

INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION SECRETARY PROPOSES
“FINAL SOLUTION” FOR WHALES—THAT’S WHAT HE SAID

Remember to print out both states of page

Refuge of scoundrels

FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE USES REFUGES AS PROP FOR FUR TRADE

WASHINGTON D.C.—Any illusions that animal and habitat defenders might have had that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is acting in good faith as regards trapping in National Wildlife Refuges would appear to be shattered by a newly leaked 28-page memo issued to “All Refuge Managers” on January 28 by Stan Thompson, acting Division of Refuges chief.

The Thompson memo makes clear, in thinly veiled language, that refuge managers are to back fur trade opposition to the twice-delayed European Community ban on the import of pelts from animals possibly caught by leghold trapping.

The memo further indicates that a Congressionally mandated internal review of trapping within National Wildlife Refuges is to be done in such a manner as to produce documents of propaganda value in opposition to the EC ban.

Attachments including a four-page memo from Jim Beers of the USFWS Division of Federal Aid outline a strategy of emphasizing the use of leghold traps in association with endangered species recovery, toward obtaining an agreement with the EC in lieu of the pelt import ban that will enable U.S. authorities to whitewash present trapping practices.

“The way in which this issue proceeds is probably more than a little indicative of the future of hunting, fishing, and fish and wildlife management,” Beers warned.

—K.B.

ANIMAL PEOPLE received the Thompson memo only 72 hours after Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt told a House of Representatives hearing that wildlife refuges ought to hold “the conservation needs of wildlife paramount.” Babbitt argued against a bill by House Resources Committee chair Don Young (R-Alaska), deferred in the last Congress, which would eliminate the legal conflict of interest between the conservation mandate of the National Wildlife Refuges and recreational wildlife killing, by making hunting, fishing, and trapping all official refuge purposes. Although hunting, fishing, and trapping have always been permitted on some refuges, the sole official purpose of the system has always been conservation.

Kissing up to hunters, fishers, and trappers, President Bill Clinton on March 27, 1996 issued an executive order recognizing “compatible hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation” as official refuge purposes, and calling hunters and fishers “first partners” in managing the refuge system. Clinton and his presidential predecessor, George Bush, have granted the National Rifle Association, Safari Club International, and other hunting advocacy groups “partnership” status in aspects of National Wildlife Refuge management including public education. The word “compatible,” however, kept conservation as the nominal

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ANIMAL

News For People Who

April 1997

PEOPLE

Care About Animals

Volume VI, #3

A sheep who keeps ethicists awake

EDINBURGH—Embryologist Ian Wilmut of the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, Scotland, on February 23 announced the birth of a lamb cloned from a mammary gland cell taken from one adult ewe, fused with an egg cell of another adult ewe, and implanted into a surrogate mother last July.

The first known successful cloning of a mammal from fully developed adult cells, the experiment was done by a team of 12, of whom only Wilmut and three others knew the details—and the announcement was delayed until the team patented the lamb, named Dolly.

The Roslin Institute team achieved the cloning on their 277th try. Of 29 eggs that became embryos, only 13 impregnated the ewes into whom they were transplanted, and just one ewe carried the pregnancy to term.

Within two weeks, however, the accomplishment itself seemed cloned, as others announced similar results.

The most dramatic announcement came from the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center in Beaverton, where director M. Susan Smith and senior scientist Donald Wolf revealed on March 1 that they had used embryonic cloning, a simpler method, to produce male and female rhesus macaques, born last August—the first cloned primates. The object was to breed genetically identical research animals, who would presumably respond the same way to experiments. In theory, researchers would then need fewer animals to validate results—but using fewer animals to

get more accurate information could also stimulate more primate experiments.

“What we want to do is establish an immortal cell line, something like an embryonic stem cell line,” Wolf told media, “where you can produce literally unlimited numbers of these things.”

The first pair were not genetically identical, because they were cloned from different embryos, but in theory multiple identical animals could be made from each embryo.

Observed Associated Press writer Bob Baum, “As they hugged each other in the corner of a small room, they seemed only to be two frightened baby monkeys.”

The method that produced them could presumably produce cloned people.

On March 4, Tim Cessano, 13, of Honeoye Falls, New York, won top prize at a school science fair for cloning African frogs he got for Christmas. Of three frogs hatched, two survived. Scientists have cloned frogs, who have a very simple reproductive system, for approximately 100 years, and Cessano borrowed his technique from a 60-year-old textbook, but he was nonetheless the youngest person known to have cloned successfully.

In Taipei, Taiwan Livestock Research Institute research fellow Ming-je Wu reminded the world that his team had cloned the endangered native Lanyu miniature pig, announcing the results at the 1994 World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production. The Taiwanese technique involved

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Space for the birds

—Robert Harrison

How far should habitat protection go? How big is critical habitat?

A four-ounce common tern banded at Helsinki University in Finland last June gave a holistic answer on January 24 when captured by ornithologist Clive Minton of Victoria, Australia, having winged 16,000 miles, 125 miles a day, since she left Finland on or about August 15. The flight broke the record held since 1956 by an Arctic tern who flew 14,000 miles, from White Russia to Fremantle, Australia.

Swallow-tailed kites have been known to make one of the longest migrations of any raptor since the 1960s, when a kite banded in southern Florida was shot in southeastern Brazil, but their winter habitat was discovered only this past winter, when ecologist Ken Meyer of the Big Cypress National Preserve tracked a kite from Florida to the same part of Brazil through the use of a tiny satellite transmitter, weighing just a twelfth

of an ounce, glued to the kite’s tailfeathers. The kite’s 5,000-mile current range is actually truncated from what it was in the 19th century. Now nesting mainly in Florida, they did nest as far north as Minnesota.

