hear the sounds of the animals throughout the entire area.

It is not to copy two people visited. A big winter day drawn 500 people; a big nummer day can attract up to 20,000.

Austin guarantees plenty of shelier to escape the cold throughout the 12-mile zoo walk.

Whatever the weather, a zoo visit promises an array of 1,200 animals, many representing species that are near extinction.

"It is a matter of degree of how imminent the danger is," said Austin. "It is much more so than people believe. There is a tendency for been ple to come to the zoo and say everying is scoil."

In fact, things aren't well in animal kingdom. Austin said the number of Siberian tigers left in Siberian tigers if the Siberian is dwinding to nothing because the development is the area is taking away the tiger's food source, it takes 100 square miles of land to support a topic of the chimpan-zee.

CHIMMPS ARE lectering on the bring of extinction and me one is

may surprise people is the chimpansee.
"CHIMPS ARE teetering on the
brink of extinction, and no one is
working with them. There are only a
half dozen proven male breeders
icft," said Austin.
To help alleviate the problem, the
Detroit Zoo is going to establish a
significant breeding colony of
chimps.
"We are going to produce chimps,
not mock human beings," he said.
Austin said there was also a sentimental reason for belping the
chimps. "The chimps saved the zoo
during the Depression (with their
chimp showles, so now it is time for
the zoo to save the chimps," he said
Fund-raising has already begun
for the project through the Detroit



Often in winter, the employees outnumber the customers at the zoo. Here, Don D'Aoust feeds oranges to the Japanese Ma-

Zoological Society.
Other endangered species at the zoo are polar bears, a snow leopard, Asiatic elephants, bald eagles and the American alligator and Jamaican boa.

can boa.

Reptiles are one of the few species that do not receive any sympathy from people even though they are the most popular exhibit at most zoos, said Austin.

"The tendency is for the lay per-

son to be casually judgmental. They will give money for a non-threatening animal or eye-appealing bird but not for a venomous snake," explained Austin.

Austin is bothered by the lack of regard people have for the animals and by their lack of knowledge. Watching National Geographic spe-cials on television is not going to save the animals, he said; going to

Other ways to get involved with the zoo is by joining the Detroit Zoo-logical Society or taking part in the Adopt-An-Animal program. The money in the adoption program is used to help feed the animals.

"We've placed the animals in jeop-ardy; we owe it to save them now," said Austin.

Zoo hours during the winter are Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for 13 years and older, \$2 for senior citizens and \$1.50 for chil-dren 5 through 12. Children younger than 5 are free.

campus pipeline

If you have news from a college, university or other campus of higher education — and there's a Farmington-area connection — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Campus Pipe-line, Farmington Observer, 33203

Grand River, Farmington 48024.

. JOINS SORORITY Janet Pawlusiak of Farmington Hills was initiated into Beta Xi chapter of Delta Gamma sorority at Michigan State University.

Roger Cochran, C.A. Greeneisen, Ronald Lernowich and Daniel Parks, all of the Farmington area, were named to the dean's list at Lawrence

Vicki Panoushek and Sarah Unger were named to the dean's list at Val-

paraiso University, Valparaiso, Ind.

Paul Winter, Allan Curtis, Jeffrey Sell and Janette Fleck, all of the Farmington area, were named to the dean's list at Northern Michigan University.

• DISTINGUISHED

DISTINGUISHED
 Shawn Lyon of Farmington Hills carned a spot on the distinguished student list at Purdue University.
 The students on the distinguished student list achieved a 5.5 or higher grade-point average on a scale of 6.

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• March 25 — Sales Motivation & Training, with Dong Kaminski of Anderson Paint.
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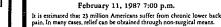


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Southfield Rehabilitation Center, Pain Research & Control Institute 423-1438
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