

Who you gonna call?

Pet Savers

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PORT WASHINGTON, New York—If \$35 could save each and every shelter animal's life, how many would you save?

"We'll save them all," longtime North Shore Animal League board chairperson Elisabeth Lewyt decided six years ago, committing North Shore resources to saving not only the animals coming through its own shelter, but also those handled by other shelters around the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

Since then, North Shore and the two-year-old Pet Savers Foundation it created with a \$6.3 million start-up grant have helped arrange nearly 170,000 extra adoptions, above and beyond the annual totals the participating shelters achieved prior to North Shore involvement. By itself, the North Shore/Pet Savers adoption program has achieved a cumulative 3% drop in the U.S. euthanasia rate—an even more impressive figure considering that, big as it is, it involves barely 1% of U.S. shelters.

North Shore/Pet Savers support of low-cost neutering, averaging about \$3.5 million a year, has undoubtedly had an even greater impact. No other organization puts anywhere near as much into neutering subsidies and building neutering clinics. The runner-up, Friends of Animals, spends \$2.2 million a year on neutering, and that's far more than all other national groups combined.

—*Kim Bartlett*

Quantifying lives prevented, however, is guesswork. Quantifying lives saved is a matter of hard numbers. Five shelters in

POB 205, SHUSHAN, NY 12873
[ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED.]

the Pet Savers program have more than doubled their adoptions. The average rate of increase among the 36 shelters in the program at the end of 1994 was 48.7%.

Providing money for advertising is part of the North Shore/Pet Savers approach. The \$5.8 million the adoption promotion program cost through the first 297 weeks it was running broke down to \$34.83 per adoption: \$38.40 per adoption for the first 10 participating shelters, as the bugs were worked out of the system, and sub-

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ANIMAL

News For People Who

PEOPLE

Care About Animals

TREASON CHARGE FOR DOLPHIN VIDEO

52%

CORAL GABLES, Florida—Aldemaro Romero is alive and well as an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Miami. That annoys the Venezuelan government. Officially, he's wanted for treason. Unofficially, some authorities would rather have his tortured corpse in a ditch, along with that of his colleague Ignacio Agudo, a fellow academic and president of *Fundacetacea* (The Whale Fund), who has been dodging dragnets in Venezuela for more than a year now.

Said Ramon Martinez, governor of Sucre state, to *Wall Street Journal* reporter Jose de Cordoba, "If it were up to me, I'd have them shot."

Their alleged crime was videotaping a fishing crew in February 1993 during the acts of harpooning a dolphin, then hacking her apart alive for use as bait.

"The remains of 13 other dolphins were found on the beach," states Romero. "The crew said on tape that they kill dolphins for shark bait. They also provided information about the number of dolphins they kill per month, and where they get the harpoons."

It wasn't a completely clean sting. As the video sound track reveals, Romero and Agudo told the crew how to position the boat to give them good camera angles. But Romero also begged that the dolphin be killed quickly, and both Romero and Agudo asked that no more dolphins be killed.

Claims Romero, "The fishermen were never paid, nor did we promise them anything. At the end of the trip we gave them a bottle of rum worth 95¢ U.S. as a gift for their hospitality to us. We also left behind the gasoline that we had earlier purchased to fill their spare can, worth \$4.00 U.S."

The Venezuelan government insists that Romero and Agudo paid for the dolphin killing as part of a plot by U.S.-based firms to keep Venezuelan oil and tuna out of the U.S. market. The H.J. Heinz Co., owner of Starkist tuna, is supposed to have paid off Romero and Agudo via a Heinz family donation of \$10,000 to the San Francisco-based Earth Island Institute, with which neither Romero nor Agudo have any connection—although Romero did receive some funding directly from the Heinz Foundation in 1991. The Philadelphia-based Sun Co. is said to have made a similar payoff through the Pew

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Sea World photo

“Full speed ahead and damn the manatees!”

ORLANDO, Florida—Killing manatees at a record rate of almost two a week, boaters could extinguish the Floridan subspecies in the wild—if they keep it up—before the end of the 20th century, now less than five years away. More than 60 Florida manatees died during the first quarter of 1995, twice the rate of 1994, when 192 manatees were found dead, second only to the 206 deaths reported in 1990 among the 25 years that statistics have been kept. As in 24 of those 25 years, the leading cause of death, claiming exactly 60, was being sliced or stabbed by power boat propellers, prows, and keels. That broke the 1989 record of 58 human-caused deaths, 53 of them caused by boats. Severe cold is the manatees' only other significant killer.

The already ominous plight of manatees got rapidly worse after February 17, when Volusia County Judge John Roger Smith trashed the power boat speed limits

imposed in 1991 by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to safeguard manatees. The DEP and the Save the Manatee Club asserted at the time that they could win on appeal, and could meanwhile go on enforcing the speed limits—but it's been open season ever since. By mid-March a study of Brevard County boaters found that 25% were speeding right by the limit signs.

“The court finds the language defining slow speed so vague that a person of common intelligence must guess at its meaning and may differ as to its application,” Smith wrote. He also argued that the DEP is obliged to prove that manatees actually inhabit areas where boat speed limits are posted, and should show cause why designated high-speed corridors shouldn't be routed through the manatee protection zones, as if the slow-moving sirenians could be taught to avoid such corridors any more than opossums can

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Editorial

Earth Day is over. Take a clod to lunch.

The Editor's most original contribution to the initial Earth Day, 25 years ago, may have been coining the slogan, "Today is Earth Day; take a clod to lunch." In the 1970 atmosphere of Berkeley, California, where the Editor was then a cub reporter, it went without saying that the lunch would be vegetarian. The radical idea was not that meat-eating was and is the most fundamental environmental issue. Already *Food First* author Frances Moore Lappe, *Population Bomb* author Paul Erlich, and *Silent Spring* author Rachel Carson had delineated the links between meat production and depleted topsoil, starvation, and overuse of pesticides. Every incipient environmentalist in that particular time and place at least paid lip-service to the ideal of vegetarianism. Disagreement arose, rather, over the affirmation that the path to change lay through breaking bread instead of heads; that environmental problems were due not to inherent flaws in the capitalist system, but to rectifiable ignorance, which could be overcome more easily through discussion than through fulminating about smashing the state.

Our sense was that despite huge gaps in awareness of environmental problems, and some deep disagreements over their causes and solutions, hardly anyone genuinely favored either pollution or exterminating endangered species, the two issues of most concern to me. Hoping to avoid the societal polarization we'd already noted in the civil rights and peace movements, we urged that the first Earth Day should be a teach-in, welcoming all comers—not an us-against-them protest. The speed with which the Richard Nixon presidency ratified the Clean Air Act (1972), the Clean Water Act (1972), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (1972), the Endangered Species Act (1973), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (1973) later validated our hope that shared concern for animals and the environment could become one of the aspects of citizenship uniting Americans as a people with a shared moral vision.

By the 20th Earth Day, in 1990, that seemed to have happened. Opinion polls repeatedly found that from half to three-fourths of all Americans identified themselves as environmentalists, depending upon how the question was worded. At least a third of all Americans recognized as serious each of more than 20 environmental problems they were asked about—whereas, in 1970, few recognized more than two or three environmental problems. By 1990 the environmental movement had come through the overtly hostile Ronald Reagan administration so much stronger that even Reagan's former vice president, George Bush, proclaimed his intention to be remembered as "the environmental president."

Barely five years later, public opinion on environmental issues has never seemed more sharply divided; environmentalism has never appeared less popular. The so-called wise use movement claims to have delivered the margin of victory in as many as 32 transfers of Congressional seats from Democrats to Republicans. A substantial faction within Congress thus claims a mandate to dismantle environmental protections, most especially the Endangered Species Act, which House Resources Committee chair Don Young (R-Alaska) has declared to be "number one" on his personal hit list.

Even more ominous, *The Tyndall Report*, which monitors broadcasting content, recently found that environmental coverage on network newscasts fell 84% from 1989 through 1994. No media could be interpreted to mean no concern.

membership they enjoyed during 1989-1990, and have had to downsize. They may yet capitalize on alarm over attempts to weaken environmental laws to recapture their peak constituencies. At the same time, it must be noted that their steepest decline came just as some of their senior board members and executives took high posts in the Bill Clinton administration. These groups should have gained from their unprecedented influence.

Whatever happens next, the environmental movement as such is over. The cause remains alive with both activists and the public, but the unbroken momentum characterizing a movement has given way to the waxing and waning of an institutionalized special interest—like education, health care, or organized labor, each of which also had movement origins. The legacy of the environmental movement remains the infrastructure adopted under the Nixon administration. Most activity in the past two decades plus has involved using that infrastructure to defend and consolidate the early gains.

Along the way, as an environmental establishment evolved, concern for animals—growing among the public—was largely abandoned by leadership. It was well understood, at the time, that much of the early clout of environmentalism came from mobilizing animal lovers. Accordingly, through 1973, animal issues were at the forefront of the environmental agenda. The MMPA, ESA, and CITES were and are essentially animal protection measures, addressing humane concerns to some extent as well as the survival of species. However, the 1974 Arab oil embargo shifted public attention to energy, and the environmental focus shifted with it to the resource issues that have preoccupied the major groups ever since. Newly enfranchised enviros hastily brokered a marriage-of-convenience with old-line hunter/conservationists, who then as now dominated the leadership of many key organizations and institutions. Rather than be embarrassed by "antis," the environmental power-brokers disassociated themselves from the animal rights movement, which rose after 1974 in part because of the failure of organized environmentalism to follow through on concern for animals. The gap widened as the animal rights cause aligned itself with long established and well-endowed antivivisection societies. Denouncing animal testing, animal rights activists attacked the very basis of the environmentalist drive to ban or restrict use of toxic chemicals—which polls affirmed as the leading environmental issue, in the public mind, throughout the 1980s.

Since Greenpeace abandoned anti-fur and anti-sealing campaigns in the mid-1980s, ostensibly to make common cause with native Americans who rejected the overture, none of the biggest environmental groups have even pretended to advance humane concerns, as distinguished from concern about species. Most environmentalist activity undertaken on behalf of species, moreover, has actually involved using the MMPA and ESA as tools in resource disputes over water rights, logging, and oil-drilling. Use of animal protection laws to "lock up" resources is indeed the major reason why the ESA is itself now endangered. Whatever the merits of protecting wilderness and unexploited mineral reserves, the ESA was not adopted to serve those purposes. Indeed, most of the species most at risk are found in remnant green space close to human habitation, where conservation incentives rather than "lock-ups" might prove more efficacious in preserving them.

But both the wise-use muscle-flexing in Congress and the decline in media notice could be illusory. Network environmental coverage peaked in 1989-1990 due to the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill and the Earth Day 20th anniversary. Some decline was to be expected—until something else, perhaps the wise-use attack on environmental laws, pushes the environment back up the list of public priorities. The wise-users may also claim too much credit for the Republican capture of Congress. A post-election survey sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation found that only 18% of Americans favor relaxing environmental protection laws, while 41% still say they want such laws strengthened. Even among Republicans, 70% favor a strong Clean Water Act; 60% favor ending subsidies to miners, loggers, and ranchers who use public land; and 47% support the ESA. Only 41% think it should be relaxed to favor business.

What is not illusory is the declining strength of at least five of the seven biggest U.S. environmental advocacy groups. NWF, Greenpeace, the National Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, and the Wilderness Society have all failed to keep the huge increases in

The truth that was first casualty

The first casualty of the institutionalization of environmentalism, however, was the early emphasis on vegetarianism, which in 1970 the Editor mistook for universal. Perhaps shedding vegetarianism was part of the price of public acceptance—but whether or not giving up meat was or is palatable to much of the public, the environmental harm done by meat consumption must still be addressed. The fastest-growing pollution problem in the U.S. is what to do with all the concentrated excrement produced by factory farms, far from any fields where it can be spread. The Soil Conservation Service, a branch of the USDA, estimates that about half of the 280 million acres under tillage in the U.S. are naturally at risk from soil erosion, and about 65% are being tilled—chiefly to grow corn to feed livestock—by methods that promote erosion. Intensive irrigation to produce fodder crops continues to drain water and fossil fuel resources, as well; depending on whose statistics one cites, a meat-centered diet takes from four to 16 times as much water and petroleum to produce as a vegetarian diet. Five years ago the General Accounting Office found that most federally leased pastures are overgrazed (contributing to the decline of 346 endangered species, according to an NWF follow-up), yet there are more cattle on the range now than then, and despite a series of fruitless efforts to hike grazing fees to encourage conservation, the fees are actually from 19¢ to 37¢ lower per animal unit month now than in 1994.

Nor is eating fish any more environmentally benign. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization recently reported that nine of the world's 17 major fisheries are in serious decline, four are commercially depleted, and the remaining four are either "fully exploited" or "over-exploited."

Quite apart from humane considerations, and even without looking at the effects of animal agriculture on rainforests or the cattle-dependent starving nations of North Africa, there are ample reasons why every environmentalist should give up meat and fish, and why every environmental group should actively encourage that choice. The level of environmental awareness in the U.S. should translate into a growing national commitment to eating less flesh. Instead, per capita meat consumption just hit an all-time high. More discouraging, a National Live Stock & Meat Board survey of the eating habits of 20,000 Americans over a two-week period reported in February that while 3% call themselves "meat avoiders" and 2% call themselves "vegetarians," close to the figure of 6% vegetarians estimated by vegetarian activist groups, the so-called "meat avoiders" and "vegetarians" actually consume about 60% of the volume of red meat, fish, and poultry that self-acknowledged meat-eaters do. Fewer than 1% are in fact fully vegetarian.

In a separate survey, the NLSMB found that only 1% of American youth see ecological harm in eating beef, and fewer still see ecological harm in eating pork and poultry.

In short, both the institutionalized environmental movement and the animal rights movement have to date failed in addressing the most basic of issues: what's for dinner if we eat ourselves out of our habitat? Curbing population growth, a currently fashionable goal also raised by Lappe, Erlich, and Carson, can delay the need for answers, but however many of us exist, the question won't go away. And in the long run it doesn't really matter how the environmental movement responds to the wise-use challenge, if it can't or won't encourage a drastic drop in meat consumption, before loss of the resources to produce meat forces it upon us, after we've already lost our rare species and every other aspect of our environment that the meat habit jeopardizes.

Earth Day is over, but it's still a good idea to take a clod to lunch—a vegetarian lunch, to explain gently that while there's no such thing as a free lunch, a lunch without meat or fish costs the earth less; provides more nutrition for the input; and is healthier for us as well as for animals.

ANIMAL PEOPLE

News for People Who Care About Animals

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Letters

Fix dogs too

There is little disagreement in the animal welfare movement that neutering is the humane answer to pet overpopulation and destruction. It is also recognized that most low-income pet owners are unable to afford the usual veterinary charges for surgery—especially for dogs. It is therefore unbelievable to read in your April edition that in San Jose \$100,000 "obtained from a surplus in animal licensing," i.e. dog licensing, will be used for free vouchers to neuter only cats, the rationale being that costs for dogs are twice as high so two cats can be helped for each dog. Consider two equally poor pet owners, one with a large dog and one with a cat. Because the surgery costs for the dog are more than twice as much as for the cat, only the cat owner will be assisted.

—Elisabeth Arvin
Ojai, California

Three days, not weeks

I loved the April lead feature on San Jose's encouragement of neutering feral cats. There was only one mistake: San Jose handed out 1,000 neutering vouchers in three days, not three weeks.

San Jose will now be doing free dog altering as well. We allocated \$20,000, or roughly 400 dogs worth, until the end of this fiscal year. The allocation will be looked at again this summer to see if we can continue with it. We are currently doing about 100 cats a week, or over \$100,000 per year if it continues at this pace, so I am concerned we will run out of money if there is a big dog response. It looks as if we'll only have \$125,000 for next year, including our public education and research programs.

I was especially tickled by the remark in your April editorial about moral power on companion animal issues being moved from the Humane Society of the U.S., et al, to the San Francisco SPCA, North Shore Animal League, and National Pet Alliance. It is hard to imagine NPA being any kind of threat to HSUS, with their huge budget in comparison to our extremely little one. I suppose there will be some teeth gnashing over that.

Thank you for giving a mention to our need for funds. You know how it is, always scraping the barrel to get any kind of project done. We had a request yesterday to do the same sort of survey we did in the Santa Clara Valley in Los Angeles, due to their upcoming legislation. No problem; all they have to do is raise \$10,000 to fund it (and we

Hunters & child abuse

Growing up in upstate New York during the 1970s and 1980s, my siblings and I used to play unsupervised, as did all our playmates, less than a quarter mile from where Sara Anne Wood was abducted in the alleged rape/murder for which hunter Lewis Lent has been charged (Court Calendar, April). My parents never worried about us, even if we didn't come home for lunch. They just assumed we were with friends. My sister's boys also played unsupervised there in the early 1990s.

Nobody worried until Sara was killed. We were in the middle of nowhere, and nobody was around except farmers and hunters. Looking back, we all should have been afraid. How safe could it have been to coexist with people who get pleasure out of stalking and killing those who are weaker than they are? Thanks for keeping Sara's memory alive to help other children.

—Judith Messimer
Creve Coeur, Missouri

Friends of Animals

need to get done with the one we're working on now). The caller said she'd see what she could do.

—Karen Johnson
National Pet Alliance
San Jose, California

Dog food

Concerning the letter from Laura Williams in your April edition about vegetarian dogs, I have been feeding mine Nature's Recipe non-meat kibble for years, although I have occasionally changed off to a meat-based kibble. The dogs also steal the cat food at every opportunity, so they haven't been totally vegetarian. PETA has a study on vegetarian dogs that indicates cardiomyopathy based on taurine and carnitine deficiency is a possible problem.

Most confusing is the lack of specific direction: how much carnitine and/or taurine per body weight, what is the best source, etc. My vet has said it is okay to give dogs the vegetarian food, and he's pretty up-to-date on things, but he's never said anything about this.

—Mary Melville
Plymouth, Michigan

Aim

Your April editorial, "Remembering the aim," is excellent. I hope the response to it is positive.

—Jim Brewer
PIGS: A Sanctuary
Charles Town, West Virginia

ANIMAL PEOPLE

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list our donors by how much they give—
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Lyn Ruby, and Gloria Scholbe.

Half a decade ago, I was a doctrinaire ecofeminist, convinced that the domination of women everywhere by men everywhere was directly related to the domination of nature by white Western scientific man. My certainties led to a mind of myopia, something I have come to think of as the psychological correlate of the NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) syndrome. People who thought like me (mostly women and a few enlightened men) were good. People who thought differently were bad. Engaged in a search for non-hierarchical, nonviolent modes of life, people like me did not engage in aggressive, competitive, greedy self-interested behavior. We were pure, in word and deed. The other side was not.

The universe had a little surprise in store for me. MY attempts to support myself as an ecofeminist writer failed and I was forced to look for gainful employment. I found it "in the belly of the beast." I became a science writer, hired to help research and write a book about toxicology and the search for alternatives to the use of animals for product development and safety testing.

On the one hand, this was a dream job. Although I had never been particularly fond of animals, animal rights does occupy a significant place in the ecofeminist credo so intellectually, if not emotionally, I supported the movement. I was also carrying around a lot of anger toward men and whatever I perceived to be "male" endeavors. Science obviously fit the bill, so an attempt to make science more "female," or humane, was fine with me.

But a strange thing has happened over the past three years as I have read and researched and talked with both animal protectionists and scientists. I have found that the struggle between animal rights and science is not a cosmic battle between the forces of good and the forces of evil. It is rather a clash of worldviews. There are good people and good arguments on both sides. There are bad people and bad arguments on both sides. There is very little difference, psychologically speaking, between the demagogues on either side of the fence.

More than anything, the war between animal rights and science seems to me like the pro-life/pro-choice debate. In both conflicts, the views of the extremists seem out of touch with public sentiment. In both cases, competing organizations spend enormous amounts of time and money attempting to "convert" members of the public to their points of view. Sometimes frustration leads to violence or threats of violence. But the public remains as unpersuaded by clinic bombers and lab trash-

ers as it does by propagandists or authorities who, by virtue of their extended schooling or powerful position, attempt to intimidate those who think differently. Most people just want to be given the facts, and be left to make up their own minds.

Paradoxically, I have found myself becoming both more and less tolerant as the years have passed. I am more tolerant of those whose opinions may differ from my own, but who grant me the space to have a separate opinion; less tolerant of anyone who attempts to impose his or her beliefs on others, whether I agree with their position or not. I have begun to see that we are all mirrors: what we despise in others is in many cases a reflection of what we ignore in ourselves. This is as true of those animal rights activists who deny their own formidable aggression and will to power as it is of the biomedical researchers who do not see that their attachment to the scientific worldview is at least as emotional as the commitment of their adversaries to animal protection.

I have not rejected my old ecofeminist beliefs. I still see an historically-based system of oppression whose traditional targets have been women, animals and the natural world. But I am no longer able to pretend that this system is "other," and that the emotions and motivations which drove it are alien to me. The truth, it seems to me now, is immeasurably more complex. I have benefited greatly from the very same system which oppresses me, and every positive and negative quality that I both admire and condemn in those who have created and maintained that system, I now recognize in myself.