Peregrine falcons go farther still, according to data recorded with similar transmitters, ranging in some cases from eastern Alaska to Suriname—9,000 miles.

Some birds cannot survive outside a specific environment little bigger than a suburban back yard. Critical habitat for others is the earth, including the oceans.

How well birds as a class are doing all depends on which species one considers. Kites are down; peregrines are up, from just 300 breeding pairs in the early 1970s to nearly 2,000 now. Because adults of either species are top predators, the status of both is inseparable from that of their prey—for the peregrine, mostly smaller birds.

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POB 960, CLINTON, WA 98236-0960 [ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED.]

Editorial

Playing politics to win

The strength of the animal protection vote should be clear from the November 1996 referendum victories won against various especially abusive forms of hunting and trapping in Colorado, Massachusetts, Oregon, Washington, and even Alaska.

Similar victories came in 1994, in Arizona, California, and Oregon, which then passed the legislation that it affirmed last year. Referendum losses have come only in Idaho and Michigan, two of the states with the highest ratio of hunters per capita.

Independent polls by Gallup, the Associated Press, and others have shown rising support for animal protection, including endangered species protection, for more than a decade. In November, this translated at last into political victory—in a manner distinctly separate from other voting trends. All eight referendum victories came in states which also elected conservative governors or legislatures, or both, in either 1994 or 1996. The animal protection vote cut across partisan lines, as demographic studies have projected it should since at least 1990. People who voted for fiscal conservatism and “family values” often firmly rebuked traditional hunting-and-trapping-oriented wildlife management.

Animal protection lobbyists should be on a roll. Legislators should be aware that when they pick up a gun for a photo-op, they lose as many votes as they gain. The percentage of active hunters among the U.S. public is at 5% and falling, while according to Associated Press just 47% of Americans think sport hunting is even “okay.”

Yet Bill Clinton bought a second term in the White House in part by endorsing hunting as an official purpose of the National Wildlife Refuge system in March 1996, opening two dozen more refuges to hunters between then and the election. Three hundred of the 508 National Wildlife Refuges now permit hunting—60%, up from 40% 10 years ago, when the Humane Society of the U.S. formed the Wildlife Refuge Reform Coalition.

That still isn’t enough for House Resources Committee chair Don Young (R-Alaska), who has resurrected a bill to give providing hunting opportunities equal priority with wildlife conservation throughout the National Wildlife Refuge system.

Also as 1997 legislative sessions opened, the federal Agency for International Development moved to spend \$20 million to help Zimbabwe promote elephant hunting, via the scandal-wracked Communal Areas Management Programme For Indigenous Resources, better known as CAMPFIRE, formed by the Zimbabwean government with the encouragement of the World Wildlife Fund and Safari Club International. Purportedly, CAMPFIRE is to promote all forms of eco-tourism, but in 1995, according to an AID review, CAMPFIRE still derived more than 90% of its non-grant income from the sale of elephant hunting licenses. Under the George Bush administration, AID committed \$28 million to CAMPFIRE in 1989, the same year that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species banned traffic in elephant ivory. The ban forced AID and CAMPFIRE to spend the first \$8 million in a trickle—but word is that aptly named vice president Albert Gore is now eager to lift the ban at the June CITES meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe.

At the state level, Washington senator Jim Hargrove, a Democrat, and Republican counterpart Pam Roach in mid-February introduced a bill to reopen the just-banned-by-referendum hunting of bears and pumas with hounds and bait. The Alaskan senate and legislature both rejected governor Tony Knowles’ nomination of former Alaska Wildlife Alliance president Nicole Whittington-Evans to the state Board of Game, because she doesn’t hunt—and the senate moved to exclude anyone from the board who hasn’t held a hunting or trapping license for five of the preceding seven years, never mind that Whittington-Evans does fish. The bill would exclude 95% of the women in Alaska.

The New Hampshire senate killed a bill to ban bear and deer baiting and hunting bears with dogs, 14-10, almost as soon as it was introduced. In Connecticut, general assembly Environment Committee co-chairs Eileen Daily (D-Westbrook) and Jessie Stratton (D-Canton) refused as they and predecessors have for 25 years to allow a proposed leghold trap ban to reach the floor for a vote.

An ancient Chinese proverb warns that dragons lash their tails most ferociously in their death throes. The hunting/trapping counterattack was expected. Yet it should have been countered by equally aggressive bills to further curb hunting and trapping through fiscal conservatism. The USDA Animal Damage Control Program should be especially vulnerable, as a whopping makework project for trappers at public expense, whose major

function is killing wildlife to subsidize fewer than 3% of all livestock producers. Hunters should be bounced out of the National Wildlife Refuges; the Pittman/Robertson taxes that they pay on equipment to support land acquisition cover just a tiny fraction of the total cost of acquiring and maintaining public lands, and should be seen as a “sin tax,” like the taxes on tobacco and alcohol, rather than a bribe buying special privileges. At the state level, wildlife agencies should no more be allowed to actively recruit hunters than departments of motor vehicles are allowed to recruit drivers—and should be made to halt the stocking of non-native species such as pheasant as targets for hunters, not only cruel but a fiscal loser.

From 67% to 89% of Americans have also told pollsters within the past 20 months that they believe animals including farm animals have a right to live free from suffering, even though 97% of the respondents still eat some meat, poultry, or fish. Yet animal protection has lost even more ground against the farm lobby than against hunters.

