

Kids are zoo parents

By Judith Weber

Pennsylvanians Marc Graboyes, 12, and his brother Randy, 10, look forward each fall to adopting an animal from the Philadelphia Zoo. The animals live at the zoo but the money donated by 2000 adopting zoo "parents" helps to pay for their food and care. The adoption of a large animal, such as an elephant, a hippopotamus or a rhinoceros costs \$2000! Usually businesses and organizations adopt the more expensive animals.

"The Germantown Friends School wanted to adopt a baby zebra named Ranger Rick," said Michael Ewald, director of the Adopt-an-Animal Program. "They raised only \$43 of the \$800 needed, so we arranged for them to adopt a stripe."

"Last year we adopted two prairie dogs," Marc said proudly. "We came and visited them every six weeks and took photographs. They're really fun to watch."

The cost of adopting each prairie dog was \$10 for the year, and the boys received a certificate, a fact sheet about their animal, a T-shirt iron-on and an invitation to a special Parents Recognition Day.

"But the trouble is," Randy inter-

rupted, "we couldn't tell which doggie was ours."

This year Marc and Randy decided to look for a more individual animal. First they went to the Children's Zoo where they met Lucy, a King snake. Marc liked her, but Randy was a little shy.

Next they made friends with a llama from South America, but their mother decided that \$800 was too much for them to spend on a zoo pet.

Quilliam (rhymes with William) the porcupine fascinated both boys and soon became Quilliam Graboyes for the year.

"After I adopted my prairie dog, my fifth grade class decided to adopt an animal too," Marc reported. "We voted on the animals available for \$10, and everyone brought in 50 cents. We picked a prairie dog and had a class trip to the zoo for an adoption ceremony."

The adoption program at the Philadelphia Zoo isn't unique. The St. Louis, Chicago and Portland Zoos have similar programs. If you're interested in adopting a zoo animal, call your local zoo and say, "I want to be a zoo parent."

Marc with Quilliam, the porcupine.



the Aerobic Angels

By Marge Wisniewski

Getting in shape is fun. Just ask the Aerobic Angels. For them having a good time while they "work" is practically a rule.

The Aerobic Angels is a spirited group of 3rd through 6th graders from Fort Collins, Colorado. They test and demonstrate aerobic dance routines. "We dance to the best songs and have the greatest routines," said Leslie Hason. Some of the selections currently being used are: *Glory Days*, *Freedom*, *You're Only Human* and *Walk of Life*.

February was an especially hectic time for the Angels. They performed at the "Stars for Tomorrow" show at the Lincoln Center in Colorado and held a track Events Day which will help pay for a trip to California in May. "We'll be performing at the International Dance Exercise Association convention in Anaheim, California. 'I can't wait!' states Kaitlin Robinson.