Aspects of this legacy are truly horrific and we are only beginning to recognize and correct the most egregious abuses of the system. But if we fail to distinguish the positive aspects of this history, if we refuse to recognize the potency and value of the things we have learned and done, despite their costs, we will be doomed to create the same mistakes, over and over, in another guise. When you look into the mirror of your adversary's soul, what do you see? I suggest that the only thing you can see is some unrecognized aspect of yourself. The oppressor you see without is often a mere reflection of the lurking oppressor within.

—Deborah Rudacille
Editor, CAAT Newsletter
Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

Letters

Breed rescues deserve thanks

I'd like to see you do a major article on breed rescue. We work with rescue groups a lot. We got yet another call from a rescue group today—Dobermans, and as I told the woman, we really don't need help there. We have people knocking down the doors for Dobermans. She told me that at other shelters, she is forced to pay the full adoption price to take dogs out. I don't know what is wrong at some shelters: when we call a rescue group, we try to provide an animal who has had everything done, and we don't charge. I feel as if maybe, just maybe, shelters should be grateful to the reputable rescue groups who assist us. Some such groups put dogs through basic obedience training before they're placed. I absolutely do not buy the argument that a shelter can place a purebred in a home easily and collect the adoption fee, so should try that first before calling a rescue. Many of our purebreds never even see the adoption floor; they just go straight to rescue. Why take up precious cage space when a rescue group can place the animal instead? Of course not all rescues are created

equal. But an executive director with even a modicum of brains can weed out the wackos. Neither do I agree that a municipal shelter must charge the same fees of everyone. The cost of caring for and feeding an animal—if you do it right—generally far exceeds adoption fees. I worked with rescue groups when I was municipal, and got absolutely no flak from the county executive or anyone else. I think that no matter how rural or redneck or whatever, almost any elected official, no matter how brain-deficient, knows the value of being associated with saving the lives of mankind's best friends.

—Vicky Crosetti
Executive Director
Knox County Humane Society
Knoxville, Tennessee

Our April 1993 edition featured a guest column and review/feature on breed rescue by Gina Spadafori. Perhaps it is time to do more. We welcome reader comments—what are your experiences? What works, and how do you do it?

Where the wind comes sweeping

For the past six months I have advertised a free neutering program. People call by the dozens daily, most of them owners of multiple dogs and cats. The program was supposed to go like this: I would take 12 animals to the participating clinics once a week and get two of them done for free. So far, though, only two people have been able to pay. The rest has been paid by the clinic and myself.

Many people were left stranded in this area after the oil boom faded out. My husband owns a small trucking company and works very hard to make ends meet. Last year we spent over \$15,000 on animals. That included the bare essentials for the construction

I only wish one person from one of the national organizations would come just one time to see for himself or herself.

—Karin Morrison
Healdton, Oklahoma

P.S.—In a trailer next door to me lives Grandma Janie Baker, the oldest animal activist in the country, who is taken care of by her daughter. Both of them are super nice. Grandma Janie is going to be 99 on May 6. She came to Oklahoma as a toddler on a wagon train, has lived here ever since, and was one of the first animal activists. Her home used to be the dumping ground for unwanted cats and

—Kim Bartlett

WALRUSES GO UNDER THE GUN

The Alaska Board of Game on March 21 approved the Togiak villagers' request for a limited hunt of walrus this October within the Round Island Walrus Sanctuary. The state, feds, and natives entered into a cooperative agreement, the first of its kind in Alaska. Native cooperation is entirely voluntary. According to Bruce Baltar, attorney for the Bristol Bay Native Association, the state did not have the authority to close Round Island to hunting by natives in the first place. In a recent lawsuit the court ruled in favor of two residents of Togiak who killed a walrus on Round Island. The case has, however, been appealed.

Although the closure to subsistence hunting may prove to have been unlawful, it has been in effect since 1960. During that time the Round Island walrus haul-out (landing area) has become increasingly popular with those who wish to view these rare animals in a natural setting. During the summer, Round Island is a bachelor community occupied by males sporting tusks up to two feet long. The females, who have smaller tusks, follow the ice pack as it retreats north during the warmer months. Wildlife officials to whom I have spoken fail to see the conflict between wildlife viewing and hunting of the

same population—as long as it takes place at different times of the year.

Nature rarely can protect her creatures from hunters with high-powered rifles and motorized transport. One exception is the walrus haul-out on Big Twin Island, near Round Island in Bristol Bay. Rocky and inhospitable, Big Twin Island is a defacto walrus sanctuary, and the same is likely true of Cape Pierce. Accessible haulouts in the Pribilof Islands, and in many other areas, were exploited so heavily during the 18th and early 19th centuries that walrus are now entirely absent from many parts of their former range. Wildlife officials in Alaska claim the walrus population is steady or increasing. However, independent studies indicate walrus are declining due to an increase in hunting pressure that began in the 1980s.

While it is true that natives have traditionally hunted walrus on Round Island, I am sorry to see this carried over to the present day. You made the following statement in a different context, but I think it is appropriate here: "Neither culture nor custom is an acceptable excuse for cruelty."

—Jeanne McVey
The Sea Wolf Alliance
Sausalito, California

of housing, neutering new arrivals, and gas, as the closest low-cost clinic is 80 miles away.

Next door to us is an old house that we thought could be turned into a low-cost neutering clinic, but we could not find a veterinarian who would be willing to run it.

We can't afford this sort of thing any longer, especially with no change in sight. We have puppy mills, catteries, cockfights, dogfights, and so forth around here, but lack animal groups that could make a difference.

Dolphins

I was curled up this evening with the April **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, and was delighted to see that Bob Jenkins so quickly resolved the negotiations regarding the Steinhart dolphins. My compliments to Pam Rockwell of the San Francisco SPCA for her low-key, logical approach, and to you for your handling of the situation. You are right: good things can happen with calm, not threats. Thanks for your optimism!

—Marilee Keefe, Executive Director
Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks
& Aquariums
Alexandria, Virginia

Playing PAC-man

I would like to set the record straight about the news item regarding Humanitarians for Environmental and Animal Laws Political Action Committee (HEAL PAC) in your March issue, and comments about HEAL PAC made by Adam Roberts, the treasurer of Elect! For Animals, in his April letter.

I never stated that Elect! for Animals had an "ample budget for relentless direct-mail fundraising. I wrote that we don't need a replay of how the wealthiest national animal advocacy organizations use ample budgets to relentlessly fundraise, leaving local and state groups to struggle along unaided. Just as important, I asked Holly Hazard of the Doris Day Animal League and Wayne Pacelle of HSUS to show their good will by not reinventing the wheel, and to instead work with viable state-based PACS. I don't know about the few other PACs, but HEAL PAC does monitor voting records of, endorse, and financially

dogs. She tells me that at one time she had around 30 dogs. She could never count the cats, but the vet had all the "boys" fixed. She also had chickens, peacocks, and cattle. Janie was a vegetarian all her life. Ten years ago, she broke her hip, and the cattle she could never bring herself to sell were taken to market. The dogs and cats were given away. The locals have long forgotten her, but perhaps animal lovers could send her a card, in honor of all the good things she did for animals: HCR 64, Box 2500, Healdton, OK 73438.

Hunter who quit

In response to an item in the "Hunting" column of your March 1995 issue, I think Robert "Buzz" Barry should be commended for deciding to give up hunting mammals after 40 years, even if he doesn't quit hunting ducks. As we know, each journey begins with taking that first step, and that first step often is the hardest. Thank you, Mr. Barry, for a courageous decision. No doubt your fellow hunters think you are crazy.

—Solveig Jentner
Fairview Park, Ohio

support the election of federal as well as state legislators. We don't need a national PAC to do this, especially when we can do the job better because we only follow Michigan legislators, not those from all 50 states.

A final crucial point is that no matter how actively we use PACs, we will never be able to raise the level of funds that are raised by the PACs that represent wealthy, powerful groups involved in the institutional exploitation of animals. Even if we must temporarily use PACs, we must also take the high road and link up with those who are trying to reform campaign financing. PACs should be abolished because special interest money has purchased our government and is destroying democracy. With a level playing field, we would have greater success.

—Eileen Liska
HEAL PAC
Lansing, Michigan

"No inhumane activity"

I was rather distressed to read the brief note about the Mid-Valley Beagle Club of Herkimer County in your April issue [*The club imported varying hares from Canada and released them on a 90-acre fenced site in January, preparatory to a rabbit-tracking contest on April 8.*] We investigated the situation at great length and determined that there

was no inhumane activity occurring. The initial reports [*which ANIMAL PEOPLE picked up from newswires*] were inaccurate. The only fault we could find was the time of year when the hares were released. I am presently holding discussions with their president to attempt to get them to release the hares during the summer prior to the event. This would give the hares adequate time to establish burrows during the temperate months. If this is done, I believe the club will be operating within all established boundaries of the law, though they will certainly never be acting in a manner overly sensitive to the needs of the hares.

—Jeffrey Shaw
Herkimer County Humane Society
Utica, New York

Frank Zigrang ad--
paid through 1995

—Robert Harrison

Correction

In the article "California, Nevada humane enforcement under attack," in our April edition, we stated that cruelty charges Barbara Fabricant of the Humane Task Force tried to bring against a blind man for allegedly beating his dog "were eventually dismissed." In fact, the Los Angeles County District Attorney refused to bring the charges, apparently because they were not filed by the LASPCA, the recognized local cruelty enforcement agency. Fabricant had three signed affidavits from witnesses to the alleged August 1991 beating, and remains confident that a conviction could have been secured, had the case gone to court.

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San Juan to St. Louis

ST. LOUIS—"If I was a lost, sick, hungry stray cat or dog," says Pet Search volunteer Judith Riddell Messimer, "Alice Dodge is the face I'd most want to see."

The 100-odd cats and two dozen dogs in Dodge's care at any given time might agree. Messimer was so convinced just from her experience in adopting one kitten that she traded in an economical Ford Escort for "an \$18,000 Jeep PetTaxi," as she recalls, to be of maximum use in "spending my Sundays shuttling animals from rural Missouri to St. Louis and interviewing potential owners."

But 11 years ago, Dodge couldn't even stand to see her own face in the mirror.

"Alice's son was killed when the vehicle she was driving was hit broadside," Messimer explains. "Kenny, who was five, had removed his seatbelt to climb over the seat. The impact threw open the passenger door, and Kenny fell out. His head injuries killed him, but not before Alice had to see him struggling to survive for days in the hospital. The guilt and grief nearly killed her."

"I have five other children," Dodge remembers, "but I couldn't think of anything else. When Kenny passed away, I was going to kill myself. I'd collected drugs at the hospital and I was going to take them all, but they caught me and put me in the psychiatric ward." After that she tried to destroy herself through binge eating.

Animal work became her recovery therapy. Dodge had always done some animal rescue, having already adopted as her own pets strays she found in Yugoslavia, France, Luxembourg, Jamaica, Mexico, Columbia, and the Bahamas. The accident happened as Dodge was attempting to deliver antibiotics to an elderly woman with an ailing pet. Because Kenny had shared Dodge's love for animals, intensifying her rescue work helped her feel as if he was still with her. She volunteered for a time with Citizens for a Humane St. Louis, a low-cost neutering program. Then, in June 1986, stray dogs killed two antelope at the St. Louis Zoo, which occupies a 64-acre corner of Forest Park—the biggest green space in St. Louis and a longtime dumping ground for pets abandoned by people who preferred "giving them a chance" to leaving them at the Humane Society of Missouri. Just two blocks away, HSM then took in about 50,000 dogs and cats a year—and euthanized more than 40,000. (Both HSM intake and euthanasia numbers have since fallen 60%.)

Irate zookeepers began shooting stray dogs. Julie Olivastro and Mike Cummins of Olivette, a nearby bedroom

Adoption help came from the local Pets N Stuff store. While Frien and Jones are no longer with the group, Messimer and Cheryl Jackson pick up the slack.

As word got around that animals left at Forest Park were indeed getting a chance, drop-offs increased. Dodge built her own 700-square-foot, three-room cat condominium to accommodate the feline arrivals. When the Forest Park situation was finally brought under control, the Pet Search team began neutering and placing animals redeemed from St. Louis area shelters. Finally, having developed the ability to adopt out more than 1,000 neutered animals per year, Dodge began bringing even more animals back with her on frequent trips to the Caribbean—a longtime personal concern of hers.

Puerto Rico

In March of this year, a PETA alert charged that, "The situation for the animals of Puerto Rico has reached a critical stage. Disease runs rampant among the animals of the Ponce Animal Shelter, with dogs slowly dying of parvo in the runs, while on the streets of the island animals roam, like walking skeletons, in a world with little help." The alert urged members to ask Puerto Rican governor Pedro Rosello to, "Please institute a program of animal control across the island, and to work with the Animal Protection Federation of Puerto Rico to open professionally run, humane animal shelters to serve every community."

Dodge welcomed the notice, but the situation was old news to her.

"When Alice vacations," Messimer explains, "she always fills her suitcases with pet food. This year she took five cases of canned food, four cases of kitten milk, a case of Nutrical, and as many boxes of Tender Vittles as she could stuff into her husband's suitcase. Her object is to feed as many homeless animals as possible. She also packs carriers so she can bring a few of them back."

The Caribbean rescues came to the attention of local authorities in March 1989. Dodge had picked up a cat and 12 kittens in Barbadoes, bribing a cruise ship steward with \$100 to help her hide them. She added three more kittens in Bequia, plus two cats, nine kittens, and a pair of injured puppies in San Juan, Puerto Rico, smuggling 21 of the 29 animals because she had only four traveling kennels and airlines customarily accept only two animals per kennel. Two kittens disappeared in transit. They turned up alive and well in Los Angeles, hiding in the aircraft cargo bay, but

Kenny Dodge also loved animals. (PetSearch.)

of the Puerto Rican Animal Rescue League.

"People in Puerto Rico have grown up seeing diseased and starving animals wandering the streets," Messimer says. "They do not believe it is wrong to turn animals out into the street because they no longer want them. The politicians say this is part of the culture. Emilio disagrees. Emilio is a big, bearded, kind-hearted man who, on the days when he is the only one doing work at the shelter, allows himself a drink of water only after every animal has been fed and watered."

PARE provides the full range of humane services,

suburb, intervened by cutting a deal with St. Louis health commissioner William Hope to remove, neuter, and adopt the dogs out instead. Dodge and her husband Kenneth volunteered their nine-acre farm in Glencoe as a temporary holding site. Dodge next formed PetSearch to help look after and place the dogs, joined by volunteers Sally Frien, Frieda Modlin, Hilda Olsen, Michelle Janson, and Angie Jones.

not before the case hit the newspapers. Animal Protective Association executive director Nancy Grove wondered why Dodge felt the need to import homeless animals when there was no local shortage. St. Louis County animal control chief Dan Knox wondered what diseases the imports might bring.

Dodge, however, has always provided all necessary vaccinations and guaranteed follow-up medical care to adopters. The program grew: eventually Dodge brought back 36 animals on a single trip.

"I don't bring back any kittens during kitten season," Dodge stipulates. "I bring them back in the winter, when there are no kittens to be had in our local shelters. And I don't bring back medium-or-large-sized dogs, the kind shelters are killing because nobody claims them. I bring back only animals who have good adoption prospects in the U.S., but who would be killed where they come from."

By offering people the animals they want, Dodge maintains, she puts breeders out of business. By insuring that every animal is neutered before leaving her custody, she prevents the pet births in St. Louis that would result if her adopters were instead getting intact animals from breeders.

The once informal imports have matured into a partnership with Martha Lopez and Emilio Massas of Protectores de Animales Regionales y Estatal, a Puerto Rican humane society formed after the dissolution several years ago

including low-cost neutering and animal control, but because animals are plentiful at large, the shelter adoption rate is low. "Unfortunately, PARE only found homes for 113 animals last year," Messimer continues. Pet Search took another 60, and hopes to place 200 for PARE this year.

"Although the shelter is full of tiny, cute animals who would be very adoptable here, such as poodle, terrier, and chihuahua mixes," Messimer adds, "these are apparently not sought after in Puerto Rico. Pet Search always gets requests for small dogs, and we never have enough."

In 1994, Pet Search adopted out 3,700 animals, according to Dodge: 2,000 via PetsMart stores, the rest by other means. The Puerto Rican project is just one of many underway. The Pet Search volunteers are actively assisting Martha's Place, a no-kill shelter in Bon Terre, Missouri, owned and operated by Mabel Wood, 70. The survival of the shelter was recently jeopardized by a change in Ralston-Purina policy: instead of donating broken sacks of dog food to local shelters, including Martha's Place, Ralston-Purina now sells them to a hog food producer. Since 1991 Pet Search has also hosted annual spay-a-thons, featuring veterinarians Kurt Laves, Frank Levinson, and Scott Nieberg.

Pet Search may be contacted for further information at 1553 Pond Road, Glencoe, MO 63038.

—Merritt Clifton

Alice Dodge rescues dog in Antigua. (PetSearch.)

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Pet Savers

(from page one)

stantially less thereafter until last fall, when skyrocketing newsprint prices sent newspaper advertising costs up as well. Recent adoptions have cost \$45.41 apiece in promotional spending.

Superficially, that sounds like a lot. But the typical cost to an animal control agency for catching a stray, holding the animal through a mandatory five-day reclaim period, euthanizing the animal if unadopted, and disposing of the remains runs from comparable to twice as high in most urban areas. And euthanizing animals doesn't encourage happy new owners to make donations in appreciation.

The promotional cost of adopting an animal is also comparable to the promotional markup on pets sold through stores. Pet shops usually spend about a third of the sale price on promotion. Since adoption fees run lower than sale prices, promotional expenses amounting to half the adoption fee aren't out of line.

North Shore and Pet Savers, executives and staff stress, are spending money to subsidize adoptions because they believe—and are proving—that effective advertising is the key to success. While other organizations recite slogans such as, “Until there are none, adopt one,” Pet Savers director of operations Bob Commisso quietly screens proposals and, when satisfied, signs checks.

Warren Cox

Education is the other key part of the North Shore/Pet Savers approach. SPCA of Texas executive director Warren Cox describes himself as one old dog they taught new tricks. Starting out as a kennel-cleaner in Nebraska back in 1952, Cox has been in humane work ever since—longer than almost anyone else in the field. He still cleans the occasional cage, “just so I don't forget,” and testifies while giving a night shelter tour about his ambition of introducing the North Shore approach to Texas, which as a state has one of the highest euthanasia rates in the U.S. Cox became acquainted with the North Shore/Pet Savers outreach effort while in his previous post, at the Greenhill Humane Society in Eugene, Oregon. The current Greenhill executive director, Mert Davis, has continued the programs Cox initiated, with North Shore help, and the two now have a friendly rivalry as to who can increase adoptions more. As of the end of 1994, Davis

learned about putting the puppies in the back, so that people see the adult dogs first. Our adoption rate on adult dogs went up. We learned about 'twofer' adoptions: double adoptions on cats and kittens. Our adoption rate on cats and kittens went up. The ads they helped us run in our local newspapers increased our exposure in the community and increased our adoptions. The only complaints we got were from a few of our local pet stores: we were competing with them.”

The bean-counter

“I'm 44 years old and feeling every day of it,” laughs Commisso. An accountant by training, Commisso spent four and a half years with the Olivetti Corporation and more than eight years with Columbia House before joining the North Shore Animal League in March 1987. For six years he was controller. Putting Commisso in charge of what was then called North Shore's International Division was among current North Shore president John Stevenson's first moves after his own appointment.

The financial background serves Commisso well. He's the most influential so-called bean-counter in humane work, now monitoring the affairs of scores of humane organizations, not just North Shore. Last year 49 shelters in all received funding from Pet Savers, including three in England, two in Canada, and one in France. In April of this year, another four British shelters joined the program. Many more have applied for help than are funded, and the disparity is increasing as word of Pet Savers' success encourages increasing numbers of shelters to apply.

While the number of applicants is sharply up, the funding available has fallen by 44% in just three years.

“Our goal is to increase adoptions and spay/neuters internationally via program expansion,” Commisso explains. Toward that end, shelters are added to the Pet Savers program somewhat at the expense of those that are already included, whose actual support is often less than the amounts North Shore initially budgets. In 1993, 22 of the 32 shelters already in the adoption promotion funding program received less than projected, while five new shelters were brought aboard. In 1994, at least 18 of 38 got less. Each year some shelters with particularly promising initiatives get more, but the trend remains downward.

Bob Commisso and friend. (K.B.)

Current assets are slightly over \$51 million.

While North Shore is far from broke, liquid assets since the creation of Pet Savers have been less than one year's operating budget—much less than conventional wisdom holds to be prudent for a multi-million-dollar-a-year organization. The NCIB, for instance, doesn't hold that reserves are excessive until they exceed twice the organization's annual budget. North Shore, by that standard, could appropriately keep assets of \$80 million.

Adding by subtraction, as baseball teams say when they fire their managers, North Shore paid former president David Ganz \$300,000 in March 1993 to take a hike, and brought in Stevenson, a nationally recognized expert on non-profit law who was already on the staff. Under Ganz, who succeeded to the presidency after Lewyt's death in 1986, and is now with the Humane Society of the U.S., North Shore initiated many of its most successful programs—but because they were underpublicized, while Ganz pursued a policy of never responding to a small but increasingly rabid coterie of critics, some serial killers got better press.

was slightly ahead, 58% to 54%.

