

Focus



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A close up look at giant pandas behind the lens of photographer Gerry Ellis.



ZOO NEWS

New Exhibit Features Giant Pandas

Photographer reveals plight of endangered species



A baby giant panda gives photographer Gerry Ellis a greeting.

Photographer Gerry Ellis provides a behind-the-scenes look at the extraordinary effort to save the giant panda during a lecture at the Oregon Zoo on Tuesday, March 23 at 7 p.m. Ellis follows the story of seven baby pandas in the Wolong Nature Reserve in the remote forests of western China. He is executive director and photographer of

GLOBIO, which is a non-profit dedicated to educating children about the bio-diversity of our planet.

"Our hope is to offer people a rare glimpse at baby pandas in China and an even rarer glimpse into the extraordinary lives of people working to save this incredible creature from extinction," says Ellis.

The lecture will include rare photos and video of baby pandas born in fall 2003, including their first toddling steps in the wintry bamboo forests. In addition, the evening's program will look at giant panda history; its connections to people over the past century and GLOBIO's remarkable documentary and education work in the reserve.

Panda and photography enthusiasts are encouraged to arrive at

the zoo at 6 p.m. for a hands-on Pro Photo display of the cutting edge digital photography used during the documentary project.

The Wildlife Conservation Lecture Series is sponsored by Pro Photo Supply, with support from Portland General Electric and Southwest Airlines. The series, which is hosted by the Oregon Zoo and Portland Chinese Classical Garden costs \$10 general admission and \$8 for members of host organizations, students and seniors. For more information, visit the zoo's Web site at www.oregonzoo.org or call 503-226-1561.

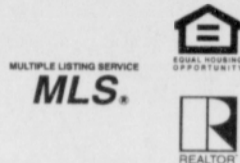
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Close Encounters with world of Rhinos

A rhino encounter at the Oregon Zoo lets visitors actually feed rhinos and discover the wonderful world of rhinos, behind the scenes.

During the Saturday, March 13 tour, visitors will learn about endangered rhinos, tour the barn and meet the zoo's rhinos, Pete and Maldi.

The highlight of the experience is feeding the eager rhinos apples and feeling their thick, rough skin.

The tour from 10 to 11 a.m. is

open to visitors 16 years and older for \$100. For more information, visit www.oregonzoo.org or call 503-220-2781.

'Asunder' For and By African Americans



Blair Underwood stars in "Asunder," a thriller full of plot twists and love triangles. The new film is produced, directed, written and distributed by African Americans, even being filmed in a black studio. Producer Tim Reid, who also

produced "Once Upon a Time When We were Colored," takes seriously his mission to distribute his work with African American artists and craftsmen.

"Asunder" is now showing in select theaters.



Prince Back on Stage for World Tour

(AP)—Prince will return to arena stages for the first time in six years with a national tour featuring classic hits such as "When Doves Cry" and "Little Red Corvette."

"It's older music, but it's going to be played in a newer way," the typically reclusive performer said last week in announcing the tour that begins March 29 in Los Angeles and will hit at least 38 cities.

Prince followed his announcement with a half-hour concert backed by his eight-piece group, the New Power Generation Band.

He performed the title song from his upcoming new CD "Musicology" before answering questions from 200 fans and reporters.

The 45-year-old musician is in negotiations with various record labels to release his new disc. Since he parted with Warner Bros. in 1996 after a bitter feud, he has either released his albums on the Internet or through other labels or distribution deals.

His upcoming tour shows the singer is ready to move back into the pop music mainstream.

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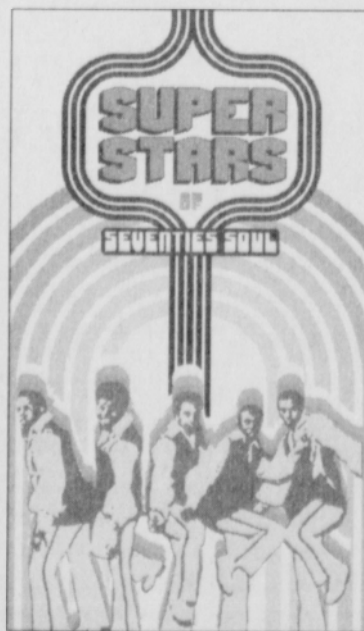
One picture is worth a thousand words

New CD Features Soul Superstars

The R&B music of the 1970s lives on in "Superstars of Seventies Soul," a new three CD boxed set featuring the era's biggest hits.

The collection was released this week in advance of a home video release of the PBS concert special of the same name.

With classic R&B love songs like "Still In Love With You" (Al Green) and "Ain't No Sunshine" (Bill Withers), disco delights "Boogie Oogie Oogie" (Taste of Honey) and "Good Times" (Chic), slow-jams "Between The Sheets" (Isley Brothers) and "Close The Door" (Teddy Pendergrass), the funky-out "Spill The Wine" (Eric Burdon and War) and "Brick House" (Commodores),



Superstars of Seventies Soul is a three CD boxed set featuring 60 of the era's greatest hits.

Superstars Of Seventies Soul includes no less than 40 #1 singles, and represents the best of the post-Motown era of Funk and R&B.

The television concert was shot live in Atlantic City, N.J. in December. Hosted by soul legend Patti LaBelle, other performers included The Commodores, Debbie and Joni Sledge, The Chi-Lites, The Stylistics, George McCrae, McFadden and Whitehead, Bloodstone, The Emotions, among others.

An edited home video of the event will be available exclusively to PBS as a pledge drive premium item for a limited time. The Superstars of Seventies Soul DVD will then be released later in the year to retail.



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