

Eye On Community

Eye on Artist: Jonathon Sorber

By Brittany Neimeth
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Software developer by day and photographer by night, Philadelphia local, Jonathon Sorber has taken his hobby and made his name known with it.

Sorber could be what one would consider an Internet celebrity. His deviantart account, an online art community, has received over 250,000 page views and over 2,500 people subscribe to his page, all wanting one thing. To be updated on his new photographs.

Sorber, 27, was born in Philadelphia and attended George Washington High School. He then attended Drexel University for computer science where as a senior he took photo 101.

"We didn't even get to develop our own film, and it was only ten weeks long, but I found my love for photography then."

Sorber's work has appeared in quite a few publications, most notably his photograph was used in an advertisement in The New York Times. He has shot the covers for *Passional Magazine*, which is the publication for *Passional*, a fetish store in Philadelphia. He has also had his work in *Verge* and *HX Magazine*, which are both local to Philadelphia.

Sorber does not have a specific location that inspires him but he's excited for summer and the possibility of outdoor shoots.

"I want to use to use nature and flowers in the background for color. I generally enjoy anything high fashion or with a lot of color.

Although he is somewhat of an online sensation, photographers don't generally get recognized on the streets.



The photographer is behind the scenes, and though their name gets the credit, their face generally doesn't.

"There have been times when I introduced myself and people recognized my name. It's a great feeling," Sorber said.

Not only involved in photography, Sorber also hosts and coordinates events, which he then photographs. He also enjoys creating music and plays guitar, bass, keyboard, and the drums.

His latest endeavor is a clothing line called 5th and Justice.

"This was the last shoot I've done...we built a wall out of cardboard and tin foil. It took over 40 man-hours...It was the most preparation for a shoot I have ever done."

He's pleased with the outcome of the shoot and excited for the release of the first men's line called Rock star. The clothing line will soon be featured in boutiques around Philadelphia as well as online at www.fifthandjustice.com.

In the future, he hopes to be able to shoot more Japanese street fashion-type shoots and he can't wait for the opportunity to go back to Japan.

Jonathan Sorber's photographs are on display at www.jonnyballs.deviantart.com.

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In Close Quarters with Bears

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"They aren't just animals in cages, there is more to it than that," Mark Hayes, Philadelphia Zookeeper, said Sunday about his job.

Hayes works with the carnivores and we met in Bear Country, behind the cages where the majority of the bears come in to rest at night. It smells like the animals, but the scent is exaggerated because of the fact that it is in an enclosed area. All of the cages are empty and the bears are out greeting the small amount of people who ventured out in the severe heat wave.

Hayes graduated from Delaware Valley College with a degree in large animal science and stumbled into the job as a zookeeper. It was something he had always wanted to do, but didn't think he could. He enjoys the close interactions that he can get with the animals and the satisfaction of good training. He pointed around to the bear cages proudly stating that the majority of the bears, all but one, with a little coaxing, will now get on the scale to be weighed by him or herself.

The zookeepers are specialized and either work with the reptiles, mammals or birds. Hayes began working for open relief so he floated between the mammals helping where he was needed, due to this he has worked with most of the mammals, and thus discovered his least favorite.

"I'm not particularly enthralled with working with most of the primates," he said. The primates are very intelligent animals and because of this they willfully do not listen. "It's like working with kindergartners and tends to be frustrating."

Hayes day can be different since he alternates between Bear Country, Carnivore Kingdom and Big Cat Falls, but the fundamentals for all the zookeepers are the same, although each animal has a different procedure. He checks to make sure the animals are alive and safely where they are supposed to be, preps the yards and cleans.

The zoo is more than just keeping exotic animals alive for viewer amusement, though. The employees also work on proliferating species lives, such as polar bears which are on the endangered species list. The Species Survival Plan (SSP) involves taxonomic groups that maintain genetic diversity as well as interspecies breeding when positive genetic matches are found. Not all animals are bred in captivity, but right now for animals like the polar bears it is being pushed. The animals, like humans all have ISIS numbers, which are similar to social security numbers. The ISIS number goes into an international system that tracks all the animals and their information such as species, sex, age, and weight. This allows the zoo keepers to keep track of their health and SSP to track breeding possibilities.

The Philadelphia Zoo currently has two female polar bears that

are fairly old. Although the zoo would like to breed the species they may decide not to because they may not have the proper configuration to house a male and female. The Philadelphia Zoo may soon end up becoming a holding area for young polar bears until they are of age to breed, about five years old, if they choose to breed.

Also, the dynamics of living quarters becomes different when a male carnivore is thrown into the mix. Most large carnivores, with the exception of dogs, are solitary animals and when put into an artificial cohabitation in a small area it can change the living dynamics. Males are known to kill females, not necessarily due to aggression from invasion of space, but because the male doesn't realize his own size can end up breeding too aggressively and injure the female.

At the conclusion of the interview, Hayes took me to the gate that led into the Asiatic black bear's outdoor exhibit. Pressed up against the gated door was the largest male black bear at the Philadelphia Zoo, weighing in at about 700 pounds. Hayes took what looked like small dog treats and through tiny slots in the door the bear took the treats from his hand.

After watching this a few times, I was handed a treat and I fearfully pressed it through the hole, dropping it before the bear's mouth had fully grasped the treat. That treat, though, was more for me than the bear.

STATE LEGISLATOR HONORED

State Rep. Thomas Killion, (R-168th District), accepts the "Friend of Penn State" legislative award from the Penn State Alumni Association for his significant role in the improvement of the University June 20. During his acceptance speech, Killion noted that the state budget is nearing completion. "We are fighting for education funding at all levels and for affordable higher education," he said. (From left) Ed Costantini, member of the Penn State Brandywine Advisory Board; Sophia Wisniewska, Chancellor of Penn State Brandywine; Rep. Tom Killion; and Eileen Killion, Rep. Killion's wife.

For more information on Representative Killion, go to <http://www.repskillion.com/>

(photo courtesy of Penn State Brandywine website)