“North Shore has done more to help humane organizations than any other organization I’m aware of,” states Cox. “They have taught us that we can no longer do what we have done for so many years,” namely euthanize huge numbers of animals while claiming to have no alternative, “and that if we want to help animals, we have to change our way of doing things; that we have to market and to educate.”

Some of the tactics Cox says he’s learned have included using an adoption form that “indicates positive rather than negative information,” giving adopters “an insurance policy that provides free medical care for adopted animals,” and “incentives and ways to showcase hard-to-adopt animals.”

Much of this, Cox adds, amounts to “ways to build staff morale.” Shelter staff feel good when they’re placing animals in homes, rather than killing them.

Mert Davis

Davis seconds Cox. “We already had a good adoption program when we were accepted into the North Shore/Pet Savers program,” he says. “Our adoption program has become even better because of our affiliation with them. Basically, we doubled our adoption rate. From them we

\$6.3 million start-up grant to Pet Savers

PS expected to become self-sufficient--

NSAL not expecting to endow Pet Savers forever

“As we advised our program participants in late 1994,” Commisso reminds, Pet Savers expansion is currently achieved “through cost savings from media efficiencies, reflected in smaller and less frequent adoption ads; cooperative grant-seeking; and the start-up of direct-mail fundraising,” a policy change so momentous as to draw a full page of coverage from the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, the leading news medium in the fundraising field.

Money crunch

Until late last year, North Shore resisted doing conventional direct-mail appeals, preferring to attract money through sweepstakes mailings engineered by Henry Cowen, the pioneer of sweepstakes fundraising who also developed the *Reader’s Digest* sweepstakes. This enabled North Shore to avoid competing for donations against other humane groups. “We’re not raising funds from animal lovers,” the late longtime North Shore president Alex Lewyt used to tell staff. “We’re raising funds from gamblers.”

Elaborated North Shore director of shelter operations Michael Arms last fall, for Amanda Roque of the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, “These donors don’t have to give money to enter, but many people are willing to donate a few dollars because they know that even if they don’t win the sweepstakes, at least their money is going to a good cause.”

Added director of finance Barry Giaquinto, “Our typical donor is your average American who enters a lot of sweepstakes, loves cats and dogs, and feels he or she can spare a few dollars to help a worthy cause. We do not expect people to dig down deep into their pockets and give us a \$25 or \$30 contribution when they send in their sweepstakes entry,” he explained, “but we appreciate every dollar.”

The average sweepstakes gift was only about \$5.00 in 1993, but sweepstakes returns accounted for 84% of North Shore’s all-time high income of \$34.3 million. Between 1954 and 1991, North Shore sweepstakes enabled the organization to grow from a backyard kennel to the world’s richest humane society (by a narrow margin over the Massachusetts SPCA), with assets peaking at \$59 million. But hard times hit just as the North Shore effort to share the wealth and spread its adoption promotion knowhow got underway. From 1990 through 1993, North Shore income increased by 31%—but the cost of printing and mailing each sweepstakes package grew by 40%, primarily due to postal rate increases. Fundraising costs rose to more than \$10 million a year, causing North Shore to fall short of the National Charities Information Bureau requirement that fundraising expenditures should not exceed 30% of an organization’s income from public sources.

The bottom line was that even as North Shore was raking in more money than ever before, the start-up grant to Pet Savers caused it to lose \$5.9 million in fiscal year 1993.

Stevenson opened the doors to media, organized a planned giving department, increased pursuit of bequests, and handed Commisso his mandate to do more with less. North Shore International began 1993 with a budget for grant-giving of \$3.2 million. After cuts, it actually granted just under \$2.3 million. As Pet Savers, it planned to give \$2.4 million in 1994. More midyear cuts lowered the total to \$1.8 million, roughly equal to the amount that had been budgeted for shelter adoption promotion grants alone.

More tight budgets are ahead, as the longterm plan is for Pet Savers to become financially self-sufficient.

Teaching efficiency

The cuts have actually had a beneficial effect on Pet Savers. While one of the primary purposes of the adoption promotion program remains introducing shelters to the use of advertising, advertising tactics are becoming better focused. Cost-cutting, says Commisso, “has not had any negative impact upon adoptions.”

Pet Savers has also begun stricter supervision of recipient shelters. Several that misused funds or misreported expenditures were quietly cut off. Pet Savers never announced which ones they were, but word got out quickly through the shelter management grapevine.

In addition, Pet Savers is an encouraging shelters to experiment with ways to increase self-sufficiency. For instance, Commisso explains, “The participating shelter in Spartanburg, South Carolina, recently volunteered to test our own current practice of soliciting an adoption contribution in lieu of a fixed adoption fee. The test was so successful in increasing adoptions that during the initial test phases, shelter euthanasia was suspended to meet the demand for adoptions. While the current contribution average per adoption is low, and is subsidized by us, it is increasing to the point that the Spartanburg board of directors is currently exploring ways to temporarily fund this practice going forward. We are assisting with their efforts via localized grant-seeking. It is anticipated that this adoption technique can become a standardized procedure for all our program participants, increasing adoptions while providing self-sustaining income to the shelters.”

Pet Savers’ influence as a teacher is perhaps most evident from statistics at the Houston Humane Society. In 1991, Houston Humane used a 101-question adoption screening form, rejected 54% of all adoption applicants, and had a euthanasia rate of 93%, perhaps the highest of any non-animal control shelter in the U.S.—although lower than the 97% rate it posted a year earlier. Houston Humane now has a 52-question adoption form, a euthanasia rate close to the Texas norm of about 78%, and has increased adoptions 111% since receiving \$4,173 in advertising subsidies.

Bottom line: "It works."

Spay USA

The four biggest North Shore International/Pet Savers programs were already underway when Stevenson became president: adoption promotion, spay/neuter promotion, disaster rescue, and international grants. Between then and Comisso's appointment, the Seniors for Seniors program was begun, matching elderly pets with elderly people and providing essential support services; and North Shore took over the administration of Spay USA, a national low-cost neutering referral service begun by Esther Mechler in 1990 from her home in Trumbull, Connecticut.

"Spay USA was started five years ago in my basement," Mechler recalls. "Because it filled a real need, it grew quickly, doubling in size each year. We were very fortunate that North Shore came along in 1993 with an interest in incorporating the program into what is now Pet Savers. We have continued to double in size each year, and thanks to a sophisticated computer program that they devised, we are able to handle more calls more quickly. Instead of one line, we have three. When we receive publicity, an answering service helps cover the lines."

In mid-February, Spay USA was featured in the Sunday newspaper insert magazine *Parade*. "We received 8,500 calls within three weeks," notes Mechler. "Several Pet Saver staff members pitched in to help ensure that all the callers were helped within a reasonable time. I would like to see more organizations offer this kind of concrete help and direct action to end animal suffering," she concludes.

Adoption transfer

A seventh North Shore shelter aid program, adoption transfers, is not under Pet Savers auspices. The Emergency Rescue Program, as it's called, takes potentially adoptable animals who would otherwise be euthanized from other shelters to the North Shore shelter on Long Island, neuters and vaccinates them, provides any other veterinary care they may need, and finds them homes. Initially North Shore took animals only from the American SPCA and New York Humane Society. As the North Shore adoption volume increased while the available surplus diminished in the greater New York metropolitan area, pick-ups were made increasingly far afield. Since 1991, a specially designed fleet of vans that give each animal an individually temperature-controlled stainless steel cubicle plus a window have brought North Shore loads of pets daily from the South and the Midwest.

when North Shore found homes for 43,000 animals. Last year North Shore adopted out "only" 39,000, in part because it couldn't get enough of the animals most coveted by the public: puppies, small dogs, and purebreds. The overwhelming majority of the animals North Shore placed were medium-sized mixed breeds, many of them from three to six years old—well beyond the range that conventional shelters consider to be adoptable.

Highly controversial when begun, the adoption transfer program is now widely emulated. Other major shelters bringing in adoptable animals from small shelters where they wouldn't have a chance include the San Francisco SPCA, the Humane Society of Hennepin County (Minneapolis), the SPCA of Texas (Dallas), and the North Texas Humane Society (Fort Worth), many of which learned the tactic directly from North Shore.

Even comparatively tiny Greenhill Humane is doing transfers. "When we have space available," explains Davis, we bring in dogs from other shelters and are successful in finding homes for better than 75% of them."

"By taking these adoptable animals from other organizations," says Cox, "we are able to adopt more animals, talk to more people, neuter more animals, and we hope, put pet shops and puppy mills out of the animal-selling business."

The key, as North Shore's Michael Arms maintained for years, is recognizing that many people who don't find the animal they want at a shelter won't pick out a less adoptable animal from the shelter; they'll go to a breeder. The answer to the dilemma is to do everything possible to persuade the potential adopter in favor of the animals who most need homes—but at the same time, don't let qualified adopters leave unsatisfied and still searching.

Many organizations following the North Shore lead now import adoptable animals from even farther away: PetSearch, of St. Louis, flies dogs and cats in from San Juan, Puerto Rico, while the Animal Foundation International, of Las Vegas, receives up to 50 puppies a week from the Johnson County Animal Shelter in Indianapolis, Indiana. As pet overpopulation comes under control, the pockets of the U.S. with surpluses of adoptable animals will diminish—but Arms and Comisso, among others, speculate that the transfers will evolve into an online information exchange network which will be able to match up prospective adopters with particular animals, wherever those animals are. If there's one Russian wolfhound in a shelter in the state, for instance, and someone wants a Russian wolfhound, online exchange could

Pet Savers

Advertising and Spay/Neuter Grants Basic Guidelines

All potential grant recipients must meet the following criteria:

1. **Non-profit status: 501(c)(3) tax-exempt.**
2. **Provide most recent financial statements.**
3. **Must be financially stable.**
4. **Clear of controversial issues/situations.**
5. **All animals must be vaccinated. Shelter must provide a medical program.**
6. **Must have a spay/neuter program.**
7. **Staff consisting primarily of paid employees as opposed to volunteers.**
8. **Must have a vet on staff or utilize a reliable outside vet.**
9. **Shelter must be separate from home.**
10. **Reasonable or no adoption fees.**
11. **Follow-up care for all animals adopted is a plus.**
12. **On-site medical center is a plus.**
13. **Humane education program is a plus.**
14. **Any organization providing animals for experimentation will not be considered.**
15. **Must be available to the public for adoption purposes a minimum of 5 days; prefer 7 days plus evening hours and holidays.**
16. **Previously limited in advertising.**
17. **Environment must be sanitary.**
18. **Prefer shelter which is reasonably close to large city.**
19. **Prefer region with a high pet overpopulation problem.**
20. **Shelters with higher adoption rates are less likely to be considered for an advertising grant. The goal of the program is to benefit those shelters with high euthanasia rates in an effort to save as many lives as possible.**

up on adopted animals. I believe what we've learned, and are continuing to learn, has helped us increase our own adoption rate. We placed 3,404 animals in 1994, up from 1,767 in 1991," when the arrangement with North Shore began.

Not just money

If North Shore and Pet Savers ceased subsidizing innovative programs at other shelters tomorrow, would those

Shelters that provide animals to North Shore are reimbursed for their expenses, and enjoy the improved community relations that result from killing fewer animals. Some have used the promise that all adoptable animals will be placed as a come-on to get the public to bring in whole litters and mama too, for low-cost or no-cost spaying. Typically shelters participating in adoption transfer handle more animals during the first several years, but euthanize less. Then, after about three years of involvement, intakes plummet, as the wholesale animal removals and sterilizations diminish the pool of unneutered mothers left to breed.

The adoption transfer program peaked in 1992,

Performing animals

Contrary to wire service reports and the account in the April edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, dogs did die in this year's 1,161-mile Iditarod sled race from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska—but race officials failed to disclose the March 10 death of a dog belonging to Minnesota musher Robert Somers until March 25, eight days after Japanese musher Keizo Funatsu lost a dog and suffered frostbite just 22 miles from the finish. Although winner Doug Swingley finished on March 14, Funatsu was still on the course when **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press.

At deadline a bill to ban horse-tripping, a staple of charro-style rodeo, needed only New Mexico governor Gary Johnson's signature to become law. California adopted a similar law last year.

The Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus will spend a record \$25 million on advertising this year, says *The New York Times*, including \$5 million for an unprecedented national image-building campaign.

Coquitlam is the last town on the Lower Mainland of British Columbia to permit the use of animals in circus acts, after the passage of an animal act ban by Langley Township. Vancouver Humane Society director Debra Probert is now seeking tighter restrictions on all private ownership of exotic wildlife, as well as amendments to the animal act bans that would bar circuses from bringing exotic beasts only to leave them "parked, chained, or severely restricted in traveling cages" as gate attractions. Both situations are covered in the Langley ordinance.

Alligator trainer Jim Moulton, of St. Augustine, Florida, knocked a three-foot-long alligator unconscious in a demonstration bout held on April 11 in the courtroom of Tel Aviv district judge Hila Gertler. Gertler is to rule soon as to whether alligator wrestling is legal under Israeli humane laws. The activist group Let The Animals Live has sued to stop daily alligator-wrestling performances at the Hamat Gader game farm.

assure that dog of going home, even if the new home and the shelter are a day's drive apart.

No knocks from Knoxville

"We've been working with North Shore for three years," says Vicky Crosetti, executive director of the Knox County Humane Society, in Knoxville, Tennessee. "Getting the puppy rescue program started was very difficult because initially there was resistance from several of our board."

Crosetti investigated the North Shore program thoroughly before prevailing on her board to give it a try. "The comment I heard most often," she remembers, "was 'It sounds too good to be true. Something is going to go wrong.' Nothing has gone wrong. The simple fact is that we get in far more puppies than we can place. They now leave our property in a van headed for Long Island instead of in the back of a pickup truck headed for the landfill. I no longer hear negative comments from other people in this business," she adds. "Instead I get a couple of calls a month from other shelters asking if I think North Shore would take their puppies too."

Although KCHS is not part of the Pet Savers adoption promotion program, Crosetti notes that, "North Shore has been very generous about sharing techniques for screening adopters, increasing adoptions, and efficiently following

Wildwear (paid through May)

programs continue? In other words, are the programs selling themselves, or is it just the money encouraging applicants to fill out a form and stand in line.

"We would continue the programs. Absolutely," emphasizes Cox. "We know that at some point funding from North Shore will cease entirely. In fact, this past year, North Shore funding of our organization has decreased by about 70%, and we are now in the process of looking for underwriting to continue the advertising program," which was begun with heavy North Shore support. "We also are going to have to look for underwriting for our other programs," modeled on North Shore's, "such as our Seniors Unlimited and our adopters insurance policy."

Davis again barks agreement. "We're increasing our advertising in the local newspaper now at our own expense, especially in the pet section of the classifieds. It works."

Fundraising is never easy. However, Cox concludes, "The North Shore program has enabled the SPCA of Texas to give more animals a second chance for life." That can be sold to donors. Though the Dallas shelter badly needs a new floor and new paint, it's an upbeat place. It can be promoted as not only an institution in need, but also an institution making a positive difference—and being able to say that, and prove it with numbers, makes a difference in itself.

—Merritt Clifton

Moore & Ahlers - paid through 9/95.

Zoos

Yan Yan, a female giant panda on a five-year loan from the Beijing Zoo, on April 14 joined Bao Bao, the Berlin zoo's solitary male, whose former partner Tien Tien died of a viral infection in 1984. Yan Yan was taken from the wild at age three months in 1985. The World Wildlife Fund ripped the Berlin loan and the loan of two pandas to the San Diego Zoo as "a dangerous precedent," which could "lead to further depletion of an already fragile wild panda population," via further removals from the wild. WWF has asked the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species to restrict panda loans to captive-bred animals. The Dept. of the Interior on March 30 proposed such a rule to govern future panda loans to the U.S.

Israel on April 9 deported two Thai immigrants back to Thailand, after they were caught stealing a goose from the children's zoo at Kibbutz Mishmar Hasharon. They had already allegedly stolen and eaten or sold 40 parrots, four goats, and a pair of lovebirds.

Stray dogs sneaked into the Akron Zoo on the night of April 6 and killed three white-tailed deer—a buck and two does. Three other deer leaped out of the exhibit to escape the dogs, of whom two were recaptured. All three dogs were caught by Akron animal control officers.

As the start of an \$8 million renovation approved on March 16 by the Los Angeles city council, the L.A. Zoo is closing 17 hillside exhibits, judged wrong for their species and risky for workers, obliging the relocation of 69 rare sheep, deer, camels, and antelope. An elderly bison will be kept off-exhibit until his death.

Two young gorillas are to go on exhibit in May at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, including Okpara, firstborn son of Timmy, who was sent to the Bronx Zoo in New York in 1991 to participate in captive breeding, amid controversy over his separation from Kribe Kate, the sterile female with whom he first mated, at age 34, after failures with several younger partners. The two new gorillas, who actually arrived on March 3, will join four males who share an outdoor exhibit; Oscar, an older silverback who bit off one of Kate's toes before she was transferred to the Fort Worth Zoo, will continue to be kept separately.

The Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales, Australia, plans to fly eight captive-bred Przewalski's horses to Takhyn Tai in May, a field station on the edge of the Gobi desert, where the Mongolian government has already gathered specimens from Europe and Russia in hopes of eventually returning a genetically diverse herd to the wild. Only about 1,200 of the primitive horses remain, all in captivity. Australia, with 50 born in the past decade, boasts the best success at captive breeding. The Bronx Zoo, where Kim Bartlett photographed these Przewalski's horses, has bred them longest.

Jomu, age 2, the first of 11 cheetahs bred through artificial insemination, was moved on March 23 from the breeding colony in Tyler, Texas, to the National Zoo in Washington D.C. Researchers hope artificial insemination can be used to keep the maximum possible genetic diversity in cheetahs, believed to be dangerously narrow both in captivity and in the wild.

The European Parliament on March 17 asked the European Commission to keep a proposed directive on housing and care conditions that are to be maintained in zoos, rather than replacing it with a less binding recommendation.

Staff of the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago are hand-raising a Bornean orangutan abandoned shortly after birth on March 31, while seeking a surrogate orang mother elsewhere.

Pennie, 41, an Asian elephant bought off a freighter by the San Francisco Zoo in 1955 with \$3,500 worth of coins donated by school children, was euthanized due to conditions of age on April 1.

Animal health

Fifteen thousand cattle have died so far in Tanzania from an outbreak of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia—and it could spread to Zambia, Malawi, and the rest of southern Africa, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization animal health officer Peter Roeder warned on March 29. "Cattle movements from Uganda and Kenya, sometimes as result of civil strife, have already caused major outbreaks in Zaire and Rwanda," he said.

Canine distemper is on the wane in Serengeti National Park, says Melody Roelke-Parker, chief veterinarian for Tanzania National Parks—after it killed 80% of the now rebounding lion population.

An unidentified disease possibly borne by insects has killed more than 10,000 kangaroos in drought-stricken New South Wales, Australia, spreading from the wild to captive animals. The disease first blinds the kangaroos; they then leap into rivers and drown, hop in front of vehicles, are eaten by dingoes, or starve.

A team led by Dr. Keith Murray of the Australian Animal Health Laboratory has identified a previously unknown morbilliform virus, distantly related to measles, as the source of a mystery disease that killed 14 horses and a 49-year-old horse trainer last September. The virus was isolated just 12 days after the disease outbreak was noted, but the findings weren't published until this April.

U.S. News & World Report revealed on April 7 that a Swiss chimpanzee researcher working in Ivory Coast survived a bout with the Ebola virus in November—the first human victim since hundreds died in central Africa from a 1976 outbreak. Outbreaks have afflicted other primates, including at a Virginia research center in 1989, as documented in Michael Crichton's current best-seller *The Hot Zone*.

The National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases have discovered that the Lyme disease bacterium changes its protein coating before being transmitted from ticks to mammals, including humans. The finding is expected to lead to improved Lyme diagnostics.

German researchers Liv Bode and Hanns Ludwig reported in the March edition of *Nature Medicine* that they've found genetic material from the Borna disease virus, which causes brain damage in horses, sheep, and cattle, in four human mental patients, but not in 10 normal people, nor in two other mental patients. Of the patients apparently infected, two had recurring depression, one was an obsessive-compulsive alcoholic, and the fourth had mood swings and epileptic seizures.

An adenovirus that dropped the ratio of surviving fawns per 100 does to 13/100 in parts of northern California and 24-30/100 overall in 1993-1994 has subsided, says state Department of Fish and Game biologist Jim Maddox. The current ratio is 42-50/100. A ratio of 35/100 is believed to be replacement level.

The Beijing Zoo on March 26 announced that a February 14 blood transfusion from two captive black bears had saved the life of Yong Liang, a captive-born panda, age 28 months, who nearly died of acute anemia. Other pandas were not available as blood donors because it was the height of their breeding season.

