

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

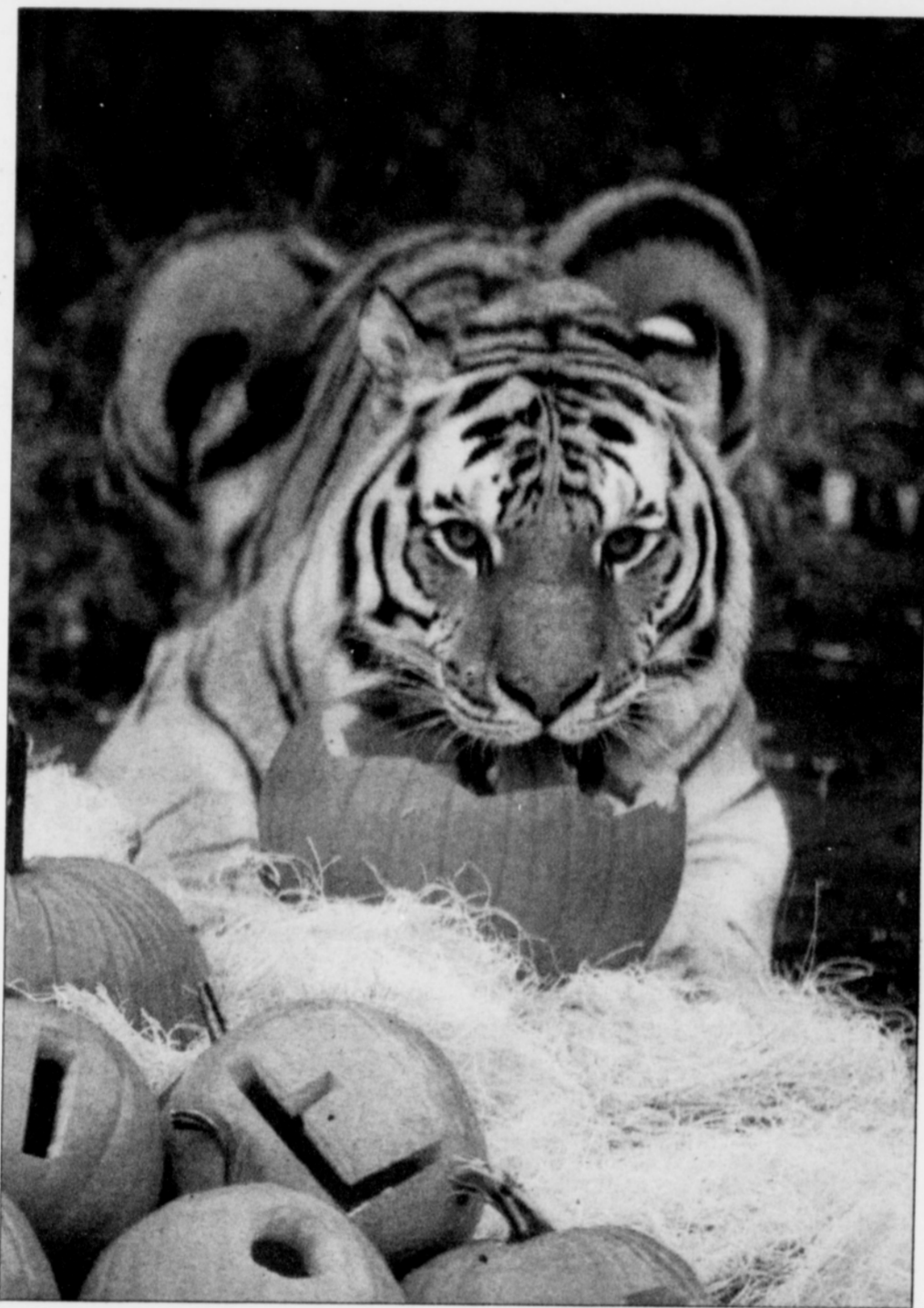
Zoo Hosts Howlin' Good Time

Trick-or-treaters can fill their bags with goodies and learn more about wildlife on Saturday, Oct. 30 and Sunday, Oct. 31, during "Howloween at the Oregon Zoo," presented by Sterling Savings and FedEx in association with the National Safe Kids Coalition. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is free with zoo admission.

"Most kids love trick-or-treating, and Howloween at the zoo provides a safe place for them to wear their costumes, have some fun and learn about animals," said Kim Smith, zoo director.

The celebration aims to be educational as well as fun. An intriguing scavenger hunt will direct trick-or-treaters to easily accessible activity stations throughout the zoo. Activities are themed to teach kids about animals around the zoo, and their habitats and adaptations. Goodie bags filled with candy and prizes will be given out for completed hunts at the zoo's exit.

Throughout the weekend, visitors can watch the zoo's enrichment team provide animals with holiday-themed treats like pumpkins stuffed with snacks. Enrichment items such as pumpkins — provided by Al's Garden Center — help keep the zoo's animals mentally and physically stimulated.



Animals and visitors receive treats during the Oregon Zoo's 'Howloween' celebration.



A brown muppet representing an African-American girl is shown during the taping of the 'I Love My Hair,' video for the children's program, 'Sesame Street.'

I Love My Hair Curly-haired Muppet is role model

(AP) -- A plucky little muppet in a pretty pink dress, her brown hair a perky 'fro, is helping little girls — and their moms — to accept themselves just the way they are by loving their hair.

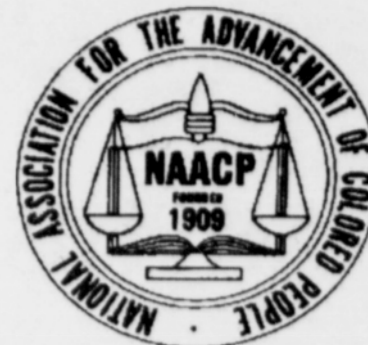
The nameless muppet manages to trim away generations of yearning for long, silky locks with her song, "I Love My Hair" and has become an Internet sensation. Now her creator wants to give her a life beyond YouTube.

"I really want to sit down with the writers and figure out what we can do with her and give her a name, and really expand her out," said Joey Mazzarino, head writer for "Sesame Street," who co-wrote "I Love My Hair" with composer Chris Jackson.

The video is being shared on Twitter, and posted on gossip sites and blogs. It is popping up on Facebook pages and discussed in the comments section on YouTube, where the original clip gets a steady stream of views.

"It struck a particular chord with African-American moms like me," said author Denene Millner, a columnist for parenting.com and the creator of parenting blog MyBrownBaby. "I think that at some point, if you have a little girl, we all deal with the day your child comes home from school and says, 'I don't want my hair to look like this; I want it to look like Annie's.' And Annie's hair is blond and long and not what she has."

Meanwhile, a little Muppet girl in pretty pink dress says it all: "I love my hair ... there's nothing else that can compare, I love my hair."



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