The first animal protection law adopted in the future U.S., Liberty 92 in the 1641 Massachusetts Bay Colony *Body of Liberties*, was intended to benefit farm animals, but as attorney David Wolfson points out in *Beyond The Law* (Animal Rights International, 1996) “Twenty-eight states,” including 17 since 1985, “have enacted laws that create a legal realm whereby certain acts, no matter how cruel, are defined as outside the reach of the anti-cruelty statute as long as the acts are deemed ‘accepted,’ ‘common,’ ‘customary,’ or ‘normal’ farming practices. Similarly, certain states also exclude poultry from their anti-cruelty statutes,” though 95% of the animals killed for human use are chickens.

Accordingly, Arkansas representative Tom Courtway (D-Conway) told Jay Meisel of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* on February 26 that in order to secure passage of a decades overdue bill he introduced to insure that criminally abused animals may be seized and “placed in the custody of a society which is incorporated for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or an animal control agency,” he intends to amend it to exempt livestock. The logic by which the farm lobby is compelling the amendments contends that farm animals should be exempted because they are a farmer’s means of earning a livelihood. Yet a drug dealer’s stash is his capital, too—and is seized, even when the substance itself may be legally kept and sold under certain other circumstances. In most other areas of law, the right to property is forfeited when the property is used in an abusive way. The purpose of exempting farm animals from seizure in Arkansas is not the protection of property rights, *per se*, but rather the maintenance of precedent that agribusiness in the state of Bill Clinton and the Tyson poultry empire may do whatever it wishes to animals with legal impunity.

Punting is not kicking butt

Asking animal protection lobbyists why this lack of clout should be, when public opinion clearly shows an atmosphere favorable toward change, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** found a frequent mood of defensive resignation. They mostly didn’t want to talk about the overall state of the cause, or—on the record—about where groups have gone wrong, most notably with the 1990 and 1996 Marches for the Animals, each of which drew just a fraction of the projected crowds and thereby seemed to demonstrate weakness. But some lobbyists did want to claim as “victories” the failure in the 104th Congress of the several bills aimed at gutting the Endangered Species Act, along with the so-called “Dolphin Death Bill” which would repeal the U.S. dolphin-safe tuna standard. All these bills are back, however; at best, animal-and-habitat protection lobbyists delivered an effective punt, keeping the other side from scoring but not gaining points. Once again, animal protection lobbyists expect to spend the next two years just trying to keep old ground.

We were told that neither Congress nor state legislatures will want to spend money this term. But as argued above, major gains can be won just by cutting costly subsidies and privileges. We were told that further legislative progress against the use of animals in bio-medical research is unlikely, except where industry benefits, as in the repeal of animal testing requirements once alternatives are validated—but **ANIMAL PEOPLE** publisher Kim Bartlett pointed that out back in 1985, when the most recent amendments to the Animal Welfare Act on the subject of laboratory animals were adopted. She argued even then that it was now time to refocus on areas of more animal suffering, such as hunting, which kills more than 10 times as many animals per year, and animal agriculture, which kills 6,000 times as many. Congress typically revisits issues only after some years, so after the passage of any major bill, one must move on or wither.

That, perhaps, is the nub of the problem. Because many of the early victories of the animal rights movement involved laboratory animals, particularly against animal testing of cosmetics, and proved to be strong fundraisers, the cause became fixated, remailing the same old literature year after year instead of developing vigorous new campaigns to go after hunting and animal agriculture—and significant gains against the fur trade, which combines some of the worst of hunting and factory farm practice, were insufficiently followed up. Once-effective antifur protests stagnated. Anti-hunting campaigns tended toward flamboyant silliness, like the hunter harassment fiasco that began when just four states had hunter harassment laws and ended when all 50 states had them, as the National Rifle Association gained 300,000 new members by pledging to fight hunter harassment. Equally misdirected were several campaigns against meat-eating, e.g. “Beyond Beef,” endorsed by many national organizations—even though it tended to encourage not vegetarianism but rather a switch from eating beef to eating poultry. Since it takes 100 chickens to produce the same amount of meat as one cow, the beef-to-poultry switch actually increases exponentially the number of animals suffering for human diet.

Much as the NRA likes to insinuate, more of the credit for decreasing hunting participation over the past couple of decades could be given to Walt Disney than to the animal rights movement, and the greater portion of credit for increasing vegetarianism must—ironically—go to biomedical researchers, for discovering and publicizing the advantages of vegetarianism to human health.

Although most of the national groups pretend to lobby, there are today fewer animal protection lobbyists in Washington D.C. than a decade ago, and national representation at the state level is no greater. The successful referendums—and most other recent gains—have been won mostly by state and local groups, who have learned power politics on their own. Some are now learning the most important skill, the art of ousting anti-animal legislators and electing replacements with more favorable attitudes. This takes money, escalating the perennial competition among advocacy groups. But it also enables donors to keep score: who did each group target in the last election, with how much success?

The more incumbents lose because they run afoul of aggressive pro-animal campaigning, the more respectful the rest will be when the time comes to vote on animal protection measures. Nor does it matter much who the replacement for a bad incumbent is: a good candidate is ideal, but the American political system puts a high premium on seniority, and knocking off a bad incumbent is almost always advantageous even if the replacement is worse: you can knock him or her off the next time around, sending an even stronger message that future replacements had better be animal-friendly.

ANIMAL PEOPLE

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ANIMAL PEOPLE does not publish fiction or poetry.

Letters

Native tradition

When we go into the sweat-lodge, during prayers, and upon leaving the sweatlodge, we are taught to say, “Hou Mi Takuye Oyacin,” which means, “All our relations.” With these words we honor and bless all living things.