AmAV ad

ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES

Chimpanzee expert Dr. Jane Goodall, Henry Spira of Animal Rights International, Holly Hazard of the Doris Day Animal League, and Wayne Pacelle of the Humane Society of the U.S. are to speak at the 1995 National Association for Biomedical Research conference on May 1, in a forum moderated by Franklin Loew, dean of the Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine. The forum was organized, NABR said, when "Prompted by her open letter calling for public forums on the use of animals in research and education, NABR asked Dr. Goodall to address some of the complex ethical questions and other issues she raised." Wrote Goodall, at the urging of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** subscriber Walter Miale, "Animal experiments are conducted for reasons such as advancing knowledge and curing disease. But treating our fellow creatures as we do, on the scale we do, raises critical questions. Failure to examine them honestly is a failure of our own humanity. Many areas of discussion do not resolve neatly into black and white," she added. "Learning from and reasoning with those who do not share our views is one way we grow." Miale, an independent environmental researcher who lives in Philipsburg, Quebec, has worked to start dialogue among activists and scientists since 1989.

"Do you need a workshop leader? A guest speaker? Humane educator training? Environmental and humane programs? The American Anti-Vivisection Society has the solution," says communications coordinator Rae Sikora. "Call 1-800-SAY-AAVS. All programs are offered free of charge. American AV will cover transportation costs. Your group is only responsible for food and lodging." American AV also has a new executive director, Tina Nelson, former owner of the Kind Earth cruelty-free store in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Before that, she was chief cruelty investigator for the Bucks County SPCA.

The European biotechnology industry is regrouping, after proposed European Union rules for patenting life forms were vetoed on March 1 by the European Parliament. The U.S. and Japan are believed to have a big lead in developing biotech—or at least in publishing findings—because the lack of patent protection for genetically modified life forms in Europe has inhibited investment by European companies.

The Northwest Regional Primate Center at the University of Washington and the Southern Regional Primate Center in New Orleans are embroiled in financial controversy. A UW internal audit recently found that fiscal specialist Linda Pfeiffer had embezzled \$38,352 in petty cash since 1990, of which \$18,750 was recovered; found that payroll records were falsified to pay \$51,479 in tuition for three students and a stipend for a fourth; and also found improper use of grant money and a travel budget. The New Orleans *Times-Picayune* meanwhile revealed that John Patrick Jordan, 60, was assigned to head the SRPC as "an unusual form of punishment" after the USDA inspector general "reported that Jordan, as administrator of the agency's Cooperative State Research Service in Washington, improperly awarded contracts worth \$1.8 million to acquaintances and for lobbying."

New York State Supreme Court justice Edward Greenfield ruled on March 3 that mental patients cannot be given experimental drugs without first giving their consent—even if they lack the mental capacity to do so. The consent of relatives or friends, Greenfield wrote, is inadequate to protect the rights of patients.

Of the "three Rs" of ending laboratory use of animals, i.e. reduction, refinement, and replacement, Drexel University professor Stephen Dubin editorialized recently in the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing bulletin, "refinement is perhaps the most fertile and positive area," and the most neglected. "When asked why they will support replacement projects but not refinement," Dubin continued, "animal advocacy organizations frequently respond that refinement might actually promote the use of nonhuman animals by making their use less repugnant. This view, while expedient for public relations and fundraising, is hardly practical. It presupposes that total abolition of nonhuman animal use is likely in the near future."

Instead of teasing rats through mazes, associate psychology professor John Stewart of Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, has his advanced students teach "pet skills" to dogs with behavioral problems at the Chequamegon Animal Shelter.

Citizens for Alternatives to Animal Labs in early April sued the State University of New York Health Science Center in Brooklyn for allegedly violating the New York Freedom of Information Law by refusing to provide records identifying the sources of dogs and cats used in laboratory procedures.

Mexican officials are seeking **Ciro Jesus Camacho Zuniga,** alleged owner of a chicken farm where 1,300 dead cats were found in two recent raids, awaiting transport to U.S. dissection lab suppliers. Workers said blocks of wood were shoved into the cats' mouths to keep them still, their throats were cut, and they were then preserved with injected formaldehyde. The site was closed on April 5 due to unsanitary conditions and for mishandling chemicals. It existed in violation of a 1994 Mexican Department of Agriculture directive stating that transport of preserved cats is illegal because there are no facilities authorized to preserve them. That edict came after the World Society for Animal Protection exposed a similar operation in Mexicali, in February 1994.

FOR YOUR PURRY ONE:

Durable crocheted
"mouse" stuffed with our
own organically grown
catnip.

FOR YOU: Current issue of *The Civil Abolitionist*, the publication showing how animal experiments are irrelevant to human conditions and can actually harm the humans they are supposed to help.

Both for \$4, from CPAPR, Box 26, Swain, NY 14884

American AV ad
(10-issue reservation,
paid through 12/95)

Agriculture

Academy Award-winning actress Whoopi Goldberg has agreed to appear in a Friends of Animals ad campaign publicizing horse slaughter. In 1994 U.S. slaughterhouses killed 348,000 horses; another 28,612 U.S.-born horses were killed in Canada. Most were young "surplus" from speculative breeding.

A South African Airways flight from London to Johannesburg with more than 300 people and 72 prize breeding pigs aboard returned to England for an emergency landing on April 6 when, as a spokesperson put it, "The collective heat and methane that the pigs gave off in the cargo hold caused the alarms to activate." Fifteen pigs suffocated when automatic fire extinguishers filled the hold with halon gas.

The Natural Resources Defense Council estimates that below-market-value federal grazing fees amount to a subsidy for ranchers of \$134 million in 1995. The Progressive Policy Institute says that estimate is \$50 million too low. Actual cash subsidies to U.S. farmers have averaged \$14.9 million a year over the past decade. "This is the taxpayer's bill for razing an ecosystem," charges Richard Manning, author of the forthcoming book *Grassland*. "American agriculture now supports 45.5 million cattle in the plains states. Estimates of the pre-settlement population of bison in the area range from 30 million to 70 million. A bison produces about the same amount of meat as a cow. Where is the progress? In net terms, unassisted nature out-produced human artifice. Efficiency, fiscal responsibility, and conservation all make the same demand," namely to cease subsidizing the livestock industry.

Mexican cattle exports to the U.S. have more than tripled since the December 20 devaluation of the peso, which made U.S. dollars worth far more to Mexican ranchers while increasing the cost of grain imports into Mexico by 40%. The devaluation came just after the USDA repealed mandatory facebranding of Mexican steers, due to a year-long campaign led by Henry Spira of the Coalition for

CLENBUTEROL SCANDALS STILL SURFACING

SAN FRANCISCO—Five months after Humane Farming Association investigator Gail Eisenitz disclosed through the December 1994 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** a year-long series of USDA, U.S. Customs Service, and Food and Drug Administration raids on veal industry facilities in at least five states, seeking an illegal livestock growth stimulant called clenbuterol, related scandals continue to surface.

Hard to detect, until the recent development of a test that finds traces in a slaughtered animal's retinas, clenbuterol residues in meat can be lethal to humans.

Among the newly revealed cases:

- Clenbuterol was found in a black-faced lamb exhibited by Brian Wade Johnson, 22, of Gotebo, Oklahoma, who was named the Future Farmer Association's American Star Farmer of 1994 even as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press with Eisenitz's findings. The lamb was Grand Champion at the North American International Livestock Expo, held last November in Louisville, Kentucky.

- Two other winning entrants at that fair tested positive for clenbuterol, including the reserve champion steer exhibited by Hilary Wise, 17, of Brownwood, Texas. Wise, who had the grand champion steer at the American Royal fair in Kansas City in 1993, had a steer disqualified at the Royal this year because the animal's leg had been cosmetically improved with twine, glue, and paint.

- 15 people, including five professional livestock exhibition groomers, have now been indicted, and nine to date convicted, in connection with clenbuterol-related tampering at the Ohio state fair last August.

- Clenbuterol was found in six of the 38 animals tested after the Tulsa State Fair last September.

- Clenbuterol was found in a champion hog at the American Royal exhibition in Kansas City last November.

- Clenbuterol was found in both the top steers at the National Western Stock Show in Denver in March, including one exhibited by Ryan Rush, 16, of Crockett, Texas—whose mother, Cherie Carraba, publishes a livestock show magazine and had editorialized in favor of drug testing at stock shows. She and her husband admitted responsibility.

- John P. Murray, DVM, 48, of Oxbow, Saskatchewan, was arrested at Northgate, North Dakota, and arraigned on March 30 for alleged clenbuterol trafficking. "We see him as a major supplier of the stature of Dr. Thomas," an investigator told Hendricks of *The Kansas City Star*, referring to Charles Thomas, DVM, of Fort Dodge, Iowa. Thomas was recently convicted of selling at least \$60,000 worth of clenbuterol over the past three years in four Midwestern states. The alleged source of some of the clenbuterol found in the Ohio and Denver fair cases, Thomas was training to become a federal meat inspector.

Murray's arrest came one day after Brad Miller, national director of HFA, asked U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno to make clenbuterol abuse by the veal industry an investigative priority, pointing out that although the FDA learned in 1989 that the drug was used by Vitek, a major veal formula supplier, action against Vitek didn't begin until 1984. Meanwhile, use spread to other firms. Even after the federal crackdown began, as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** detailed in December, investigating agents cooperated with the American Veal Association to keep use by vealers out of the headlines.

Clenbuterol use is also under investigation abroad. Belgian police and pharmaceutical inspectors on March 10 raided 82 Flanders veterinary facilities in search of clenbuterol and other illegal livestock drugs. The raids followed the February 20 murder of animal health inspector Karel Van Noppen, who was probing the "hormone mafia." On March 16 the European Parliament asked the European Union to more closely regulate livestock drugs, via import controls, compulsory registration of possession and use, restriction of use to approved veterinarians, formation of an international data base to assist in related law enforcement, and establishment of stiff penalties for violations. The same sources involved in the Belgian traffic are believed to be the major suppliers to the U.S.

Humane Farming Assn. (paid through 1/96)

Non-Violent Food—who was alerted to the imposition of the facebranding requirement by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in November 1993.

The USDA Agricultural Research Service and Purdue University are jointly forming a \$500,000 Center for Research on Well-Being in Food Animals. Says Purdue Department of Animal Sciences head Bud Harmon, “I wouldn’t spend a dime on research in defense of the way we do things now, because it doesn’t move anything forward. Striking a balance between efficient animal production and animal well-being will help many people.”

The Mongolian Bactrian camel population is again up, the Ulan Bator newspaper *Ardinin Erkh* reports. Only 48,000 camels were slaughtered in 1993 and 1994 combined, after 177,000 were killed in 1991 and 1992 as members of dissolving farm collectives sold camels for quick cash. The Mongolian camel population is now circa 366,100, down from 537,500 in 1990.

A free trade zone around the port of Aqaba, Jordan, has allowed Australian sheep exporters to set up feed lots from which sheep are re-exported throughout the Middle East. They sold 5.1 million sheep to the Middle East in 1993, and 5.6 million in 1994, worth \$105 million. The traffic will soon increase, as on March 21 Australia announced the resumption of live sheep exports to Saudi Arabia, suspended in November 1990 after Saudi officials intercepted a shipload of sheep they judged unfit. In 1990, Australian sheep sales to Saudi Arabia totaled \$109 million.

Following the lead of entrepreneurs in Louisiana and Texas, Connecticut ostrich rancher Glenn Bergmiller plans to open a ratite slaughterhouse in Addison, Vermont, this summer, with backing from the Vermont Department of Agriculture and Central Vermont Public Service Economic Development. Bergmiller hopes to kill 35 ostriches and/or emus per day.

Representative Andy Jacobs (D-Indiana) has reintroduced the Humane Methods of Poultry Slaughter Act, designated HR-264. The bill would mandate stunning before slaughter. Introduced twice before without getting out of committee, the bill isn’t expected to get far in the current Congress either.

Humane Farming Assn.

TREASON—FOR TRYING TO SAVE DOLPHINS (from page one)

Charitable Trusts; Pew has granted Earth Island \$190,000 to monitor dolphin-killing by the tuna industry.

Venezuelan tuna has been barred from the U.S. since 1991 because of the frequent practice of netting tuna "on dolphin," i.e. surrounding schools of dolphins with purse seines because dolphins often swim above schools of tuna. This killed as many as 300,000 dolphins a year in the eastern Pacific before 1991, but Venezuela claims its fleet killed just 700 dolphins in 1994.

Import restrictions on Venezuelan oil are also in effect, over a trade dispute.

The alleged plot is improbable not only because of the lack of evidence of a money trail, but also because of Romero's international reputation. His resume includes the presidency of the 1992 Hemispheric Conference on Economics and the Environment; forming and serving as executive director of the Venezuelan Foundation for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (BIOMA); establishing five nature preserves; leading feasibility studies for two national parks; and developing a 200,000-entry data base on Venezuelan flora and fauna. A member of the Species Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Romero is also author or co-author of more than 300 scientific papers—many of them in partnership with Agudo.

The Venezuelan embassy in Washington D.C. did not respond to **ANIMAL PEOPLE's** inquiry into the case.

Entrapment

Introduced as evidence in a court of law, the Romero/Agudo video might be thrown out as entrapment—much like the video Chris DeRose of Last Chance for Animals made in 1993 of Wisconsin dog dealer Ervin Stebane killing a dog for an undercover couple who said they wanted to buy dog meat. While DeRose's attempted prosecution failed, Stebane had been suspected of dubious deals involving dogs for 20

years or more, and was subsequently put permanently out of business by the USDA for record-keeping violations.

The Romero/Agudo case involved an even longer history of alleged abuses and failures of government to halt them. Romero cites 20 documented references to the slaughter of dolphins for bait published between 1979 and the videotaped harpooning, plus four others published or broadcast subsequently. For instance, Romero says, "In January 1994, Sucre state councillor Jesus Anibal Gomez denounced the killing of dolphins in Santa Fe, within the Mochima National Park. Venezuelan officials showed up at the beach, collected the remains of about 10 dolphins, and later said they were actually dogs' carcasses," even though, "One dolphin was still alive when discovered."

Adds Romero, "In May 1994, Victor Arango, a reporter for the syndicated TV program *American Journal*, went to the same village where we made our video. There he interviewed a number of fisherman. All of them said on camera that they had been harpooning dolphins for shark bait for years and that they still do it."

Before releasing their video to the media, Romero and Agudo say, they tried to use it to persuade the Venezuelan government to create a coastal cetacean sanctuary and adopt a national marine mammal protection act. The video was released in May 1993, after the Venezuelan office of the Attorney General failed to act.

By October 1993, BIOMA and *Fundacetacea* had collected 45,000 petition signatures in support of the demands for dolphin protection. Still the Venezuelan government didn't act.

Then one evening Romero showed the video to a conservation biology class he teaches at the University of Miami. Russ Rector of the Dolphin Freedom Foundation attended. Known for waging confrontational media campaigns, "Rector asked if he could receive a copy," Romero remembers. "It was

provided to him at no cost and without restrictions. Rector later elected to release the full, unedited tape to the media. This resulted in November 1993 television news broadcasts of the tape in the U.S. "As a consequence," Romero continues, the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington D.C. and the Venezuelan General Consulate's office in Miami claim to have received over 20,000 letters of protest."

Backlash

Venezuela retaliated. "Since most environmental organizations in Venezuela received money from the government, they were compelled to sign a communique in which they stated that dolphins are not killed in Venezuela, despite the fact that they had never worked with dolphins," Romero charges. "Our telephones were tapped. In early January 1994, the two fishermen who killed the dolphins were arrested seven times in five days, once with their small children, and were made to sign a confession in which they claimed we had tricked them."

Within a few more days, both Romero and Agudo were formally accused of killing the dolphins by a tribunal which allegedly gave them no chance to respond. The two were almost simultaneously charged with the same alleged offenses in Caracas. "Later on," Romero adds, "the government announced they were going to try both of us for 'treason to the motherland.' It is unclear whether or not the government is going to press such a charge," but after receiving death threats at his home from persons indicating familiarity with his daughters' school schedules, Romero fled to Miami with the children on February 19, 1994. His wife followed a few days later.

The case escalated in April 1994, as a judge in Carupano, Venezuela, issued a warrant for Romero and Agudo, "but released the fishermen who actually killed the dolphin," according to Romero, who notes that, "This judge made calls to TV talk

—Bill Rossiter

request, if ever formally issued, isn't likely to be honored. The U.S. State Department, Americas Watch, and Amnesty International have all rapped Venezuela within the past two years for human rights abuses, a point Romero emphasizes, noting that the government has reportedly even tried to purge his books from stores and libraries.

"The judiciary is corrupt and politically manipulated," he charges. "The use of torture against detainees is frequent, prison conditions are extremely harsh, people 'disappear' after being arrested, and dozens are extra-judicially executed by security forces."

Romero, in Miami, is currently safe from everything but assassination, kidnapping, and/or attacks on his family. However, "Professor Agudo is still hiding in Venezuela and I am very concerned about his situation if the Venezuelan security forces get him," Romero told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "I think the only possibility for him is to create such a public uproar that the government will not have any other choice but to drop the charges against him and myself."

Delta Society ad (Anthrozoos)

shows, saying for the record that if arrested, we would never be released from jail." Venezuela then announced it would attempt to extradite Romero from the U.S.—for which there is only one precedent, the attempted extradition of former dictator Perez Jimenez more than 35 years ago.

Since then, for more than a year, it's been a war of nerves. The extradition

Agudo's father allegedly shot himself in December, under the stress of repeated interrogation by the security forces, who then staked out the funeral, keeping Agudo away. In January, Agudo's wife gave birth to their first child. Again, he was unable to attend.

(The Venezuelan embassy is located at 1099 30th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007; Fax 202-342-6820.)

Mark Matthew Braunstein (paid through May)

Dog logo

The Watchdog

The Watchdog monitors fundraising, spending, and political activity in the name of animal and habitat protection—both pro and con. His empty bowl stands for all the bowls left empty when some take more than they need.

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE

The Sierra Club, National Audubon Society, and Natural Resources Defense Council on April 4 unveiled a \$1.3 million TV campaign and a \$500,000 radio blitz to inform the public about how regulatory rollbacks under the Republican "Contract with America" will affect "the food they eat, the water they drink, and the air they breathe," and about the links between "those who pollute and those who write the laws on pollution." Sierra Club director Carl Pope called it the largest such effort "ever launched by the environmental community." The announcement came five days after Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich accused "left-wing environmentalists" of using environmental protection laws as a vehicle to "oppose free enterprise, jobs, and economic activity." They look for the "hysteria of the year," Gingrich charged, "whether it's going to be nuclear winter or global warming or whatever this year's particular hysteria is."

Republican-led attacks on endangered species protection are underway not only in the House, but also in many state legislatures, including in Vermont, generally believed to have one of the "greenest" electorates. Colchester realtor Charlotte Gardner, outraged that the presence of three rare grasses and a regionally threatened milkweed held up one of her developments in 1990, has reportedly found heavy support in the Vermont senate for restricting state "endangered"

ZIPPO raid

"As a portable source of flame, the Zippo windproof lighter has always been the natural choice for those who care about the environment," claims a press release for the Zippo "mysteries of the forest" collectible lighter series. "Zippo believes it is vital," the flaks add, "that we safeguard the delicate balance of the remaining wilderness for both the animals that live there and for future generations of humanity."

Cynics will recall the term "Zippo raid," which originated during the Vietnam War to describe using pocket lighters, given to soldiers as a freebie, to raze rainforest villages. While the freebies ceased years ago, the tactic is still common in jungle wars on four continents. Zippo, which at one point reputedly threatened to sue war correspondents who used the term "Zippo raid," has donated \$10,000 to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History, apparently hoping the world may eventually forgive and forget.

One source of extra funding for endangered species protection could be a tax on such items as camping gear and bird seed. Arguing that hunters and fishers pay a disproportionate share of conservation costs through license fees and taxes on weapons and equipment, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies resolved in December to ask Congress for such a tax—perhaps the only new tax likely to win Republican support.

Deep in the heart of Texas

AUSTIN--Anti-animal bills crowded state legislative calendars in many states this spring, as newly elected wise-use wiseguys joined entrenched good old boys in the effort to make the world safe for hunters—but those introduced in Texas were uniquely flamboyant. Major items, with apparent status at deadline:

SB-97, a long-awaited bill to restrict canned hunting, has been amended to apparently prohibit only the point-blank dispatch of animals other than pumas and "nuisance" species who are held in small cages. (Active.)

HB-218 would bar the federal government from doing misdemeanor wildlife law enforcement within Texas. Unless overturned by the courts, this would end federal supervision of Texas waterfowl hunting and canned hunting. (Active.)

SB-329 would reintroduce private predator-strafting in the name of assisting wildlife management, in possible violation of the 1974 federal Airborne Hunting Act. (Active.)

HB-670 would legalize setting dogs on captive coyotes, foxes, and other animals within fenced enclosures. (Active.)

HB-1562 would retroactively legalize the killing of a neighbor's dog

by Thomas Richard Massey, of Spicewood, in September 1993—for which he was convicted, fined \$1,000, and given a suspended sentence of one year in jail. The bill would also allow others to shoot on sight any dog allegedly caught chasing livestock. (Dormant.)

HB-1694 repeals much of the Texas Parks & Wildlife code, at request of gun lobbyists. (Active.)

