



STAFF PHOTO BY ANGELA ROWLINGS

**PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE: Okie the gorilla gets a checkup from senior zookeeper Shannon Finn at the Franklin Park Zoo yesterday.**

## Flu fighters at the zoo

By **NATALIE SHERMAN**

It's zoo season — not flu season — in the Franklin Park Zoo's acre of balmy 80-degree tropical forest, where the last of eight western lowland gorillas was inoculated yesterday morning.

"It's an amazing place to be this time of year," said tropical forest assistant curator Jeannine Jackle. "It's just fantastic. You feel like you're in the tropics."

Keepers administered yesterday's shot to Okpara, an 18-year-old male nicknamed "Okie," who calmly presented his shoulder to the oversize needle in exchange for a fruit and nut bar.

"He didn't even flinch," Jackle said. "He stayed right there and presented his arm again and asked for a treat."

Children's Hospital Boston donates the shots, which are administered annually to protect gorillas from their keepers' germs.

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