How then can people go out and murder and eat innocent animals who are our brothers and sisters? I view this as cannibalism. When people wear animal and bird body parts and feathers, for whatever reason, that is wrong. If animals could speak, I am sure they would ask to live and be free. Yet killing animals continues, with people trying to justify it by claiming it is done “in the proper way,” with “respect,” and that tradition and culture must be carried on.

Traditions have changed and must be changed if at any time we are doing something wrong. At one time some people believed it was right to sacrifice humans—until someone else had the courage to speak up and change that tradition.

Not too long ago, a white buffalo calf was born, a sign that Indian people had long awaited. Many people went to honor this sacred animal, who symbolized a new era of peace and harmony for Mother Earth and all those who dwell upon her. But the birth of the white buffalo calf did not mean this could all happen without our help. We must get busy and help bring this about by becoming caretakers of this planet, and each become an example of showing love and empathy toward all living things, helping to support those who are already taking the lead. We need to become sensitive as children who are naturally repelled by negative energies. It’s time for a change.

—Red Bear and Friends
Red Bear Plant & Animal Sanctuary
Bandon, Oregon

Henry Spira

The incomparable Henry Spira has done it again! His hand-book *Strategies for Activists*, reviewed in your March edition, is yet another in a long list of successful campaigns, different only in its intended target: the initiated, rather than the adversary. Even lifelong activists can find much to emulate and admire in Spira’s blueprint for continual, unceasing, progressive change.

This inspired effort to energize and empower grassroots individuals and encumbered entities alike is a selfless gift, to be embraced and cherished. The likes of Henry Spira rarely grace this earth.

—Sherry L. Schleuter
Broward County, Florida

Eating pets

I feel the ad promoting “eating your pets” by the Coalition for Nonviolent Food is inappropriate and sends out the wrong message. It is upsetting to see this in each issue.

—Cindy McCoy
Newport, New York

Coalition for Nonviolent Food founder Henry Spira became a vegetarian many years ago upon realizing the kinship of his beloved cat and the animal in a hamburger. The ad, inspired by that recognition, has been reprinted in periodicals as a news item and posted on bulletin boards around the world, and may be the most popular anti-meat statement ever, causing millions of people to rethink meat-eating.

Wild horses

For a year I encouraged Associated Press Albuquerque Bureau reporter Martha Mendoza to tackle the plight of wild horses on the range as a story idea. The fierce competition of all wild animals for forage and water was especially acute during 1996. In my opinion, the March **ANIMAL PEOPLE** story “The wild horse story no one wants to hear” represents a balanced look at a difficult and highly emotional story. Ms. Mendoza chose a different spin.

—Tanna (Beebe) Chatin
Chief, Office of External Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
Santa Fe, New Mexico

More wild horses

Thank you for your great article on the wild horses. You and the Animal Protection Institute are doing excellent work on all these issues.

—Camille Frost
Oxnard, California

Early fixing

Re Sam McClintock’s January/February letter advising mandatory neutering to reduce dog and cat populations, please add to his prescription neutering *before* adoption or sale, except for show/breeding stock in the care of a *certified* breeder. With early neutering becoming common, this is definitely possible. Shelters often cite cost as the reason they can’t neuter before adoption, yet fixing animals is generally cheaper than killing them. It is a matter of redirecting funds toward prevention, e.g. sterilization, and away from killing.

—Petra Murray
Howell, New Jersey

Fire

Thank you for your March 1997 editorial. The first section, re animal and human response to housefires, will be distributed to animal and disaster exchange advisors. We will be increasing interaction with emergency service personnel over the next three months in our public safety center.

—Cecily Westerman
AOL Public Safety Center
St. Louis, Missouri

You have a friend who wants to read
ANIMAL PEOPLE!
Just send us the address and we'll send a free sample
to the friend or friends of your choice.

ANIMAL PEOPLE

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They’re doing this at the Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge.

It keeps the refuge safe for cattle.

FoA ad

The USDA Animal Damage Control unit gets to claim it’s saving endangered species.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service gets an excuse for not saving the Columbian deer.

There’s something in it for everyone but the coyotes —and the highly endangered Columbian Whitetailed Deer.

Isolated by the retreat of the glaciers, the deer for thousands of years roamed the lowlands along the Washington/Oregon border, along with elk and coyotes—until cattle ranchers came 150 years ago, and tried to kill the competition. The elk and coyotes hung on, but the Columbian Whitetailed Deer was hunted to extinction.

Or so people thought, until in 1939 renowned biologist Victor Sheffer found a remnant herd near Cathlamet, Washington. Their universe was 23 square miles, shared still with elk and occasional coyotes.

These remnant Columbian Whitetails were among the very first animals protected by the Endangered Species Act. In 1974 the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service formed the Julia Hansen Butler Refuge to safeguard their habitat forever.

But cattle were invited to graze the refuge—for free! The Fish & Wildlife Service pretended the Columbian White-tailed Deer—who had lived there for millennia—couldn’t survive unless cows cropped the grass short. To keep it short, the Fish & Wildlife Service also let the farmers take out hay and silage.

When the Columbian Whitetailed Deer herd failed to grow, the Fish & Wildlife Service saw they were starving. They had hunters kill most of the elk. Without the elk, there was more grass. The deer herd doubled—until the elk herd recovered. Then, because hungry deer have just one fawn instead of twins, or have no fawns at all, the deer slid back toward extinction.

When the cows got hungry, they got hay and silage—cut from the refuge!

The Fish & Wildlife Service now says the Columbian White-tailed Deer are in trouble because of coyotes.

The Fish & Wildlife Service has hired the USDA Animal Damage Control unit to kill coyotes. The ADC kills almost 100,000 coyotes a year for cattle ranchers. They’d be perfect for the job—if the job was running the Julia Butler Hansen Cow Pasture, and if you believe in killing nature to save it.