HB-1779 and **HB-2012** exempt meetings and documents of the Texas Parks & Wildlife department, which regulates hunting, from the state Open Meetings Act and Open Records Act. (Active.)

HB-1926 and **HB-1927** would create a "game sanctuary" on property bordering the King hunting ranch, thereby turning posting and patrolling duty over to the state while, under various exemptions, allowing King patrons to continue to kill animals there. (Active.)

HB-2472 would legalize dog-fighting and cockfighting by including fighting pits in the state definition of "animal shelter," and would retroactively exonerate Kinney County sheriff Norman Hooten, who was among 23 people arrested in a January 28 dog-fighting bust. (Dormant.)

listings to species “important to the preservation of the natural heritage” of the state; requiring an economic impact study before any species is listed; requiring financial compensation to landowners who can’t get building permits due to the presence of endangered species; adding two developers and the state economic development commissioner to the state endangered species advisory panel; and automatically delisting any protected species after three years unless it is again certified endangered by the state secretary for natural resources.

Judith Daniels, a California breeder of Staffordshire bull terriers, on March 30 became the first woman to be elected president of the American Kennel Club in the 111 years it has existed. “We need to demonstrate to the American public that we are a service organization with a valuable product,” she said.

Warm Store ad -
not yet paid for May.

Winner of the first-ever Jolene Marion Aggressive Enforcement Award, presented by the Animal Legal Defense Fund, was district attorney Joshua Marquis of Clatsop County, Oregon, for his prosecution of animal collector Vicki Kittles. Arrested in April 1993, Kittles was convicted of 42 counts of cruelty in January of this year. She was previously in trouble for animal collecting in three other states, and is the only suspect ever named in the disappearance of her elderly mother. The case brought the introduction of strengthening amendments to Oregon anti-cruelty laws in the state legislature—but, said Elizabeth Canning, editor of the electronic animal protection magazine *ARK Online*, “The pro-hunting chairman of the House Subcommittee on Crimes and Corrections has told the sponsor that the bill is dead because of the initiative barring spring bear hunting and hunting bears and pumas with hounds, which was approved by the voters in November. Spite and backlash, pure and simple.” Despite his opposition, however, the bill did clear the subcommittee on April 12.

CASH (not yet paid for May)

Scotland Yard to seek ALF

LONDON—Scotland Yard has established a special police unit to investigate the Animal Liberation Front, headed by anti-terrorist branch chief David Tucker.

Said deputy assistant commissioner John Howley, who oversees both the Special Branch and the anti-terrorist branch, “The people we are interested in are extremists who are prepared to use criminal tactics or commit public order

Queen gets new stud and stuffed lioness; Prince Philip watches

DURBAN, South Africa—Zulu king Goodwill Zwelithini on March 25 presented a live Nguni stud bull and a taxidermically mounted lioness to Queen Elizabeth II of Britain, as her husband Prince Philip, longtime titular head of the Worldwide Fund for Nature, looked on.

offenses to achieve their ends. I want to emphasize that animal rights extremist activity is not terrorism,” he continued. “There is a definition of terrorist contained in the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and it is basically the advancement of political objectives by means of violence with a view to overthrowing the government. What these sorts of people are indulging in is akin to terrorism or political violence, but not quite on the same level yet. But it requires very similar methods of investigation.”

Howley said there appear to be fewer than 100 violent animal rights activists, who committed about 800 offenses in Great Britain last year, the most since 1991, including the placement of about 50 firebombs. Many of the violent activists, Howley continued, “have latched on to animal rights because there is a lot of public support for it at the moment. If there was a tremendous national protest about closing post offices, they would probably leap on that bandwagon as well.”

Diana Nolan ad

MARINE MAMMALS

Seal hunt

Canada on April 11 denied an allegation by the International Fund for Animal Welfare that the Shanghai Fisheries Corporation and a sealing industry delegation from the Magdalen Islands of Quebec met the day before in Hong Kong to sign a deal to increase the export of seal penises to China. "Because it's penises, people laugh," said IFAW spokesperson Marion Jenkins, "but the Chinese medicine market has been responsible for the near extinction of the tiger and the rhino." Despite the lack of other apparent viable markets, the seal slaughter shifted from the Magdalens to Newfoundland in mid-April, encouraged by a quota of 186,000 and a federal bounty of 20¢ per pound on seal carcasses landed. Newfoundland fisheries minister Bud Hulan claims the Atlantic Canada seal population is circa eight million, and that the seals are contributing to the decline of cod, recently pronounced "commercially extinct." However, current research by Thomas Woodley and David Lavigne, of the International Marine Mammal Association, indicates there are no more than 3.5 million harp seals, probably fewer; 400,000 hooded seals; and 142,000 grey seals, the only species whose numbers are increasing. Cod make up only about 1% of the seals' diet.

IFAW and Natural Habitat Adventure Tours have promoted seal-watching in the Magdalens since 1989, "based largely on our shared belief that seal tourism and seal hunting cannot coexist." IFAW coordinator of animal welfare Thomas Moliterno recently told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "However, a local tour operator and hotelier, Andre Bourque, supports both the tours and the hunters," Moliterno warned. "In addition to his growing seal-watching business, I am told that Mr. Bourque has, in the past, actually flown sealers to the ice in his helicopters to obtain seal meat for a local community dinner. My information also suggests that Mr. Bourque's pilots have been very cooperative with the sealers in giving out seal positions," Moliterno said. This would augment data provided by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans. "In an effort to prevent our flight information from being used to help the seal hunters," Moliterno added, "IFAW's and Natural Habitat Adventures' helicopters use their own radio frequency for communication," but "This frequency is also used to relay landing positions to the Air Traffic Control station in the Magdalens in accordance with air regulations," setting up the possibility of interception by sealers.

Whales & whaling

Sanctuaries

Hong Kong announced on April 13 that it will create a sanctuary for the last of the rare pink dolphins who once thrived around two islands called The Brothers. The dolphins' numbers have dwindled from more than 400 to just 84 since the islands were leveled as the site of a new airport. The Hong Kong government declined to order a halt to the construction of a fuel depot on Sha Chau island, in the middle of the dolphins' feeding area; instead, it ordered that the construction be accelerated, to minimize harm by getting the job done faster.

"I am very concerned about an oil lease sale that the Minerals Management Service proposes for lower Cook Inlet in Alaska," writes Olga von Ziegar of the North Gulf Oceanic Society. "Many baleen whales feed in and migrate through these and adjacent waters during summer months, including at least a quarter of the North Pacific humpback whale population. The environmental impact statement put out by the MMS predicts a 64% cumulative probability of two or more major oil spills and a 100% probability of minor spills. We were lucky that the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill happened in March, and that there were very few baleen whales present when the oil was thick." Letters of concern may be sent to Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington DC 20240.

Western Australia environment minister Peter Foss on April 4 banned hand-feeding dolphins from boats at the Shark Bay Marine Park, except under the direct supervision of park rangers. "There is concern that some people using boats elsewhere in the park could compromise the efforts being made at Monkey Mia," said Foss. A tradition of feeding dolphins there has been modified to exclude hand-feeding male calves and suckling females, following the discovery of a high death rate among unweaned calves. That announcement distracted media from Foss' quieter announcement the same day that the department of Conservation And Land Management (CALM) would commence Project Eden, an attempt to encourage native wildlife by airdropping Compound 1080 baits—not legally deployed in the U.S. since 1972—over the Peron Peninsula, alongside Shark Bay, to kill foxes and feral cats.

Cyanide dumped after use in refining illegal drugs probably killed at least 283 common dolphins, 215 marine birds, 51 sea lions, and 8 whales in the upper Gulf of California early this year, the Mexican general attorney for Environmental Protection announced on March 31—four days after the influential Group of 100 denounced govern-

Oceanariums

Kotar, a 20-year-old orca captured off Iceland in 1978, died on April 1 at Sea World of Texas in San Antonio, after weeks of treatment for an unidentified infection. He was the fourth captive orca to die within 100 days, and the second to die at Sea World of Texas, following the December 29 demise of Namu, age two months, from an apparently unrelated bacterial illness. Kotar sired two surviving young. Sea World still has two adult males plus several juveniles, vice president Brad Andrews told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, and doesn't expect to seek another. Sea World, then under different ownership, last took an orca from the wild in 1982, and hasn't taken any cetacean from the wild since 1987. [Kotar is not among the orcas above, photographed at Sea World of Texas in December 1994, but was in the same tank.]

The Montreal Biodome on March 28 indefinitely postponed tentative plans to acquire five beluga whales, discussed off and on since the facility opened in 1988. "The obvious attraction of the belugas would likely overshadow our systemic message about the St. Lawrence marine ecosystem," the announcement said, also acknowledging that the Biodome lacks facilities adequate for separating belugas by sex, essential during pregnancy and nursing, and that the proposed acquisition is opposed by the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, as well as other groups, "whose environmental goals in the end match its own."

Dr. Hrvoje Gomercic of the veterinary faculty at the University of Zagreb in Zagreb, Croatia, is trying to identify a tame female bottlenose dolphin who appeared circa April 2 in the harbor at Bakar on the northern Croatian coast of the Adriatic Sea. "As far as we can see," Gomercic says, "she feeds only on dead fish that are thrown to her, doesn't catch any fish swimming around her, and seems very used to the company of people."

California AB-1737, "which would prohibit the pos-

The Japanese factory ship *Nisshin Maru*—returned to Tokyo on April 13 with the remains of 330 minke whales killed “for research” within the Southern Oceans Whale Sanctuary. Japan intends to continue killing 300-plus minke whales per year “for research” for another 16 years, and hopes to win approval of the practice at the International Whaling Commission annual meeting commencing on May 29 in Dublin, Ireland. The whalers claim that the average age of the whales killed each year since 1987 is declining, indicating a growing population characterized by larger numbers of young. The Global Guardian Trust, a front for the Japanese whaling industry, on April 9 attacked the global moratorium on commercial whaling imposed by the IWC in 1986 with a quarter-page ad in *The New York Times*—and charged the U.S. with hypocrisy in obtaining increased Eskimo “subsistence” quotas on highly endangered bowhead whales last year.

Norway denied on April 7 that computer programming errors had inflated its estimate of minke whale numbers in the northeast Atlantic. Norwegian Fishing Ministry spokesperson Bjørn Myrstad admitted that errors had been found, but said they had been corrected and didn't affect the official estimate that the area contains about 87,000 minkes. Greenpeace says the true number is circa 60,000.

The standard of living in the Faroe Islands, one of the highest of any North Atlantic nation, may be at risk from the decline of the cod fishery—and predictably, fishers are taking out their frustrations on pilot whales. Last year they drove ashore and killed about 1,200 pilot whales, including 668 in one day. This year's toll, observers warn, may be higher. Earth 2000 asks that letters of protest be sent to Ambassador Peter Dyvig, Royal Danish Embassy, 3200 Whitehaven Street, Washington DC 20008.

Peru banned dolphin hunting in 1990, but enforcement has been delayed by civil war and economic chaos. More than 20,000 dusky dolphins, Burmeister's porpoises, and members of other dolphin species are killed along Peruvian shores each year, reports Alison Smith of the British-based Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, adding “The scale of the hunting is so high that WCDS fears for the survival of the cetacean populations involved.”

The Australian Nature Conservation Agency announced April 3 that a Taiwanese trawler intercepted off the Northern Territory coast was hauling dead dolphins—apparently to be used as bait—as well as illegally caught fish.

Researcher A.P. MacMillan of the Brucellosis Reference Centre in Weybridge, Great Britain, has advised marine mammalogists that serological evidence suggests *Brucella* infection is widespread around the British coast, and could potentially harm whale reproduction. Brucellosis has not actually been reported yet in whales.

ment plans to develop a salt recovery plant in the same area. Discharges from the plant, Group of 100 president Homero Arijis warned, could imperil the Vizcaino Desert Biosphere Reserve, an important breeding area for grey whales.

Other issues

Residents of Jupiter Island, Florida, were to vote on April 18 on a bond issue to finance a \$12 million beach reconstruction. If approved, the work will disrupt a key nesting area for loggerhead, leatherback, and green sea turtles—but if not approved, the nesting area could be completely eroded away within a few more years.

session or display of newly caught wild dolphins, whales, porpoises, seals, and sea lions in California, will be heard in the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee in early May,” says sponsor Richard Katz, assemblyman for the 39th district. Drafted by Earth Island Institute, AB-1737 has been amended, Katz claims, so that it “will not impact important research on these magnificent species,” the major concern cited by marine mammalogists who organized in opposition to the initial draft.

After a winter lull, the “Free Lolita” campaign has reignited in Miami. Campaign organizer Jerry Powers of *Ocean Drive* magazine is posting billboards along I-95 urging that the Miami Seaquarium orca be returned to her native Puget Sound, and has started a toll-free hotline, 1-800-871-3530, to handle response. The Seaquarium management responds that while releasing Lolita would be impractical, her 30-year-old, three-million-gallon tank could be replaced with one three times as big if neighbors would drop their opposition to a proposed expansion of the site into a full-scale theme park.

Earth Island Institute, the Animal Welfare Institute, and the International Wildlife Coalition on April 1 appealed for letters to Bahamian prime minister Hubert Ingraham, protesting the possibility that Universal Studios might transfer bottlenose dolphins from the Dolphins Plus swim-with facility in Florida to the Bahamas for use in filming the movie *Flipper*. The appeal argued that Bahamian-trained dolphins should be used instead. “There is a potential for disease transmission from Dolphins Plus dolphins to free-ranging Bahamian dolphins via open-ocean pens,” the groups warned. The risk of spreading disease from captivity to the wild is the leading reason why many informed observers oppose releasing either Lolita (see above) or Keiko, the star of *Free Willy!*—whose release effort Earth Island spearheads.

Four Atlantic bottlenose dolphins belonging to the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago were flown to the Lisbon Zoo in Portugal on April 11 to become the founding parents of a captive breeding program. None were actually in Chicago: two had been temporarily kept at Marine World Africa USA in Vallejo, California, while the others were kept at the Dolphin Connection at Hawk's Cay resort in Florida.

HAVE (full year, paid)

Two years after his release by Ric O'Barry of the Dolphin Project, who was working under contract with the World Society for the Protection of Animals, Flipper is alive and well: a local TV crew filmed him near the beach in March at Sao Vicente, Brazil, and identified him by a freeze-banded Brazilian flag on his tail. The last captive dolphin in Brazil, Flipper, now 14, was captured in 1981 and kept until 1993 at a now defunct amusement park near Sao Paulo. Above: O'Barry and crew carry Flipper to the water. (WSPA photo.)

"Damn the manatees!" (from page one)

74%

be taught to stay out of busy streets.

Smith's ruling acquitted DeLand Fish Camp owner Rick Rawlins, charged twice in 13 months for allegedly breaking the speed limit on the Hontoon Dead River. It had no formal precedential value, but wise-use wiseguys across the nation ballyhooed it on talk shows, online forums, and in print as a signal victory over allegedly excessive regulation. The finer points of law got lost in the uproar.

About one million power boats compete with manatees for aquatic rights-of-way in Florida. Even before Smith struck down the speed limits, just 11 of Florida's 67 counties had any limits in effect, enforced haphazardly by 283 Florida Marine Patrol officers plus 215 Florida Game and Fresh Water officers—about one officer per 2,000 vessels.

As unpopular as speed limits are with the boaters, the alternatives are less popular still. One would be closing waters inhabited by manatees to all boating. That would cover the entire coast of the Florida peninsula plus the Everglades corridor, and would have no chance of acceptance even if someone were to seriously propose it. Another, raised from time to time for 60 years, would be mandatory installation of propeller guards. Since only about half of the manatees killed by boats are actually hit by the propellers, guards would reduce but not prevent deaths. However, the *Miami Herald* reported on March 24, "Boat manufacturers resist the idea, claiming that the guards hamper engine performance and speed. Owners who do install the protective devices often have ended up suing major manufacturers after losing their engine warranty."

History, biology

Officially, manatees have been protected since the eighteenth century, when England declared Florida to be a manatee sanctuary in an apparent strike at Spanish smugglers and slave-traders, who killed manatees by the shipload for food. The state of Florida adopted a manatee protection law for the animals' own sake in 1893, strengthened in 1907 with the imposition of a \$500 fine for killing or molesting one. In 1907 money, that fine was as substantial as the \$20,000 penalties imposed by the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act and the 1973 Endangered Species Act.

And it was just about as ineffective, because then as well as now, virtually all human killings of manatees have been judged accidental.

Found in dwindling numbers across the West Indies, and once distributed throughout the tropics, manatees are

slow breeders. They reach sexual maturity at age nine as a rule, though some females may be capable of reproduction at age five. Bearing females produce just one calf every two to five years, after a 13-month gestation. Cold snaps, dangerous to all manatees, are particularly deadly to the young, says Loren Fish, who as supervisor of animal care at Sea World of Florida in Orlando is responsible for the largest group of manatees likely to survive—15 rescued from distress situations and two born at the facility.

"When the water gets below 68 degrees, the young can't tolerate it," Fish says. "They develop pneumonia and stop eating." Unusually cold weather killed 53 manatee calves in 1990, the same as the number of manatees killed by boats that year—the only year that boat-related deaths didn't head the list. Fortunately the warm-water discharge areas around coastal power plants provide temporary manatee refuges during routine cold snaps. "These areas are heavily monitored," Fish confirms. Such monitoring revealed both bad news and good news earlier this year. The bad news, in January, was that only 1,443 manatees were discovered, one of the lowest counts on record. The good news was that 1,822 turned up in a February recount, one of the highest counts ever. But the variance also told biologists that their margin of counting error is so high that records showing the population is up from about 800 over the past 20 years may only reflect improved if still imperfect counting methods—not an actual increase in manatee numbers. Instead, manatees could be holding even or further declining.

Captive breeding

Manatees breed so readily in captivity that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service forbade mingling of the sexes at captive facilities in 1991, to prevent overcrowding. Yet restoring the wild population through captive breeding is not yet a viable option, despite a decade of attempts. Miami Seaquarium vet Jesse White in 1984 placed two captive-born manatees in holding pens in the Homosassa River, then released them in 1986, after they appeared to be capable of feeding themselves. As of July 1990, he told *People* magazine, "I believe they're still out there." But because of a lack of confirmed follow-up sightings, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manatee recovery coordinator Robert Turner has pronounced them dead. Another experimental release, in Puerto Rico, failed when the manatee starved to death.

"It's like taking a pet and releasing it into the forest," Turner told Craig Quintana of the *Orlando Sentinel*.

—Donna Robb

"They have no experience at all on anything but romaine lettuce in a concrete tank. When he ran out of lettuce, he didn't eat. We just thought they'd start eating other vegetation."

A related problem, Fish adds, is that "We don't yet know how they learn their migration patterns." If seasonal migration isn't instinctive, captive-born manatees might be caught too far north to survive when winter weather hits.

Formerly wild manatees are believed to do better. Of about 135 ill, injured, or orphaned manatees received at Sea World since 1973, 47 have been returned to the wild, including three who were released earlier this year, wearing tags and radio transponders monitored by USFWS via satellite.

Hoping to improve the odds, Sea World and USFWS last summer set up a \$40,000, 4.5-acre "halfway station" for manatees in the Banana River, between the Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral. The idea is to acclimate manatees to their natural diet of sea grass before turning them loose. "Their weights are checked after one month," explains Fish. "If they've lost weight, we keep them and try the release again later." About 50 manatees, currently distributed among five Florida stranding rescue centers, are considered potential release candidates.

Recovery plan

The USFWS on April 6 proposed a second revision of the Florida manatee recovery plan, and extended the public comment period to June 5. Persons wishing to comment may obtain copies of the proposed revised plan from David J. Wesley, Field Supervisor, Jacksonville Field Office, USFWS, 6620 Southpoint Drive S., Suite 310, Jacksonville, FL 32216; 904-232-2580.

—by Merritt Clifton and Donna Robb

Fishing industry fights over bones

"This meeting was called to fight over the meat," reads the caption below a popular office calendar cartoon showing wild-eyed and desperate Neanderthals. "There is no meat. It is moved that we fight over the bones."

The cartoon could describe the collapse of oceanic ecosystems. Recent editions of the journals *Science* and *Nature* warned of crashing zooplankton and algae populations, as result of pollution, global warming, and over-fishing, which is taking biomass out of the oceans faster than it can be restored. But instead of making oceanic habitat restoration a global priority, both fishing fleets and the political representatives of fishing nations fight with increasing fury for whatever fish remain, with ominous implications for world peace as well as for aquatic animals.

Recent incidents:

- **Morocco on March 16 barred European Union fishers** from its Atlantic waters until May 15, to preserve stocks.

- **British fishers showered Fisheries Minister Michael Jack with flour** on March 18 for compromising with Spain in negotiations over fishing rights.

- **Burmese frontier guards on March 20 wounded two Bangladeshi fishers** who allegedly strayed to the wrong side of the Naf river, the national boundary.

- **A Croatian patrol boat wounded Italian fishing captain Ezio Bastianelli** and impounded his boat on March 23, alleging he had trawled 3.5 miles inside Croat waters.