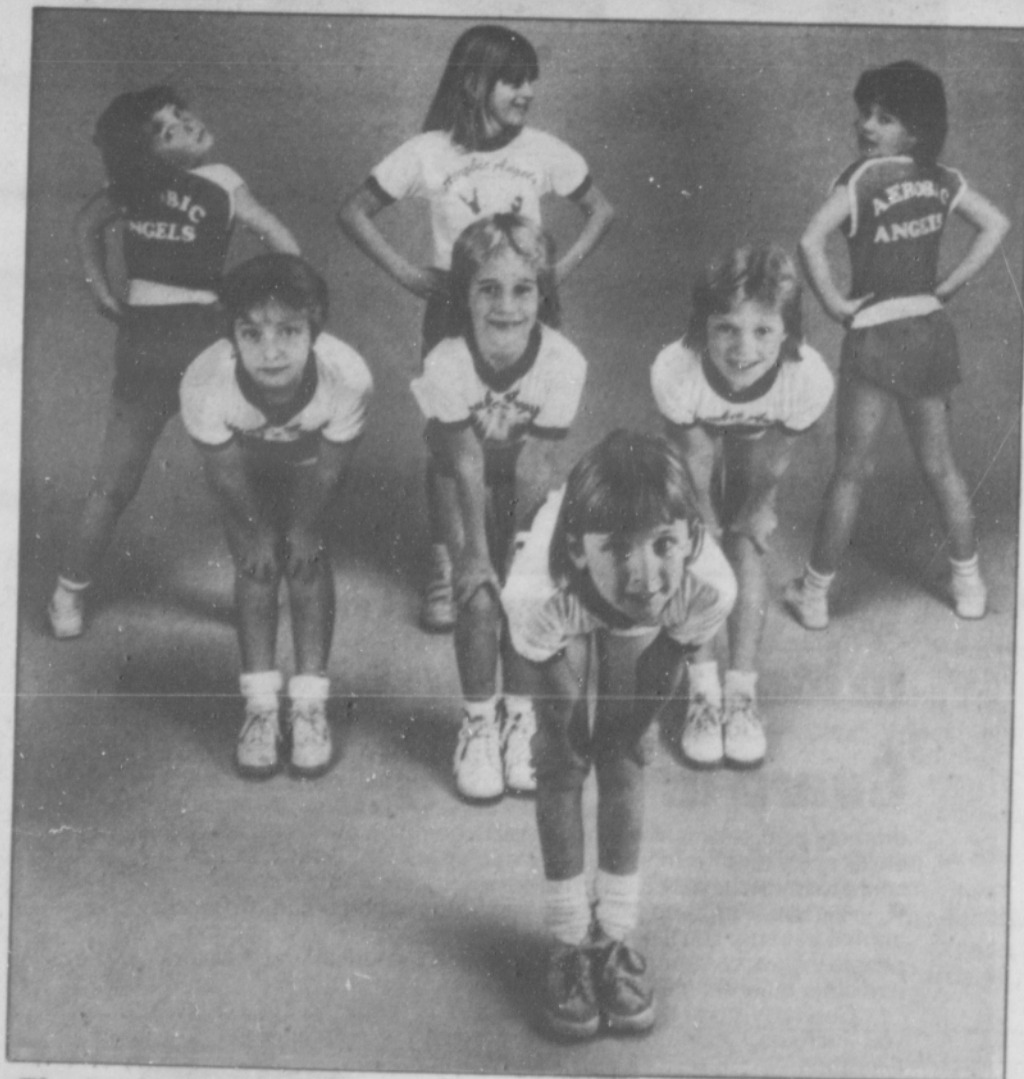
Last September the Angels were presented with a CAHPERD (Colorado Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) Recognition Award for their leadership. The Angels influence kids in their audiences with their bright smiles and attitudes toward fitness. "Some people come up to us and ask for autographs!" Michelle Ryan said.

Being a member of the team has affected the lives of the Aerobic Angels. "I can run really fast, and I feel great," Ashley Waddell said.

"I don't huff and puff a lot," adds Shireen Mahzeri.

"It keeps us all healthy," Tara Dunn said.

Each year a few of the Aerobic Angels "retire" as they get involved with more school activities. They hang up their halos, but they take much more with them than heavenly bodies.



The Aerobic Angels: Back row, l to r — Leslie Hason, Michelle Ryan, Lindsay Baldwin. Middle row, l to r — Tara Dunn, Emily Atchison, Kaitlin Robinson. Front row — Laurel Baldwin. Not pictured: Ashley Waddell, Shireen Mahazeri, Angie Moser, Marilyn Merkley.

Derby race open to all

If you are between 9 and 16 years of age and traveling at lightning speed is your idea of fun, the Soap Box Derby is right up your alley.

Since building your own Derby Car is half the fun, you need to register now for the July 5 and 6 race in Sandy, Oregon. The winners of the junior and senior divisions will receive an all-expense paid, one-week trip to compete in the World Championship in Akron, Ohio.

For information, call Barry Fretz at (503) 668-7028.