The Fish & Wildlife Service can’t even prove that coyotes are doing anything beyond scavenging the remains of fawns who starve to death.

The Fish & Wildlife Service said over 400 letters of protest raised no substantive objections to this scheme, which compounds mismanagement of an endangered species with pointless cruelty to a native predator, ignores cruelty-free alternatives—which FoA offered to pay for—***and won’t save the Columbian deer.***

PROTEST TO:
BRUCE BABBITT
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20240

REPRESENTATIVE _____
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

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U.S. SENATE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Send copies of your letter to your Member of Congress and both Senators. Ask them to stop hunting and trapping on refuges—for fun, profit, or to hide cow damage. Tell them you don’t want your taxes to pay the ADC to kill wildlife. Tell them you want a new wildlife management policy NOW!

777 Post Road
Darien, CT 06820
203-656-1522

More letters

Fur Free Friday

The number of arrests at last year’s multi-site Fur Free Friday demonstrations was among the highest ever, yet print coverage fell to the lowest level since Fur Free Friday began in 1986, according to my findings in a survey of major newspapers in the ten largest U.S. metropolitan areas. In 1996, only three of the ten papers mentioned the protests, and the most space given to it by any one paper was a mere 100 words.

The animal rights movment continues to use protest in observing Fur Free Friday despite diminishing and increasingly negative results. Unlike in the 1980s, much recent coverage has focused on individual activists and the legal status of their actions, rather than upon the animal exploitation their actions are intended to expose. Yet there are many non-protest alternatives for observing Fur Free Friday, including commentaries and letters-to-the-editor, tabling and leafleting, press conferences featuring designers and celebrities, etc.

The public mood, and tolerance of social protest, constantly shifts. What works in one place and time may be counterproductive in another. Judicious use must be made of any tactic, and of civil disobedience in particular: failure to do so can have dire consequences. Inappropriate protest is a waste of time and resources, can marginalize and trivilize activism, and contribute to a loss of public support.

The animal rights movement would be well advised to develop criteria for the use of protest and civil disobedience. And the quantity and quality of media coverage should be monitored and changes in strategy made accordingly.

—Dena M. Jones
Sacramento, California

Redwoods

As an animal activist, I am proud to be part of a very effective and dedicated movement. I took a month off to fight the destruction of the less-than-4% of the majestic ancient redwoods on the California coast. The awe-inspiring beauty and sense of history I felt walking among these two-thousand-year-old trees defies explanation. Most of what remains in private hands is held by Pacific Lumber, which attempted sustainable logging until 1985, when it was taken over by Charles Hurwitz’s MAXXAM. Hurwitz looted \$1.6 billion from a Texas savings-and-loan to secure financing for the takeover, which the taxpayers ultimately paid for when they bailed out the savings-and-loan.

The small group of dedicated, caring people working to save the remaining giant redwoods need our dynamic help. It is related to our animal work, since any time you save a forest, you are saving many animals and their future generations. In addition to other wildlife, the redwood forest is a critical habitat for several endangered species. One is the marbled murrelet.

The coho salmon also clearly qualifies for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. The delay in listing is clearly political. Five to 10% of California’s remaining wild coho salmon spawn in Headwaters forest streams.

Please ask your readers to write to Bruce Halstead, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 1125 16th St., Room 209, Arcata, CA 95521-5582, to insist that he enforce the ESA, to list the coho salmon and to protect the nesting habitat of the marbled murrelet.

Also please ask them to write to their Senators and members of the House of Representatives, demanding a debt-for-nature swap, trading Hurwitz’s savings-and-loan debt for the Headwaters forest. For further information, contact EPIC, POB 397, Garberville, CA 95542; 707-923-2931.

—Heidi Silva
Pinole, California

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possible.*

Fur poll and political strategy

In mid-February, newspapers all over North America printed polling results distributed by the Gannett News Service under the caption “I’m okay, your fur’s okay.” The article, taken almost verbatim from a fur industry press release, indicated that only 11% of those questioned oppose wearing fur. A whopping 86% appeared to support fur. The fur industry now cites the coverage to claim, “Fur is back.”

The pollster’s question was, “Should people be free to choose to wear fur?” Fifty-six percent of respondents strongly agreed; 30% moderately agreed; 5% moderately disagreed; 6% strongly disagreed; and 3% didn’t know.

The question parroted fur industry marketing slogans. Trying to prop up sagging sales, and sidestep the questions of cruelty to animals and environmental damage, furriers have strategically positioned fur as a “rights” issue. In the tradition of the cigarette marketing slogan “You’ve come a long way, baby,” the fur industry now tries to portray fur as something a woman works hard for, and that nobody should tamper with her right to wear.

There is an underlying political savvy in the fur industry use of the phrase “free to choose.” Other surveys on attitudes toward fur find nearly opposite results from this one, with opposition strongest among educated middle and upper income women, the very consumer group that furriers most covet. This group also leans toward the “pro-choice” side of the abortion debate—so, as outlined in fur trade publications, furriers hope to revive their business by posing fur as a pro-choice issue. Similarly, in Europe, where Native Americans are most romanticized, they try to defend leghold trapping by portraying fur as a Native product, though more than 95% of all furbearer pelts are either trapped or ranched by Caucasians.

Such ploys are having some success.

But why would a supposedly reputable pollster use a manipulative marketing phrase in a public opinion survey?