- **Lebanese fishers** asked United Nations Secretary General Boutros-Ghali to pressure Israel into lifting a blockade of their traditional fishing grounds off Tyre, closed February 8 for alleged security reasons.

- **The Philippine Navy** over the weekend of March 25-26 boarded four Chinese fishing boats near the disputed Spratly islands, holding 50 crew members and seizing live turtles, as well as cyanide and explosives allegedly used to stun fish in illegal coral reef fishing.

- **Taiwan on March 29 sent heavily armed patrol boats** to the Spratly and Pratas islands, to reinforce a marine garrison posted on Taiping, the largest of the Spratlys.

- **U.N. peacekeepers on March 31 won the release** of Greek Cypriot fisher Andreas Constantinou, 55, 10 days after Turk Cypriots captured him while allegedly fishing in Turkish waters—a charge he denied, claiming he signed a confession under duress.

- **Ireland arrested seven foreign vessels** for exceeding catch limits in a week-long coastal sweep, April 4-11.

- **Seeking a ban on fish imports** from outside the EU, French fishers trashed Norwegian and Spanish trucks on April 11 in the port of Boulogne-sur-Mer. The next day the EU banned Japanese fish imports due to "unsanitary processing", outraging Japan, which sold the EU \$3.7 billion worth of fish in 1994.

- **Morocco on April 12 freed the crew of a South Korean trawler**, held since February for alleged illegal fishing, after the boat owner paid \$150,000 in fines—but the crew refused to leave, demanding back pay and compensation for the death of their captain, who was shot dead when the boat was seized. South Korea claims the boat was attacked while adrift with engine trouble.

- **Estonian patrol boats repeatedly seized Latvian trawlers** in the Gulf of Riga.

- **Taiwanese fishers on April 14 firebombed a Chinese boat.** No one was hurt.

- **Britain** on April 14 seized the Spanish trawler *Chimote* off Plymouth.

- **Canada on April 15 reached agreement with the EU** over rights to fish turbot on the Grand Banks, ending a standoff with Spanish patrol boats sent to protect fishing vessels after Canadian patrol boats seized the Spanish trawler *Estai* on March 9, and cut the nets of several other trawlers.

Predicting "the likely complete collapse of the Massachusetts fishing industry within the next six months," because fish stocks have not recovered despite the closure of 6,000 square miles of coastal waters to fishing since December 1994, Massachusetts governor William Weld on March 21 asked President Bill Clinton to declare the state's fishing industry a "natural disaster," authorizing federal aid for unemployed fishers. The claim depends upon proving that the loss of fish is due to "uncontrol-

Hold the fish and eat your veggies!

BOSTON—Contrary to common belief, eating fish does not contribute to avoiding heart disease, Dr. Alberto Ascherio of the Harvard School of Public Health reported in the April 12 edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Ascherio traced the diets and health records of 44,895 male health care professionals, ages 40-70, for six years.

Ascherio's study appeared the same day that the *Journal of the American Medical Association* published a study of 832 men whose health was tracked for at least 18 years by the Harvard Community Health Plan. "We observed an intense association between fruit and vegetable intake and the development of stroke," the authors stated. "For each increment of three servings (of fruit and vegetables) per day, there was a 22% decrease in the risk of stroke."

lable forces of nature."

Said Massachusetts Commissioner of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Environmental Law John C. Phillips, "There has been a tremendous population boom of certain fish that prey on young ground fish including sea herring, mackerel, and dogfish." Scientific response was skeptical.

Endangered species

Failing in attempts to close an "experimental" sea cucumber fishing season opened last October off the Galapagos islands, where an influx of fish pirates and squatters have increased the human population 40% in five years, "Ecuadorian officials appear ready to admit they are powerless to enforce any prohibition or limits on how many creatures are pulled from the sea," Esther Schrader of the *Los Angeles Daily News* reported on April 9. The new arrivals kill anything they can eat or sell, including more than 100 highly endangered Galapagos tortoises during the past 15 months. Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society thinks he could drive them out with the *Edward Abbey*, the fastest Sea Shepherd vessel, if he could get refueling at sea, but so far he's been unable to raise the necessary funds. (Help at 3107-A Washington Blvd., Marina Del Rey, CA 90292.)

Coelacanths, believed to have been extinct for 80 million years when found alive off the Comoros Islands near Madagascar in 1938, are in steep decline over the past three years, warns Max Planck Institute researcher Hans Fricke. "We believe," Fricke wrote in the March 23 issue

of *Nature*, "that this alarming decline is due to local fishing habits."

Fresh water fish

Florida hopes to raise 300,000 to 600,000 big striped bass from eggs squeezed out of the belly of a record 48-pound female caught on April 9. The biggest bass previously caught in Florida was a 42.25-pounder, in 1993. Bigger bass are being caught in part because sport fishing has seriously depleted the species in Panhandle rivers, leaving more food for the survivors.

Unexplained dieoffs of young lake perch have cut Lake Michigan perch numbers by 50% to 75% over the past five years. The Illinois Dept. of Environmental Conservation has responded by cutting commercial quotas by two-thirds and suspending perch fishing for the month of June, when about 25% of the annual catch are hooked.

Jim Harris ad

Animal control & rescue

Trouble

The Chicago Animal Rights Coalition on April 13 resumed a campaign against the use of a captive bolt gun to dispatch dogs and cats and the practice of killing them in front of others at the Animal Control Department shelter in Rock Falls, Illinois. Neither the American Veterinary Medical Association nor any national humane organization recommends the use of captive bolts for euthanizing small animals; all oppose killing animals within sight or sound of others. Rock Falls promised to change euthanasia procedures a year ago, but broke the promise, according to CHARC founder Steve Hindi. Letters on shelter letterhead urging compliance with accepted humane standards may be sent to Rock Falls mayor Glen Kuhlemier at 603 W. 10th St., Rock Falls, IL 61071.

Maryland law requires animal shelters to hold stray dogs and cats for at least 72 hours before either euthanizing them or adopting them out, unless they're wild or sick, but the Tri-County Animal Shelter in Hughesville euthanized 153 of 168 cats received within 24 hours in February, after the resignation of former triage worker Kathy Delozier, and 146 of 193 cats received within 24 hours in March, reported Todd Shields of *The Washington Post* on April 3. At least some of the cats were pets whose owners were looking for them, who flunked a "pen test." Former staffer Christy Henderson, 36, who was fired on March 31, explained to Todd that any cat who swatted at a pen pushed into her cage was "deemed wild and put to sleep without ever being taken out." Henderson and two volunteers departed a week after shelter worker Kathy Delozier was fired, for alleged continuing insubordination, on March 24. Shelter supervisor Bob Anderson promised an internal investigation, and pointed to rising rates of reclaims and adoptions as evidence his staff isn't needle-happy.

Investigative reports released to media on April 5 found major faults in almost every aspect of the management of the Capitol

Overpopulation

"Get your male cat neutered at the San Francisco SPCA by August 1 and we'll pay you \$5.00 cash," SFSPCA president Richard Avanzino told city residents on April 3. "This time of year, intact tomcats are roaming the streets in search of females, and unless they're neutered, thousands of unwanted kittens will be the result. We expect free surgery plus a \$5.00 bonus will get enough male cats off the prowl to make a difference in the numbers," sufficient to make the program cost-effective. "I've been asked," Avanzino continued, "what if people start combing the streets looking for unowned male cats so they can cash in on the bounty? I say, great! Vaccinate 'em and bring 'em on down." Those requesting the bonus must show proof of San Francisco residence, the cats must live in San Francisco, and all cats must be vaccinated against rabies prior to surgery (which can be done by the SFSPCA).

The Oakland SPCA, of Oakland, California, began doing early neutering last summer and on March 23 claimed to be "the only major shelter in the country which neuters all animals deemed adoptable before they are placed, including puppies and kittens."

Under the administration of Animal Services director Olivia Horn, the euthanasia toll at the city shelter in Fayetteville, Arkansas, has dropped from 3,900 in 1986 to just 2,000 in 1994, despite a fast-growing human population bringing with it a growing pet population. Fayetteville Animal Services was the first public shelter in the state to mandate that all animals be neutered before being adopted out. That practice recently became mandatory statewide, under a bill authored by Fayetteville state representative Sue Madison, passed by the legislature at request of the Arkansas State Animal Control Association.

The Animal Alliance and Humane Civic Association have asked the city of Los Angeles to require anyone breeding a dog litter to get a license, and to require screening for

ALLEGED SPORTSMEN

Clay Peterson, age 11, wrote a letter to the *Nashville Tennessean* criticizing poachers, published on April 6. "He was thrilled," his mother Debra wrote to the paper a week later. "I was immediately worried when I noticed that his address was also printed. My fears were justified," by a barrage of hate mail, including one missive that warned Clay, "armed force is necessary to eliminate those who would force the issue." The *Tennessean* then published the Peterson family address again. Tell the Petersons they have friends c/o 1667 Highfield Lane, Brentwood, TN 37027.

Closures & cutbacks

Fire swept the home of Colorado Animal Refuge founder Mary Port on April 3, destroying her records, then spread to trailers housing dogs, cats, and monkeys. An estimated 50 animals were killed. Kept outdoors, wolf hybrids and a bear survived. Founded in 1983, the shelter was incorporated in 1991 and obtained nonprofit status in 1993. Contributions may be sent to POB 15828, Colorado Springs, CO 15828.

Los Angeles mayor Richard Riordan has proposed cutting the Department of Animal Regulation budget by up to \$4 million, obliging department chief Gary Olson to contemplate closing the East Valley and South Central shelters—both of which are scheduled to receive federal help to repair damage done by the January 1994 Northridge earthquake.

The Walden's Puddle Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, of Berry Hill, Tennessee, a suburb of Nashville, may have to move or close because it purportedly violates a zoning ordinance forbidding operation of either an animal hospital or a domestic pet kennel in the area. The directors maintain it is neither, and say they'll take the case to court.

The six humane officers and rescue agents of the all-volunteer Medina County SPCA, in Medina, Ohio, have increased their annual operating budget from \$15,000 in 1988 to \$60,000 in 1994, but their caseload has gone up faster, say president George Layne

An instructor at the Mohican School In The Out of Doors in Loudonville, Ohio, shocked 20 students from two different elementary schools in mid-March by twisting a live rabbit's head off, with help from a student volunteer, before doing a skinning demonstration. Several fifth-grade girls called him a murderer, made the deed public, and obliged Mohican executive director Ronald Reed to pledge, "We won't be doing it any more."

The Bowhunting Association of Michigan is pushing fish-killing contests as "a family activity," in the words of secretary Rick Sanders, of Berrien Springs. Entrants shoot as many inedible carp, dogfish, gars, and suckers as possible within 12 hours, all to be dumped later at a landfill. "We promote ethical shooting," claims Sanders. Events are set for April 29 at Grand River, June 10 at Pointe Mouille, July 8 at Three Rivers, and August 12 at Allegan Lake.

Maryland SB 232, passed in early April by the state General Assembly, allows hunters to kill unlimited numbers of captive-reared waterfowl at so-called Regulated Shooting Areas, a.k.a. canned hunts. Many such sites along Maryland's Eastern Shore have long been suspected of illegally using bait to keep ducks on their premises—and to draw wild ducks into shooting range. In 1985 former Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge manager Don Perkuchin cracked down on the practice, making more than 30 arrests for illegal baiting at nearby canned hunts. Some arrestees were friends of Senator Phil Gramm (R-Texas), now a Republican presidential nominee. In 1987 Gramm called then-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service chief Frank Dunkle on the carpet; Dunkle soon transferred Perkuchin to the Okefenokee swamp in central Florida.

Upcoming

May 6-25: Vegetarian Art Show, Sunnen

Area Humane Society in Columbus, Ohio, under former executive director Gerri Bain and board president Steve Kahn, who quit under fire last September, along with five trustees and two staffers. The Humane Society of the U.S. called euthanasia practices "inhumane," while a private accounting firm reportedly found misused grants, personal use of funds by staff, and dubious use of a travel budget.

Fifteen years of chaos at the Montreal-based Canadian SPCA continued in March with the departure under fire of executive director Alex Wolfe, a longtime critic of the shelter's high euthanasia rate who tried unsuccessfully to turn it into a no-kill after briefly gaining control of the board of directors during the reorganization that followed the loss of the Montreal pound contract last spring.

The Lake County Humane Society in Sorrento, Florida, on March 16 refused to accept the turn-in of a five-and-a-half-month-old Labrador-mix puppy that Sorrento resident John Kirby and an unidentified male friend said they'd found beside a road, because Kirby had no rabies certificate for the dog. Directed to Lake County Animal Control in Astatula, they ran over and killed the dog as they departed. Kirby claimed it was an accident, and that he and his friend fled the scene because, "They're much more capable of taking care of it than I am."

Shooting dogs

Peace was at risk on the Israeli-Occupied West Bank on April 11 after Israeli troops shot 90 to 150 dogs in Hebron, a town known for militant Palestinian opposition to Israel. The Israeli civil administration said the dogs were strays, killed to prevent the spread of rabies, but Israeli environment minister Yossi Sarid denied that, calling the killings "unacceptable." Hebron health department head Mesbah Tahboub said he was never advised of a rabies problem nor of any anti-rabies action. "When you see that many of the dogs were domestic pets or shepherd dogs, you have to raise some questions about the motives," he added. Palestinians tend to believe the dogs were killed because their barking alerted residents to Israeli patrols.

Milwaukee vice officers met 84 dogs during drug raids in 1994, and killed 23 of them, according to police records.

both genetic infirmities and behavioral faults before the license can be granted. The proposal is rated no chance of passage.

Openings & expansion

The new Helen Steinert Memorial SPCA of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, is to begin accepting animals during the first week of May. The building was donated by the county, replacing the Ruth A. Steinert (Tamaqua) SPCA, which was closed when neighbors—who did not object when the building was formerly used as a slaughterhouse—complained about barking dogs. Diane Reppy remains as the SPCA manager.

Oberlin Aid to Strays in Distress is trying to raise \$40,000 by June with which to build a new shelter on land leased from the city of Oberlin, Ohio. Founded in 1991 by Oberlin College student Shari Kalina, and staffed in large part by about 40 student volunteers, the no-kill organization took over the former city pound, has adopted out about 100 dogs per year, and "is less expensive than having a dog warden," says city manager Gary Goddard. It is having to relocate, however, due to barking complaints.

The Hinsdale Humane Society, in Hinsdale, Illinois, is to reopen during Be Kind To Animals Week, May 7-13, after undergoing \$250,000 worth of renovations funded largely by \$160,000 inherited from Chicago dog rescuer Charles Hillinger, who died in 1993 at age 81. Hillinger had no known association with the shelter, executive director Diana Aldridge told the *Chicago Tribune*.

A newly formed nonprofit group called Friends of the Minneapolis Animal Shelter, headed by Jim Davis and Kathy Dole and based at the shelter, is seeking to raise \$420,000 seed money toward the construction of a new shelter to replace the often criticized current facility.

Losing one no-kill shelter with the impending relocation of Sav-A-Pet from Palatine, Illinois, to the Greyslake area, local rescuers have formed a fostering group called the Buddy Foundation, in hopes of founding another no-kill shelter in Arlington Heights when and if they can attract a donation of appropriate property. Meanwhile, the group will stress adoption promotion, say founders Elaine Kiriluck and Jan Bierman.

and attorney Marjorie Muirden, necessitating cutbacks in rescue services until they can recruit and train more help.

Pets In Need, of Ringwood, Illinois, a no-kill shelter opened in 1991 after five years as a fostering group, must tell a judge by May 26 what it plans to do in response to a closure order due to zoning violations, founder and director Pat Klimo says. The 150 animals in residence must be relocated by October 1. According to Klimo, operating a for-profit breeding and/or boarding kennel at the site would be legal; operating as a nonprofit is not.

Miscellany

Quick, concerted objections from the Minnesota Animal Control Association and state humane societies on March 30 killed a bill introduced into the state legislature only days before which would have stripped cruelty investigators and humane officers of law enforcement power. Similar bills are still alive in California and Nevada.

Charlestown, Illinois, on April 2 banned keeping animals other than dogs and cats within 1,000 feet of someone else's property unless the keeper has a state or federal permit to keep the species, or is a veterinarian.

Two different pairs or trios of night-roaming domestic dogs are believed to have killed at least 54 sheep and a goat in an eight-month series of attacks on separate groups of contiguous properties in northwestern Chester County, Pennsylvania. The dogs have been seen, but not identified.

Hollywood, Florida, requires developers to relocate any wildlife found on their land before beginning construction. Taking effect March 1, the Animal Relocation Ordinance was sponsored by city commissioner Cathleen Anerson, founder and president of Animal Birth Control for Broward Inc., a 25-year-old neuter subsidy group.

In Defense of Animals director of investigations Doll Stanley-Brancsum and her husband Louis in mid-March retrieved 78 "spent" laying hens who escaped from cages and were left behind when 300,000 others were sent to slaughter at a Tyson plant in Arkansas. One hen died a week later. The rest are now permanent guests at the Brancsum rescue farm in Grenada, Mississippi.

Gallery, Soho, New York.

May 6 and May 8: United Animal Nations Emergency Animal Rescue Service training seminars in Manchester, Connecticut. Info: 203-646-5033 or 916-429-2457.

May 7-13: 80th annual American Humane Assn. "Be Kind to Animals Week." Info: 303-792-9900.

May 16: Heal-Pac Lobby Day, Lansing, Michigan. Info: 810-887-2184.

May 20: "Animal-Kind 1995," humane ed. workshops hosted by United Federation of Teachers Humane Ed. Committee, New York City. Info: 718-797-2925.

May 21: Walk For Animals, Borderland State Park, Sharon, Massachusetts, to benefit the Neponset Valley Humane Society. Info: 617-341-2675.

May 22-23: Chemical capture certification training, Criminal Justice Institute, St. Petersburg, Florida. Info: 813-341-4500.

Ketch-All
(paid through 10/95)

California predators under fire

LOS ANGELES—A bill to reinstate recreational puma hunting in California, due for a mid-April vote in the state assembly, got a series of media boosts when a single puma killed both a German shepherd and an 80-pound Akita within six days near La Crescenta in mid-March; mountain biker Scott Fike, 27, fought off another puma on March 20 after being attacked on a trail outside Altadena; and a third puma killed 37 sheep the night of March 31, in an attack without known parallel. Most pumas kill what they're going to eat, eat it, and then, like other cats, go to sleep.

All three pumas were tracked and killed by state wardens. Only nine humans have even been

attacked by pumas within California, but three of the attacks came in the past two years, and the two before the attack on Fike were fatal. Recreational puma hunting was banned by referendum in 1990.

The Los Angeles City Council meanwhile ended a moratorium on coyote trapping within city limits, voting 12-0 on March 15 to authorize the Department of Animal Regulation to hire five animal control officers to help homeowners deal with alleged coyote problems. The homeowners may have traps set for coyotes for a \$200 fee. "Our hope is that if we hire these people, we won't have to set traps and will educate people," said councillor Jackie Goldberg.

Tomahawk ad (May/June/July)

WILDLIFE

Wolves

Mandated by the state legislature to implement predator control before cutting either the length of the moose and caribou season or the bag limits, the Alaska Board of Game during the week of March 27 ordered the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to prepare wolf control plans for much of the inhabited part of the state by October. It also extended the bear season in two regions by four weeks, while upping the bag limit from one bear per four years to one bear every year. "It's impossible to say what the ADF&G will present," said Sandra Arnold of the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. "We also don't know if the Board approves a wolf control plan in October, if that means control will begin immediately or in October 1996. The bear control measures are proving controversial. ADF&G refuses to comment, but are clearly concerned because all their reports indicate that bears are already being killed above sustainable levels, especially in Unit 13," which is the heavily hunted Nelchina Basin.

Minnesota is reportedly considering seeking federal permission to institute a hunting and trapping season on wolves. "If you look ahead five or 10 years and the wolves keep increasing, there will be an increase in animosity" from hunters and ranchers, says wolf expert L. David Mech. "If you allow the public to participate in harvesting the wolf, it tends to defuse people who happen to be antagonistic." (Like in Alaska?)

Nine wolves released at two sites on March 21 to begin the long-awaited restoration of wolves to Yellowstone National Park ventured just a quarter mile in their first week at liberty from

Primates

Chimps in Gombe National Park, Tanzania, annually eat 20% of the red colubus monkeys who live within their range, reports University of Southern California anthropologist Craig Stanford, after three years of observation. They typically seize and eat colubus infants, in front of the screaming mothers. "Chimps eat a tremendous amount of meat compared to what we thought," Stanford says. "During the dry season the adults average a quarter-pound of monkey meat a day. That's as much meat as is obtained by tribes of foraging human hunter-gatherers. Sex is about power," he adds, "so far as the chimps are concerned, and meat is one of the things they use to achieve it. The males hunt only when the females are sexually receptive, and do not increase their own intake of meat. The females, in turn, beg for the meat and often do not receive it until after mating. Indeed, those who receive the most meat produce more offspring that survive," a phenomenon Stanford attributes more to political status within the fratricidal chimp social structure than to any nutritional factor.

Four mountain gorillas including a nursing adult female, an eight-year-old male, and two juvenile males were killed by baby-snatching poachers in the Bwindi region of Uganda on March 18, where gorillas have been habituated to human presence to encourage tourism. On April 12 a baby gorilla believed to be the one taken was intercepted along with two pig-tailed macaques, five leaf monkeys, a macaca mulatta monkey, and a yellow monkey at the Manila airport, after a flight to the Philippines from Karachi, Pakistan. X-rays discovered six of the

ESA ROUNDUP

Senator Slade Gorton (R-Washington)

on April 12 promised a gathering of timber industry executives in Stevenson, Washington, that he would soon introduce a bill to replace the present Endangered Species Act mandate to save all species with a process by which by a political appointee—probably the Secretary of the Interior—would decide whether and how a species should be saved. The bill was drafted by the National Endangered Species Reform Coalition, representing 185 corporations and so-called wise-use groups, who gave Gorton's re-election campaign \$34,000 last fall.

California governor Pete Wilson

on March 19 suspended the state endangered species act to enable residents of sensitive habitat to clean up damage from late winter flooding. The edict allowed drainage, dredging, levee-building, and removal of brush.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals, already involved in training the Nicaraguan and Honduran armed forces to do wildlife law enforcement, in March expanded the tutorials to El Salvador.

Eight radio-collared Texas cougars

were released circa March 30 in the Everglades, to genetically replenish the closely related Florida

the holding pens where they were kept for a six-week acclimation. A group released in central Idaho, however, reportedly formed a pack right off. "We think we'll have cubs this spring," U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokesperson Ed Bangs said.

Africa

Insisting it has twice as many elephants now as in 1988, despite evidence that it may have fewer, Zimbabwe on March 20 put 8,000 elephants up for sale, expecting to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars. That's 10% of the national herd according to the official figures; 20% by other estimates.

Rwanda has redesignated as pasture 210,000 acres of Akagera National Park and a neighboring hunting preserve. The park, formerly occupying 10% of the nation, has been overrun by about 200,000 refugees from ethnic fighting, together with their cattle. Wildlife has either fled or been eaten.

Tiger traffic

As Japan chaired the March 22 meeting of the Standing Committee of the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, held in Geneva, Switzerland, the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency released findings that 42% of traditional medicine stores in Tokyo and 48% of such stores in Yokohama still stock tiger parts, though CITES banned traffic in tiger parts in 1975.

monkeys had suspicious objects in their stomachs, possibly caches of illegal drugs which will require surgery to remove. Alleged traffickers Khan Tasheem Alim, Jawaid Aslam, Khan Ahamad Nawas, Mohammed Islam, and Satish Kumal were arrested after one of them tried to bribe a Philippine customs inspector. The animals were taken to the Wildlife Rescue Center at the Ninoy Aquino Memorial Park in Quezon City.

The Kuwait daily newspaper *al-Watan* claimed on April 10 that a Filipina maid narrowly escaped rape by an "Ethiopian ape," probably a chimpanzee, who had escaped three days before from a neighbor's menagerie and attacked her from behind as she did her laundry. The ape abandoned lustful thoughts when someone tossed him a banana.

Advanced intellect?

Three janitors at the elementary school in Ceres, California, on April 6 sprayed a gopher with several cans of a freezing solvent used to clean gum off floors, hoping the animal would freeze to death. Instead the fumes exploded when one janitor lit a cigarette, injuring all three of them plus 16 youngsters. The gopher survived and was later released into a field.

South African game ranger Vusimusi Simelane on April 11 thought he'd netted an antelope, pounced on the beast, and discovered he had an angry leopard. The leopard bit his face and chased him up a tree, but fled when other rangers arrived.

panther population. The project is underwritten by the sale of a special license plate and a grant from the Natl. Parks and Conservation Assn.

The Biodiversity Legal Foundation and the Greater Ecosystem Alliance on March 27 filed notice of intent to sue Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for failing to add the lynx to the Endangered Species List. In a separate but simultaneous case, the USFWS agreed with the BDLF that the Preble's Meadow jumping mouse, native to Colorado and Wyoming, warrants consideration for Endangered Species protection.

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Birds

"The only good great horned owl is a dead one," says Minnesota state senator Charles Berg, who has introduced a bill to allow free range turkey farmers to catch the owls with padded leghold traps—which can easily crush an owl's foot—as well as a bill to allow mourning dove hunting. Letters asking that either bill be vetoed if passed may be sent to Governor Arne Carlson, 130 Capitol, St. Paul, MN 55155.

"Small nature preserves, which work fine for preserving plants, don't work for migratory birds," Illinois Natural History Survey scientist Scott Robinson says, after an extensive study of the relationship between vanishing songbirds and cowbirds, who lay their faster-hatching eggs in other birds' nests. While cowbirds are a short-term cause of species decline, the longterm cause is shrinking habitat, as deep forests where the songbirds are safe give way to the edge habitat that cowbirds prefer.

The Hudson Valley Raptor Center, of Stanfordville, New York, has received \$32,000 in grants from the New York Natural Heritage Trust, the Simpson Charitable Trust, and the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, enabling major expansion. Releasing about 60% of the birds it treats, the center nonetheless houses more than 130 birds of prey, representing 20 species, who for various reasons require permanent care.

At deadline the fate of Florida's endangered species program appeared to depend on negotiations between the state House and Senate budget committees. Once common, white ibises declined 64% statewide and 90% in southern Florida during the 20 years before 1993, when the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission moved to protect the wading bird's habitat. That outraged farmers and developers, on whose behalf Florida Senate Republicans Charles Bronson of Satellite Beach and Robert Harden of Fort Walton Beach introduced legislation withholding \$2 million in nongame wildlife research funding from the GFWFC until and unless the white ibis protections are dropped.

The arrival of humans in Polynesia, Micronesia, the Hawaiian Islands, the Galapagos Islands, New Zealand, and on Easter Island, bringing with them pigs, rats, and dogs, caused the extinction of as many as 1,600 bird species, New York State Museum paleontologist David Steadman reported recently in *Science*. Just three bird species died out in the Galapagos before humans came, but two dozen have gone extinct in the 460 years since, Steadman said. Deforestation caused by humans wiped out 29 of the 30 bird species native to Easter Island, along with 44 species in New Zealand.

Animal Collecting

Camille Hankins, 41, of Chester, South Carolina, was fined \$200 on March 22 for ill-treatment of animals at her Animal Save no-kill shelter, closed last June through the intervention of PETA and K. Jones, editor of the Charlotte-based animal newspaper *The Animality*. Eighty animals were taken from Hankins' trailer home and yard, of whom about a dozen were euthanized due to illness. Hankins, a former PETA volunteer, told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** she was framed because of PETA's opposition to no-kill shelters, after she made the mistake of asking PETA to help her with adoptions. Responded Jones, "I testified to the conditions I saw several months before the arrest. I also testified that I tried to get Hankins to give me some of the animals so that I could get them to a vet, care for them, and adopt them out. I at one time offered to take them all. She invited PETA down a few weeks later. I think the town of Chester gave her a fair and just trial, and had no problem proving her guilt."

Self-described "bunny lady" Janice Andrea Taylor, 52, of San Marcos, California, was charged on March 29 with 34 counts of felony cruelty and six misdemeanors after San Diego Department of Animal Control Lt. Heidi Warden found 232 sick and injured rabbits on her premises, along with the remains of 54 others, and evidence she had been selling them, while investigating a complaint that her dog had bitten a neighbor. Her bed, TV, and other personal effects were found in the same shed.

Seizing 93 starving horses, goats, and rabbits in late March from a farm near Nunica, Michigan, authorities plan to charge the owner and his daughter with cruelty—once they find them.

Religion

The Miami county courthouse maintenance staff has created a "Voodoo Squad" to pick up the dead chickens, goats, and other relics of Santeria sacrifice found there each morning, remnants of Caribbean immigrants' attempts to influence justice. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June 1993 that municipalities may not ban Santeria, but they may enforce nondiscriminatory restrictions on it for reasons of health, sanitation, and prevention of cruelty to animals.

The Rabbi Mayer Krucfeld, assistant director of supervision for Star K Kosher Certification, of Baltimore, recently spent two days in La Jara, Colorado, explaining how to start a kosher slaughterhouse to about 50 potential investors. Currently the westernmost kosher slaughterhouse in the U.S. is Empire Meats, of Iowa.

An anti-wise use Weiss guy

SANTA ROSA, California—"In a former life," says Larry Weiss, "I practiced criminal law for 18 years. Eventually I grew tired of making the streets safe for drug dealers. Then, in 1985, I providentially encountered a book, Peter Singer's *Animal Liberation*, which convinced me that I could remain a lawyer and be proud of my work."

Ten years later, Weiss grins, "I mostly defend dog criminals. Or dogs who are accused of criminal behavior," he corrects himself. "Especially those of whom it is suspected they might eventually commit a crime because someone thinks they resemble a dog that might have a criminal disposition under some other circumstance."

As one of the few practicing lawyers to make animal rights law a fulltime

Weiss takes an advisory role with the Sea Wolf Alliance, a one-person organization run by Jeanne McVey from a boat in Sausalito, California—or out of her knapsack, anywhere from Anchorage, Alaska, to Cairo, Egypt.

"Jeanne is doing an incredible job," Weiss testifies, "trying to protect wolves, coyotes, foxes, and other predators who are the subjects of continuous extermination campaigns. The Animal Damage Control program is still alive and well, folks, with an annual budget of \$31 million. Anyone interested should call Jeanne at 415-331-5606. I guarantee she will put you to work."

Berkeley grad

Born in Chicago, Weiss earned his

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Fur & leather

The European Community is to ban the import of furs possibly obtained via leghold trapping, after several delays, on January 1, 1996. However, warn the World Society for the Protection of Animals and the Animal Alliance of Canada, trappers hope to evade the ban by setting "humane standards" for leghold trapping—and have also asked the U.S. and Canada to challenge the ban as an alleged violation of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, which bars the use of standards regulating how an item is produced to obstruct imports. Letters urging the EC to stand by the ban may be sent to Ms. Ritt Bjerregaard, Commissioner for the Environment, Rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium; and Mickey Kantor, U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th St. NW, Washington, DC 20506.

"As result of an intense market-ing effort by the fur industry," *The New York Times* reported on April 11, "fur turned up in more than a dozen shows in Bryant Park last week. Much of the fur was provided to designers at cost by Saga Furs," the Scandinavian marketing consortium, which "also paid manufacturers a fee to help absorb the expense of producing the garments." In other words, unable to give furs away, Saga paid fashion firms to take it.

National Milk Processors Promotion Board ads showing female celebrities with milk mustaches appear to be modeled after recent fur ad campaigns, including the use of androgenous symbolism, Joan Rivers posing in an apparent leopard jacket, and Lauren Bacall above the words, "I'm often called a legend," in a pose calling to mind American Legend mink ads. If the campaign does for milk what the originals did for fur, the industry could soon be down the toilet.

After a two-year shakeout, alligator hide prices have doubled—a boon to alligator farmers who remained in the business. However, if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approves a proposal to reclassify the yacare caiman as non-endangered, hides from Brazil, Columbia, and Paraguay could soon flood the market.

specialty, Weiss earns a fraction of typical lawyers' wages in an animal-friendly office that looks like a den. He answers his own telephone, does his own typing, raised three daughters as a single parent, and at age 52 still plays hardball for fun and exercise.

"Second base," he says. "I'm a glove man. But I'm thinking about switching to softball this year. The reflexes are going."

Swings the bat

Weiss hits a bit, too, on behalf of organizations including Sonoma People for Animal Rights, as an active member since 1987; the Marin Humane Society, a client since 1990; and the Sea Wolf Alliance. He has represented national groups at times, including In Defense of Animals and Last Chance for Animals, but his enthusiasm is for work at the local level. "I like being part of a small grassroots group," he explains, "and I recommend it to everyone, especially those who have only seen animal rights as filtered through the large national groups and their mailers. Small, local groups exemplify democracy in action, and to watch people become vegetarian or go out on the picket line for the first time is truly inspirational."

One of SPAR's most successful projects is monitoring local cruelty cases. "We attend, *en masse*, all cruelty cases that go to court," Weiss says. "One case we lobbied concerned a person who had intentionally split his dog's head open with an ax. This case resulted in a felony conviction; an eight-month jail sentence actually served, not suspended; plus 250 hours of community service and a three-year probation. That's the kind of sentence all animal abusers should get, and an example of the kind of impact a local group can have."

For Marin Humane, Weiss coordinates the California Animal Legal Library. "This program assists in cruelty prosecutions," he states, "by maintaining a pleadings file and list of competent forensic experts, including veterinarians and humane officers. We have acquired specialized information about how to prosecute animal collectors, which we make available to prosecutors throughout the country upon request."

law degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1966. Classmates included Mario Savio, whose 1964 speech in defense of civil liberties from the top of a patrol car in Sproul Plaza touched off a decade of campus protest. "The moral persuasiveness of any movement depends upon people who are willing to put their lives on the line," Weiss observes. "I firmly believe we must not lose our connection to the streets."

Defending activists is accordingly another big part of his practice. One favorite case came in 1989, when "I was one of two attorneys representing activists who went to Grizzly Island in Solano County to protest the tule elk hunt. They scrambled through swamps in the middle of the night to get there, since the sole bridge had been closed to everyone but hunters. Twenty-eight people were arrested. Twenty-four were convicted, and four were acquitted in the course of a six-day trial. I went to see Doll Stanley, Lise Giraud, and Brian Boury while they were serving their sentence. We touched hands on opposite sides of the glass and all of us laughed. I knew then that we had won. The animal abusers and their agents can arrest you and put you in jail, but they can't defeat you unless you let them."

Also in 1989, Weiss represented several activists who were threatened with jail for refusing to testify before a federal grand jury that was looking into the 1986 arson that leveled an almost-finished laboratory building at the U.C. Davis.

"If you take the number of people who have been jailed for refusing to testify before federal grand juries, six, and compare it to the number of indictments, one, and convictions, none to date, the conclusion is inescapable," Weiss insists, "that jailing witnesses, rather than investigation for the purpose of indictment, is a major goal of such bodies. Many well-intentioned people have been intimidated by the grand juries," at least eight of which have been empaneled to look into alleged Animal Liberation Front activity during the past six years. "They become afraid to be involved with people who were subpoenaed, since it might lead to their own subpoena, or to give

Larry Weiss, in front of one plant he doesn't worry about. (K.B.)

money to a subpoenaed organization, because their names might appear on a list somewhere."

In 1991 Weiss asked for half an hour to address the annual Summit for the Animals, a gathering of national animal rights group leaders, "about grand juries and their imminent use against the movement. I was told that there was no time on the agenda, and that I couldn't speak anyway because I was not the head of an organization that had existed for a sufficient number of years. But I noticed that at least two hours at that conference were dedicated to detailing how to raise funds. This was discouraging to me because it indicated the priorities of the leadership."

Weiss may have overestimated the influence of the grand juries in everything but their apparent effect in slowing down the ALF, which struck more often in 1987 and 1988 than in all the years since combined. But representing activists who refuse to testify continues to keep him busy in courtrooms from Spokane to Phoenix.

Meanwhile, with wise-use wiseguys running amok in legislative bodies, Weiss sees hope in the courtroom. "Laws are shaped by courts as well as by legislation," he reminds. "Often the courts will intervene when an issue is too hot for legislators. I feel the future of animal law lies both with legislation and court victories. When you have a *simpatico* legislature, then legislation is the easier path. However, the current legislative tenor tells me that we will be lucky to hold on to what we already have in the way of humane and environmental legislation. Judges, being appointed for longer terms or for life, are less responsive to the politics of the moment. In political climates such as exists at present, that is an advantage. Consequently, I predict more emphasis on court decisions during the next two years of Republican hegemony."

—Merritt Clifton

COURT CALENDAR

Humane Enforcement

American SPCA humane enforcement chief Robert O'Neill led the biggest cockfighting raid in U.S. history on March 25, arresting 289 alleged spectators and seven alleged organizers in a Bronx theatre building modified so that the cockpit could be disguised as a boxing ring at a moment's notice. Ninety cocks were seized for euthanasia, along with 20 dead cocks. The ASPCA had already made 240 arrests and seized 1,550 cocks in a series of previous raids that began in June 1994. The raids caused *The New York Times* to editorially demand that judges begin imposing the fines for cockfighting of up to \$25,000 and prison terms of up to four years that New York law allows, instead of the token fines of about \$200 that are usually given.

Scotland Yard on March 19 arrested six men and an eight-year-old boy in the first cockfighting raid in Britain since 1985. Another dozen suspects escaped.

Seventy-eight people arrested at a March 11 high stakes dogfight by the San Francisco Department of Animal Care and Control were arraigned on March 24 for felony cruelty to animals. At least 30 defendants, claiming poverty, requested public defenders. Their applications were to be reviewed beginning on April 24. Meanwhile, SFDACC is seeking suspects who allegedly held another dogfight on March 28, then buried alive two dogs who lost.

Robert Homrighous, 42, of Oakland Park, Florida, pleaded no contest on March 22 to burying nine newborn Rottweiler puppies alive on January 15, in a case that made national headlines when Sheba, the mother, broke off her chain and dug them up. Six survived, and have been adopted out, as was Sheba, by the Broward County Animal Shelter. Homrighous could get up to a year in jail.

Gerald Jerome, 51, of Los Angeles, was arrested on March 28 by Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation officers Eric Gardner and Annetta Vernon for trapping without a permit, suspicion of cruelty to animals, and possession of four pounds of marijuana. Investigators called by a neighbor who found an injured cat in a trap discovered 13 steel-jawed leghold traps set on the property, one of which held a badly decomposed opossum. The Los Angeles legal response is in distinct contrast to the failure of the city of Moscow, Idaho, to prosecute professional fur trapper **Curt McLam**, one of whose leghold traps, illegally placed within city limits, injured a cat belonging to Tim and Kenna Eaton on January 4 of this year. Tim Eaton requested that charges be brought on January 10.

Legislation In Support of Animals on March 15 honored Teresa Daigle of Port Sulphur, Louisiana, with a Golden Heart Award for courage and diligence in securing the prosecution of neighbor Kurt Stewart for shooting her dog with a crossbow, in front of her three children, ages 10 to 15. Stewart on March 14 pleaded guilty,

Crimes against humans

A small bomb damaged the U.S. Forest Service office in Carson City, Nevada, on March 31, days after the Justice Department sued to overturn a Nye County ordinance claiming authority over all public lands. Under the ordinance, Nye County Commissioner Richard Carver reopened a road closed by the Forest Service, enabling ranchers to pasture cattle on federal land where grazing had been halted to prevent erosion. Similar ordinances have been adopted by at least 35 counties in western states, and are reportedly pending in 35 more. The bombing paralleled the Halloween 1993 bombing of the Bureau of Land Management office in Reno.

Lindy and Michael Chamberlain, formerly husband and wife, of Sidney, Australia, on March 23 petitioned Northern Territory coroner John Lowndes to formally rule that a dingo killed their daughter Azaria, who vanished from a campground at Uluru, then called Ayers Rock, in August 1980. Her remains have never been found. Lindy Chamberlain, who served three years for allegedly murdering Azaria, claimed to have seen a dingo running away from their tent with her. Michael served 18 months as an accessory. Their convictions were reversed on appeal in 1988.

Chicago police on March 22 arrested but refused to identify a 51-year-old man they said they had suspected since 1970 of having placed a dynamite bomb in stable owner George Jayne's Cadillac back in June 1965. The bomb killed Cheryl Lynn Rude, 22, when she tried to move the car. Jayne's brother Silas was suspected of hiring the bombing, but was never charged. George Jayne was shot dead in 1970; Silas Jayne served eight years in prison for ordering that hit. The arrest in the Rude case developed out of an investigation into killing horses for insurance money, which also led to charges against alleged gigolo Richard Bailey in connection with the 1977 disappearance of Helen Vorhees Brach, and against Kenneth Hansen, Silas Jayne's former stable hand, for the rape/murders of Robert Peterson, 14, and John and Anton Schuessler, 13 and 11, in 1955. Brach is remembered via the Brach Foundation, a major patron of animal protection groups and zoos. Police hint that the probe may also lead to charges in the 1966 disappearances of Ann Miller, 21, Patty Blough, 19, and Renee Bruhl, 20; Miller and Bruhl also rode at George Jayne's stable. Twenty of the 21 people charged only in the horse-killings and related

High Court undoes transport victories

LONDON—The British High Court on April 12 reignited the five-month controversy over the export of livestock to European veal finishers and slaughterhouses with a ruling that Dover, Plymouth, and Coventry had no jurisdiction to ban live animal transport through their docks and airports. The High Court rapped the civic authorities for acting out of "narrow self-interest" in a "surrender to mob rule."

The ruling undoes at a stroke the major gain from a struggle backed by up to 92% of the public, according to independent polls.

Anti-live export demonstrations commenced in December 1994 after the European Union failed to adopt rules of humane transport, and erupted into rioting at several sites when, blockaded at ports, cattle exporters turned to flying animals to market. The conflict claimed six human lives: two British livestock handlers and three Algerian crew members aboard a chartered Air Algerie Boeing 737 that crashed December 21 while returning from a night run to the Netherlands, plus demonstrator Jill Phipps, 31, who was crushed beneath a cattle truck on February 1, leaving behind a nine-year-old son and a private animal sanctuary. Violence continued into April on both sides, as the Animal Liberation Front and pro-live export goons hit back and forth at each other with vandalism and beatings.