The name of the polling firm, Responsive Management Inc., is the warning sign. The Gannett use of polling data from an opinion management company, as opposed to an opinion research company like Gallup, suggests that the editors are unaware of the machinations of the wise use movement, if not just biased. But the man who actually is Responsive Management, Mark Damian Duda, should be recognized. Duda has a long history of doing public relations for consumptive use groups, including affiliations with pro-trapping and pro-hunting groups, and in particular has a history of fronting polls that support their views. Duda was even a consultant for a hunters’ tutorial on how to debate critics of hunting. Accordingly, Duda is a tainted source for data on actual public attitudes, as opposed to attitudes as he seeks to reinvent them.

Why didn’t Gannett filter out a poll so obviously stacked to yield a predetermined outcome? Would Gannett take seriously a pollster who fronted for animal rights groups, whose polls asked, “Should animals be painfully murdered by drowning, freezing, or anal electrocution, simply for vanity?” Probably not.

The problem appears to be systemic with Gannett: their “Snapshot” poll department invites any comers to submit their surveys. Apparently Gannett doesn’t check their credibility or affiliations when selecting the survey data to publish.

—Pat Fish
Computer Professionals for Earth & Animals
Utica, New York

API through April

HERPETOLOGY

What Mickey Mouse does for animals

A letter in the March edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** inquired about the environmental and wildlife conservation efforts of Walt Disney World. A wildlife conservation ethic is deeply rooted in Disney’s corporate history and culture. From many of Walt Disney’s visionary concepts to the diversity of programs in place at Walt Disney World today, the company has embraced wildlife conservation as a cornerstone of its development.

Over one quarter of the Walt Disney World resort property is committed to wildlife preservation. This natural scrub and wetland habitat continues to provide homes for species from bald eagles and ospreys to gopher tortoises and whitetailed deer.

As the resort grew, two facilities were added which focused on animals and conservation: Discovery Island and the Living Seas. Both are accredited members of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association. Both place a high priority on science and conservation education, and both partner with other organizations to rescue, rehabilitate, and return injured native wildlife to the wild.

Walt Disney World has also entered the global conservation arena with its Conservation Awards Program. Over the past two years more than \$2 million have been awarded to support 62 wildlife conservation programs in 29 nations throughout the world. Established with the guidance of world renowned zoologists and conservation biologists, the Disney Conservation Awards

Charities

In a March article about the National Charities Information Bureau giving negative reports on various charities, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** stated that, “Both Project Cure and the Cancer Fund,” two charities getting negative reviews, “have been recommended at least since 1990 in lists of acceptable biomedical research charities published by the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, American Anti-Vivisection Society, and National Anti-Vivisection Society.”

This is definitely not the case for the American Anti-Vivisection Society. The two charities mentioned in the article were removed from our listing as soon as we became aware of their negative status. Our 1996 listing, which has been available for over a year, does not include these charities, and our 1997 listing, which is about to be printed, will not include them either.

—Dean Smith
Outreach Director
American Anti-Vivisection Society
Jenkintown, Pennsylvania

Unfortunately, some activists are still distributing the older recommendations in undated form, attributed to AAVS and the other groups, on the Internet and World Wide Web.

Hungary

We received your high quality magazines, which give us great support. Unfortunately, at present in Hungary, there is no magazine for the prevention of cruelty to animals.

—Violetta Kovacs
Assn. of Hungarian Journalists for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Budapest, Hungary

Program serves to promote wildlife conservation organizations worldwide by supporting qualified scientists, educators, and organizations committed to preserving biodiversity. Projects funded range from the International Rhino Foundation development of a breeding center for endangered Sumatran rhinos in Indonesia, to providing a visitor education center for the Jane Goodall Institute at Gombe National Park in Tanzania—and from providing nest boxes for the prosimian lemurs at Duke University, via the American SPCA, to vaccinating domestic dogs in Africa to prevent the spread of distemper, via the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

The awards program has also supported conservation and animal welfare organizations locally, including the Orlando Humane Society, the Save the Manatee Club, and the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Central Florida.

Walt Disney World has retained an emphasis on responsible and environmentally sound development. In 1992, Walt Disney World expanded Central Florida’s conservation acreage with the establishment of the 8,500-acre Disney Wilderness Preserve. As a result of a landmark partnership among government, environmental organizations, and the private sector, Disney gave the land to one of the nation’s most respected conservation organizations, the Nature Conservancy, to manage and restore to its original wetland habitat. In exchange, Disney was able to

develop additional areas on the Walt Disney World Resort property.

The company has committed more than \$45 million over the next several years to fund the land purchase and restoration. In addition, the company will fund an environmental education center on the property. Managed as an intact ecosystem, the Disney Wilderness Preserve is home to one of the country’s largest concentrations of bald eagles, and provides habitat for sandhill cranes, woodstorks, and crested caracaras.

The Walt Disney Company embraces a policy of *Environmental*ity, which means integrating the company’s business needs with environmental values. The *Environmental*ity program is divided into five components: habitat conservation; resource conservation; waste minimization; education and awareness; and research. The elements combine to form a comprehensive program of which both our employees and guests are part.

Since 1941 and continuing through 1996, the Walt Disney Company has won awards and recognition from many conservation and animal welfare organizations, including the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, the Sierra Club, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the American Humane Association, the Izaak Walton League of America, the Los Angeles SPCA, the American SPCA, the Humane Society of the U.S., the USDA, and the Florida Department of Environmental

Mickey Mouse

Regulation, among others, for commitment to animals and the environment.

Walt Disney World’s conservation efforts will continue to expand with the opening of Disney’s Animal Kingdom in 1998. An advisory committee selected from the nation’s leading zoologists and conservationists is contributing its world-class expertise to the design and development of Disney’s Animal Kingdom and the company’s conservation programs. combined with the expertise of an animal care and research staff selected from a nationwide search, Walt Disney World is uniquely positioned to continue its significant contributions to wildlife and conservation.

—Jane Adams
Director
Government Relations & External Affairs
Walt Disney World Co.
Lake Buena Vista, Florida

HUMANE FARMING ASSOCIATION (paid through 1/97)

Tales from the cryptozoologists

MOUSE PARLOR

Please patronize our
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ANIMAL PEOPLE
possible.

Wild Burro Rescue

MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE—Removing 16 jacks and six jennies from alpine habitat one doesn’t normally associate with the California desert, Wild Burro Rescue has for the third straight year averted a National Park Service massacre. Much hard work is still ahead, gentling the burros, adopting them out, and trucking many to their destinations, but the hardest job, convincing the Park Service that nonlethal burro control is possible, is gradually becoming accomplished.

The Mojave National Preserve burro population may be markedly less than the Park Service estimate of 1,800, Chontos told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. After removing about 50 burros in previous years, he said, the WBR team found none in the low desert this year, while above the snow line they found mainly bachelor bands—an indication that most Mojave jennies, who tend to stay at the lower levels, have either been captured and removed, or were shot several years ago, before WBR got involved.

National Park Service policy is to extirpate non-native species, including mustangs and burros, who are protected by the 1971 Wild and Free Roaming Horse and Burro Protection Act only if they occupy Bureau of Land Management-administered property. Mustangs are captured for sale; burros are just shot.

Having already killed 400 burros at Death Valley National Monument, 1987-1994, the Park Service gained authority over another 4.7 million acres of former BLM land nearby with the passage of the 1994 California Desert Protection Act.

When national groups did nothing to avert an impending burro massacre, Wild Burro Rescue stepped in—a “group” consisting of just Gene and Diana Chontos on a remote 25-acre parcel near Onalaska, Washington, where they live in a one-room shed, with no running water and no electricity until just last year.

Over the past two years, enlisting much help from volunteers, WBR has removed enough burros each spring to satisfy the Park Service that the numbers are at least stable. Funds to hire wranglers, rent helicopters, and buy a horse trailer have been raised through sheer determination, with some support, now terminated, from the Bozack and Kruger Foundation, and other help

80%

—*K.B.*

from the Summerlee Foundation and Fund for Animals.

The rescues bring together strange allies, Chontos acknowledges. Some established horse rescue groups are now becoming involved, but especially at first, horse rescuers tended to be uninterested in burros. Animal rights activists are supportive, yet usually lack essential expertise in handling hooved animals. The skilled labor accordingly comes from sympathetic farriers, zoo staff, and even rodeo cowboys.

“We don’t turn anyone down whose heart is in the right place,” Chontos says. “We don’t care where their heads are at, if they can put it aside to work as a team.”

While in southern California, WBR had two other burro evacuations to arrange: the immediate removal of a band of eight or nine burros from a portion of San Diego County directly beside the Mexican border, and the eventual removal of about 100 already semi-tame descendants from the Mojave group, who were brought to Big Bear City, a few at a time, for an annual novelty race. Afterward, they were released. The surroundings are now built up, the burros are hemmed in, and they are faring poorly against car traffic. As many as 100 burros have been hit by cars since 1989; 22 were killed just in 1996.

WBR welcomes calls from prospective volunteers and donors at 360-985-7282.

FIXING THE WILD HORSE PROGRAM

BY ENZO GIOBBE, COFOUNDER, HORSEAID

Does HorseAid agree that 90% of the horses adopted through the Bureau of Land Management go to slaughter, as alleged in a recent expose by Martha Mendoza of Associated Press?

No. We cannot find any evidence to substantiate the 90% figure, allegedly tossed out by a BLM official who now denies he said it. Based on years of investigation, recognizing that there are still a lot of “Mom and Pop” rendering houses that do not report brands, and factoring in the unreported traffic in horses for slaughter in Canada and Mexico, HorseAid puts the figure for all the horses who have ever gone through the BLM program somewhere between 35% and 60%.

When it comes to horses, horse people often do things without reason. So yes, some adopters will keep a BLM horse the required year, and then put the horse through auction, taking a loss, because in a year one will put far more into a horse than one could ever get out by the pound. Exceptions are if one has “free” pasture, or does not keep the horse the required year. Short keeping is the least explored avenue to slaughter. It is relatively easy to list a wild horse as coming off of unprotected land: National Parks, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, Indian reservations, or private property.

But do we believe the BLM is competent enough to pull off and cover up an agency-wide conspiracy? I think not.

More than likely, most of the alleged BLM horse adoption program abuses we hear about have some basis, and some real abuses never get reported—but much that is reported is sensationalized, and some claims are pure speculation.

Most of what I see and hear amounts to disputed versions of events, variously described by some individuals who quit BLM out of principle, some who quit under questionable circumstance but say otherwise, and many lower management employees covering the butts of middle managers, who in turn cover the butts of upper echelon management.

While most critics blame adopters, either for failure to tame horses or for allegedly abusing the program, HorseAid blames the BLM for letting unqualified adopters take horses.

Any horse taken right off the range is basically not adoptable. The horse must be trained, like any other untrained horse, and that’s just what a wild mustang is—an untrained horse.

HorseAid receives a lot of horses that are considered “not adoptable,” because of similar behavioral problems, usually due to abuse, health problems, or both. They stay in a HorseAid SafeHouse until they are re-trained or nursed back to health. Only then are they adopted out to qualified adopters.

Unfortunately, the BLM pays more attention to the trailer the horse is to be transported in than to the circumstances under which the horse will supposedly spend the rest of his or her life.