A 21-month EU deadlock over humane transport rules continues, as northern nations favor journey limits of from six to 24 hours between off-truck rests, while Mediterranean nations generally oppose any limits, arguing that they would be left at an economic disadvantage.

Activism

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 3-0 on March 24 that as Judge Harry Pregerson wrote for the majority, Congress in passing the Endangered Species Act "intended to allow citizen suits to enjoin an imminent threat of harm to protected wildlife." The ruling, which has the effect of strengthening the ESA pending anticipated amendment by Congress, reinstates a case filed by the Forest Conservation Council against a proposed 40-acre clearcut in Lane County, Oregon, on grounds it might harm spotted owl habitat.

Rock star and hunting advocate Ted Nugent on April 3 agreed to pay Fund for Animals national director Heidi Prescott \$75,000 in legal fees and damages for having accused her of sexual licentiousness during a November 19, 1992 morning talk show on WRIF, a Detroit radio station.

drawing a 30-day suspended jail term, six months on probation, a fine of \$100 and court costs, and \$240 restitution to Daigle for veterinary bills. The dog survived.

Massachusetts Appellate Court judge George Jacobs ruled on March 22 that condominium regulations allowing pets inside units but not allowing them to walk through common areas are illogical, unjust, and in the specific case of Rhonda and William Dean vs. the Granby Heights Condominium Association, amounted to an improperly adopted ban on pet ownership. The ruling could overturn many such defacto bans on pets around the state.

Police officers Greg Trantham, 27, and John Overstreet, 32, of Bayou Vista, Texas, were acquitted on March 28 of allegedly using a stray Lhasa Apso dog for target practice in April 1994. Jurors said that although they felt the two were guilty, in the absence of a corpse they lacked the evidence to convict. The case drew national note as result of Internet postings.

Investigating his first animal-related case in 25 years on the force, Akron police officer Tom Miksch made headlines on March 30 for recovering a Moluccan cockatoo, stolen March 5 from the Two Turtles Pet Center. The bird was store owner Mary Kay Roediger's mascot. Charged with the theft was Gary L. Peavler, 39, who had 90 previous adult arrests, leading to 42 convictions for assault, petty theft, and gross sexual imposition. A second suspect was sought.

High school principal Jerry Slyker, of Hardin, Montana, has been sentenced by a Bighorn County court to donate \$350 to Help Every Pet, a local animal welfare group, for gassing five cats obtained through free-to-good-home ads last October and having students dissect them, including at home gatherings where they were boiled down to bones. "We are trying to convince the prosecutor in neighboring Yellowstone County to press theft charges," said Bill Dollinger of Friends of Animals. "Since some of the cats were stolen (via alleged fraud) from Yellowstone County, and since that county was under a rabies quarantine at the time, Slyker could also be prosecuted for violating the quarantine." Letters in support of the FoA petition may be sent to Dennis Paxinos, County Attorney, Yellowstone County Courthouse, Billings, MT 59101.

Bill Nooter

fraud have already pleaded guilty.

Domestic mayhem

Leland Leo Brady, 36, of Ashland City, Tennessee, was charged on March 23 with aggravated criminal trespass, aggravated assault, false imprisonment, theft, and cruelty to animals on March 23 after holding his estranged wife hostage for 36 hours and killing her cat to keep her terrorized.

Authorities in two other recent cases—including women—were tragically slow to recognize the behavioral connection between habitual violence toward animals and domestic violence, perhaps because the habitual violence toward animals in each instance occurred through mostly legal hunting.

Last November, Maine state trooper Jeff Parola died in a car crash while speeding to intervene as **Lynwood Doughty Jr.,** of Sidney, Maine—previously convicted of domestic assault in Massachusetts—threatened to kill former girlfriend Robin Dore, 26, and her entire family. Waterville District Court Judge Rae Ann French fined Doughty \$300 for that, plus \$200 for poaching a deer. On March 26, Doughty allegedly tried to disfigure Dore by forcing her face against a woodstove, burning her arms so severely as to require skin grafts; threatened to kill her daughter Lizzie, age 4; and broke her mother Randa Christy's jaw when Christy came to the rescue. The local bail commissioner set bail at \$40,000 double surety or \$4,000 cash. Judge French, at request of defense lawyer Pam Ames, cut it to \$1,000 cash—which Doughty's mother immediately posted. Freed, Doughty found Dore within 15 minutes and according to police wounded her with his hunting rifle. "I'm going to shoot you once and wait for your mother and baby," he purportedly told her. "I'm going to kill your mother. I'm going to slice your baby's throat so you can hear her die, and then I'm going to kill you and kill myself." Instead Christy created a diversion, enabling Dore to escape.

Charged with the July 1993 hunting knife thrill killing and mutilation of Hillary Norskog, 13, **Steven Pfiel, 18,** was freed from jail on a \$1 million bond posted by his father, Chicago-area meatpacking executive Roger Pfiel. On March 18, Pfiel surrendered to police in Crete Township, Illinois, turned in the family arsenal of rifles and shotguns, and confessed to the Norskog murder as well as to bludgeoning his brother Roger Jr., 19, with a baseball bat as he slept the night of March 17, then slashing his throat with a meat cleaver and sexually assaulting an unidentified female family member. His parents were not home.

The case was to go to trial on April 6. The station settled out of court last year for what the Fund called "a sizable sum."

Pet dealers Vernon L. Diggins III, 27, and Vernon L. Diggins Jr., 46, of Lakemont Altoona, Pennsylvania, were charged with battery on March 27 in Arlington Heights, Illinois, for taking the film from a 26-year-old Harper College journalism student and smashing her camera after she photographed turtles they were selling at the Arlington International Racecourse and asked them if the turtles might carry salmonella.

West Palm Beach federal court judge Kenneth Ryskamp on March 31 ordered Worldwide Primates Inc. and attorney Paul Bass to each pay Shirley McGreal of the International Primate Protection League \$25,000 for filing a lawsuit "without adequate research and development of the facts" against her in August 1990. McGreal had asked the U.S. government to probe Worldwide Primates owner Matthew Block's role in arranging the February 1990 attempted smuggling of six baby orangutans from Indonesia to Russia. Block eventually pleaded guilty to felony conspiracy in that case, and was sentenced to serve 13 months in jail—but is still at large pending resolution of an appeal.

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REVIEWS

The Wellman Procedure: A Surgical Technique for the Complete Gonadectomy in the Dog and Cat, promoted by William K. Wellman, DVM, c/o All Creatures Veterinary Surgery (70234 Phoenix, South Haven, MI 49090; 616-637-3929).

According to William K. Wellman, who advances "The Wellman Procedure" with mailers, a videotape, and online postings, "This revolutionary approach to spaying and neutering cats and dogs promotes less invasive surgery, far less time in surgery, much shorter recovery time, outpatient surgery for the pet, increased safety as result of the above, lowered costs for pet owners, and higher productivity for veterinarians." Thus, Wellman argues, widespread adoption of his procedure could mean, "The possibility of millions less unwanted animals, the possibility of greater affordability, and greater reduction in the mounting costs of animal control."

Calling to introduce himself, Wellman further claimed that despite the potential benefits of his procedure, he hadn't been able to get the veterinary establishment to take a serious look at it.

ANIMAL PEOPLE did. We sent Wellman's materials to the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, one of the best regarded and most innovative veterinary schools in the world. Three faculty members reviewed it, including Mike Pavletic, DVM, who teaches veterinary surgery; Andrew Rowan, Ph.D., head of the Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy; and Franklin Loew, DVM, Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Ovariectomy

"The Wellman procedure is nothing more than an ovariectomy," reported Pavletic. "Individual ovaries are removed through two separate incisions created lateral to the mammary chain. Each skin incision is approximately two centimeters long. The veterinarian gains entry into the abdominal cavity

would appear, however, that Dr. Wellman prefers small patients, those very patients most amenable to quick spays.

"Ovariectomy," Pavletic continued, "has been performed experimentally in animals before Dr. Wellman discovered it. The primary reason why it has not been advocated by veterinarians is the concern that the retained uterus could later become infected (pyometra) or fill with mucous or other fluids secreted by the uterine lining (mucometra). Both conditions can be life-threatening, and are preventable by the standard ovariectomy spay. Because these conditions may not develop until later in the patient's life, it would be somewhat presumptuous to state that all pets sterilized by the Wellman ovariectomy are happy and healthy following this procedure, without long-term follow-up.

No follow-up

"If Dr. Wellman has performed this procedure in thousands of small animals, where are his published results?", Pavletic wondered. "It is necessary to perform a long-term follow-up study to determine what the risks are in retaining the entire uterine tract. These results should be published in a refereed journal, to establish the safety, efficacy, and complication rate of this technique. Testimonials provided by Dr. Wellman, happy owners, and shelter employees cannot be used as the sole guideline for advocating this procedure.

"If you have a revolving-door neuter clinic for destitute owners," Pavletic concluded, "who accept the potential risks of a retained uterus in their pet, then this procedure may be a logical option." However, he cautioned, "It also must be noted that early

The Monkey Wars

by Deborah Blum

Oxford University Press (200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016), 1994. 306 pages, cloth, \$25.00.

Based on a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative series published in 1991 by the *Sacramento Bee*, *The Monkey Wars* is the fairest, most comprehensive look yet at primate research and related protest. Author Deborah Blum gained access to many of the most controversial researchers and laboratories in the United States. She describes from first-hand observation the exploratory brain surgery of Stuart Zola-Morgan, for instance, combining appreciation of his findings with discussion of the moral issues that have led the activist community to brand him "Dr. Zola-Morbid."

Those who hold black-and-white positions, of whatever nature, will find Blum's work disturbing. On the one hand, she demonstrates that whatever else vivisection may be, it is *not* scientific fraud, as the disciples of Hans Reusch would have it, and is often quite scientifically productive. On the other, Blum shreds the contention of the scientific establishment that it is quite capable of policing itself, with no help from activists. In chapters pertaining to the Ebola virus and other monkey-transmitted zoonotic diseases, perhaps including AIDS, Blum shows how risks taken in the hope of advancing science have had potentially catastrophic consequences. Extensive discussion of the psychological experiments of the late Harry Harlow suggest that whatever benefits they produced in better appreciating the importance of maternal nurturing could just as well have been achieved through case studies of abused and deprived human children, of whom there have unfortunately never been a shortage. While showing through interviews and anecdote that primate vivisection is for the most part well-meaning people who do take various ethical

camouflage has increased public apprehension about animal experimentation—and has prevented appreciation of significant improvement in primate care during the past decade, to the point that as one of Blum's sources explains, "good" by the standards of a decade ago might now be considered "marginal," or even "poor," and marginal by the standards of a decade ago is now utterly unacceptable.

Lecture

Blum concludes with a stern lecture to all concerned: "In the last decade of the 20th century, it is clear that the future will continue to be shaped by science and technology. To function in that world, people need to understand the forces changing their lives. That means scientists must learn that their job description has changed. They do not work only in a laboratory; they work for and with the rest of us, with all the risk that entails...They must learn that if science is worth explaining and defending at all, it must be worth explaining and defending not just to those who already approve, but to a broader constituency. If the price is controversy, the reward is understanding—a gain in public knowledge and a respect grounded in reality instead of some idealized image of Dr. Genius, mixing miracles in test tubes.

"On the other hand, that openness is not going to come if animal advocates don't move away from the gates, at least a little. Whether or not they agree, advocates need to give scientists a fair chance to describe the work honestly, without subterfuge...Break-ins at laboratories and hostile vigils outside researchers' homes have the unfortunate effect of doing just the

by dissecting through the three musculofascial layers comprising the abdominal wall. A spay hook is used to pull the uterus out of the incision and expose the ovary. The ovarian pedicle and proper ligament are ligated and the ovaries removed.

"Many veterinarians can perform a standard midline ovariohysterectomy in a cat or dog within a 15-minute time frame. You do not have to be a skilled general surgeon to become adept at spaying animals. The Wellman procedure may be technically easier to perform in large breed dogs; in small dogs and cats there is no significant time saving. It

spay programs in puppies and kittens have greater merit than the Wellman ovariectomy. In these small patients, I would guess that a standard spay can be accomplished more easily than the Wellman procedure, with the added advantages noted above."

Added Rowan, "There may be instances where a simple ovariectomy is called for, but without appropriate data, it is unclear what sort of risk/benefit trade-off will be borne by the animals."

As your grandmother probably warned, if something sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

points into serious consideration, Blum also reveals their uneasiness about what they end up doing by documenting instance after instance of self-censorship and obstruction of oversight. To a considerable extent, such

opposite. The activists' most aggressive strategies have driven animal research behind barricades."

—Merritt Clifton

OBITUARIES

Choi Hui-bok, 23, of Pusan, South Korea, allegedly killed herself on April 12 when her husband Chung Hae-soo came home drunk after eating dog meat, which many Koreans believe to be a sexual tonic. She had tried repeatedly to get him to give it up. "We fought over the matter and I went to another room to sleep," Chung told police. "When I woke up she was dead, dangling from a window frame by a necktie."

Denise Ford, founder and president of the activist group Animal Emancipation, died March 25 of severe insulin shock. Ford was a resident of Santa Barbara, California.

Harold Henderson, DVM, 72, of Wauchula, Florida, was found dead of a slashed throat on March 18, several miles from his abandoned car. Henderson, last seen at a convenience store the previous night, is believed to have been the victim of a robbery. Born in Mississippi, Henderson entered veterinary practice in 1952—and never retired. He sheltered stray dogs and cats at his clinic, and was attending veterinarian at the nearby Pioneer Park Zoo. "That was his life—being a veterinarian," said his brother Russell. "He loved it." Henderson is survived by his wife Margaret, and two daughters.

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MEMORIALS

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—Vicky Crosetti

Samantha, 9, who routinely accompanied North Shore Animal League president John Stevenson to work, died February 4 of a sudden stroke. "When I found her, Samantha was on Death Row at the Capitol Area Humane Society in Columbus, Ohio," Stevenson remembered, "because she'd bitten a child." Stevenson's longtime companion German shepherd had died a week earlier. When he saw Samantha while visiting the shelter on NSAL business, he recognized his next dog, and used his skills as an attorney to secure a reprieve. Noted for her bubbly disposition, she never again so much as snapped at anyone else.

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Paul Watson (right) contemplates his handiwork—the damaged pirate whaler Sierra. (Sea Shepherd photos.)

Ocean Warrior, by Captain Paul Watson.

Key Porter Books Ltd. (70 The Esplanade, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5E 1R2), 1994. 264 pages, cloth, \$26.95.
[In U.S., order from Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, 3107-A Washington Blvd., Marina Del Ray, CA 90292.]

If *Ocean Warrior* was a work of fiction and Paul Watson had never been a sailor, it would still make Watson a worthy heir to the tradition of Stephen Crane, Herman Melville, and Robert Louis Stevenson—a tradition he honors with allusions to *The Open Boat*, *Moby Dick* and *Treasure Island*. It's a can't-put-it-down page-turner: a rousing collection of classic sea stories, weaving all five of the eternal themes into a single narrative. For those who weren't literature majors, that's man-against-man, man-against-woman, mankind-against-nature, self-against-self, and coming-of-age. It's the story of a young man who matures through derring-do in naval battle, growing into the command of a fleet and leadership of a crusade while more awkwardly grappling with politics and personal relationships.

One element would be missing, however, from a work of fiction: the single symbolic villain, a Captain Ahab or Wolf Larsen, anti-hero of Jack London's *The Sea-Wolf*. Larsen in particular would make the perfect foil for Watson: a grim Scandinavian sealing and whaling captain who respects no god, takes a mechanistic view of nature, is tacti-

they mostly pick up their nets and run. Watson's strongest, most diabolical opponents are actually anonymous Canadian civil servants, and his fellow cofounders of *Greenpeace*, who can't quite achieve mythic dimensions of villainy because whatever else their shortcomings, and however inept their tactics as they sabotage the Sea Shepherds at every turn, they are at least nominally on the same side.

True story

But *Ocean Warrior* isn't fiction. It's Watson's account of his own nautical exploits, leaving his campaigns on behalf of seals, wolves, and Native Americans for another volume. It opens with Watson's ramming of the pirate whaler *Sierra* off Portugal on July 16, 1979, an episode by turns dramatic and comic—and it's the comedy Watson chooses to emphasize in clash after clash. Deadly serious Faroese rake his bow with machine-gun fire; Watson and crew shoot them back with 45 gallons of eight-year-old pie filling. Watson is of course deadly serious about saving marine life, but he knows humor is in itself a lethal weapon.

enforce laws and treaties apparently adopted only to pacify less aggressive activist groups with far larger constituencies than the ever-broke Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

Watson can be pardoned for not giving the bigger, richer groups proper credit for winning through conventional politics the statutes whose implementation he attempts to impel. Warriors are perennially frustrated by politicians, whose job it is to keep conflict from becoming combat.

Like any pirate captain, Watson also incessantly battles his own mutinous recruits, many of whom are motivated to come aboard in the first place more out of sociopathy than conviction. Most quit early, upon discovering the hard work involved in keeping a ship afloat. Others resort to subterfuge. Some, notably Ben White and Scott Trimmingham, nearly succeeded in ousting Watson from his own organization when for several years in the late 1980s he made the mistake of trying to permit a politically correct degree of democracy and even consensus in the decision-making. Unlike most pirate captains, however, Watson survived to regain the helm and tell the tale.

cally brilliant, and tries to take the world down with himself.

Instead of going up against a single worthy foe, Watson confronts a series of captains and crews of Larsen's outlook but none of his intellect and courage. Confronted,

Time after time Watson and crew sink or damage scowflaw whalers, driftnetters, and other high seas ruffraff, then use their reputation to bluff others back in hopes various governments, ridiculed for their failures, might grow the courage to

Read it. You may already know the plot, but *Ocean Warrior* adds many new dimensions to the stories that have inspired a generation.

—Merritt Clifton

Life Song: *In Harmony With All Creation*, by Bill Schul, Ph.D.

Stillpoint Publishing (Box 640, Walpole, NH 03608), 1994.

204 pages, with bibliography. \$12.95.

Bill Schul endorses the idea of a universal life spirit, not the private domain of homo sapiens, but shared by every organic entity on the globe. It is a spirit of communication and intelligence, having its essence at the very cellular core of each living thing. This is an idea of mythic and contentious proportions, yet Schul glides easily across this semi-mystic plane where many others before him have been blown to bits by the land mines of the Scientific Method.

In order to accept the idea of a universal life spirit, we are "required to adopt a shift in consciousness," somewhat an understatement when we are asked to consider our spiritual and even intellectual kinship with bats, gazelles, paramecium, toadstools, snakes, and the like. But it is this "shift in consciousness" which makes or breaks his argument, and like any other epiphany, it occurs seldom and is little understood.

In anecdotal style, Schul discusses many human/animal communion experiences alleged to have occurred over the centuries. There are the perennial favorites, such as Fido saving his human family from certain death by waking them before fire overcomes them, and how Puff and Rover traverse thousands of unfamiliar miles to be reunited with their owners. Or, switching from Disney to a more "In Search of..." mode, stories of Muffy and Bowser returning from the grave for one last goodbye lick or lifesaving feat. Thrown in for New Age good measure is the inevitable retelling of the miracles of gardening performed by the Findhorn devas, plant spirits receptive to human intervention and communication.

Between and throughout these chestnuts, Schul includes more subtle and troubling examples; troubling because in every instance humankind comes across as the blind, deaf and dumb poor cousin. Schul

describes a world where there is a constant exchange and flow of language, ideas, and communication going on all around us, even through us, but seldom consciously accessed by us. The anecdotes he cites are the instances where, for one reason or another, people a little more sensitively attuned were able to pick up bits and pieces of this flow, being largely baffled by it. Not fitting in with known scientific data, these experiences get shunted to the potboiling catch-all of "occult" or "new age" phenomena.

Schul sidesteps scientific land mines by simply not paying them any quarter. This is not necessarily as heretical or, worse, sloppy, as it may sound: there is a growing sense, voiced by popular author Michael Crichton, that "we are witnessing the end of the scientific era," citing science as an increasingly outmoded system. Science was supposed to eventually answer every question; instead it has only uncovered millions more. Worse, "the lucrative attraction for inappropriate technology has led to a life estranged from Nature," as Schul quotes psychologist John Ocean. In other words, we are not only deaf, dumb, and blind, but damned proud of it, proud to death.

The vague spiritual notion underpinning much of the present age is that life is a stage upon which we are to act out our individual salvation, with all the rest of organic nature mere props and arty background. Not so, Schul argues; rather, the life force—or "Life Song"—of all nature is in constant and concerted forward motion. Not our constellated human egos aspiring toward some otherworldly goal, but each living cell in every organism is propelling all of creation toward something we can't even begin to envision.

—P.J. Kemp

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Blue-green algae toxins caused the deaths of 150,000 eared grebes at the Salton Sea in southern California in early 1992, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says, plus the deaths of another 20,000 eared grebes last year. About a million grebes winter on the 35-mile-long lake each year.