HorseAid has long argued that the 1971 Wild And Free Ranging Horse and Burro Act did not give the BLM a mandate to do horse adoptions, and that the mustangs are the heritage and property of the American people. We say the BLM has no right to do what was not in its mandate, nor does it have the right to give away what it does not own.

However, we think that with BLM cooperation, a fair and happy medium for all interests could be achieved.

HorseAid’s immediate goal would be to adopt out the horses in the current BLM inventory as a private contractor. We class these as currently unadoptable companion animals, pending evaluation and training. We believe we can find successful adopters for these animals, over whom we would retain title. Once a HorseAid horse, always a HorseAid horse.

Our longterm goal would be to phase out adoptions by managing the herds to a level where the designated Horse Management Allotments can support them, providing for special help in years of severe drought. We would “manage” the herds by a system of humane field sterilization using volunteer licensed vets and high tech field hospitals to geld yearlings.

**PRIMARILY
PRIMATES
(through 7/97)**

Burros abroad

In a desperate March 13 fax, Animal Responsibility Cyprus asked for help in determining and perhaps averting the fate of about 2,500 burros who are to be removed from a herd estimated at 3,000, now roaming the Turkish-occupied Karpasia area. Terming the burros “part of the disappearing fauna of Cyprus,” ARC indicated suspicion that the burros might end up going to slaughter by an Italian firm abbreviated as SASS, in either Italy or Turkey. “These are the progeny of the working burros left behind by their owners when they fled the 1974 Turkish invasion,” an ARC press release explained. “Turkish Cypriot environmentalists in the occupied areas are fighting the play to destroy the Cyprus burros—please support them. The illegal regime has no embassies you can approach,” the release added, “because they are not recognized. Direct your protest to the Turkish government in Ankara, or to your local Turkish embassy.”

On the Greek side of Cyprus, unable to help, British immigrants Patrick and Mary Skinner run a burro sanctuary where according to Reuters reporter Michele Kambas, “A total of 36 burros ranging from sprightly five-year-olds to granddads blind in one eye and pushing age 40 live a life of luxury in large pens in the shade of carob trees on slopes above Vouni village in the wine-producing areas of Limassol district.”

Burro sanctuaries anywhere are so rare that they can just about be counted on the fingers of one hand. The oldest sanctuary wholly devoted to burros, The Donkey Sanctuary, founded by Elizabeth Svendsen, is actually a chain of parallel facilities across England and Ireland. The leading burro sanctuary in the southern hemisphere may be the Good Samaritan Donkey Sanctuary, established in 1990 by Christine Berry and Jo-Anne Kokas in New South Wales, Australia.

Despite the paucity of sanctuaries, symptomatic of a lack of humane concern, feral burro herds persist around the world, including in Ireland—where they might be barely hanging on.

“While 200,000 donkeys roamed the glens and farmlands two decades ago,” Jonathan Leake and Mary McKeagney explained recently in *The London Times*, “a mere 7,000 remain. In some areas no donkeys have been seen for years, and some experts fear for the species’ survival.” Ireland exported about 63 metric tonnes of donkey meat to Europe annually until the bovine spongiiform encephalopathy panic turned consumers away from beef early last year—sending demand for both donkey and horsemeat soaring.

Ryerss Farm ad (April-October)

Ketch-All
(paid through 10/97)

Over 100 years of caring.

Recreational mayhem

Zimbabwe environment and tourist minister Chen Chimuten-gwende said after discussions on March 8 with French environment minister **Corrine Lepage** that France has eased its former strong opposition to resumed traffic in elephant products, and may favor “controlled” trade in ivory and hunting trophies in June, when Zimbabwe hosts this year’s triennial meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Engangered Species. French prime minister **Alain Juppe** is an avid hunter.

Hunters called for lynching Alaskan wildlife consultant Gordon Haber, who often works for Friends of Animals, when on March 5 he released a wolf, previously radio-collared by the National Park Service, who had spent at least three days caught by the foot and neck in a snare within the Yukon Charley National Preserve. Explained FoA president **Priscilla Feral**, “Haber was doing wolf/prey research funded by a coalition of animal protection and environmental groups. Efforts by members of the coalition to enlist officials from the **National Park Service** and the **Alaska Department of Fish and Game** to free the wolf failed when neither agency showed up at the scene as agreed. The wolf, and four caribou found dead in snares at the same site, are the latest known victims of intensive privately funded saturation snaring under the Caribou Calf Protection Program, aimed at drastically reducing wolf numbers to increase the caribou available to human hunters. Paid for by both individual hunters and hunting groups, such as the **Foundation for North American Wild Sheep**, the program pays trappers a bounty,” of about double the usual pelt value for wolves killed, “and led last year to dramatically increased killing of wolves,” Feral said. Saturation snaring, encouraged by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, “is an ecosystem nightmare,” added Alaska Wildlife Alliance executive director **Cindy Lowry**. “This is the Alaskan equivalent of high-seas driftnetting.”

Russian prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on February 10 confirmed that on January 11 the governor of Yaroslavl had a helicopter pad bulldozed near the village of Rybinsk, and a mile of road built from the pad to a mother bear’s den, so that Chernomyrdin could fly in to “hunt” with his entourage and a dog pack the next morning. Chernomyrdin shot the first cub the dogs drove out. The governor shot the second. Both repeatedly shot the mother, but required help to kill her. The newspapers *Ogonyok*, *Novaya Gazeta*, and *The St. Petersburg Times* denounced the killing; staff at *Ogonyok*, partially owned by Russian Security Council deputy secretary Boris Berezovsky, were then told they wouldn’t be paid for two months, but the retaliation was reportedly rescinded after that hit the media too. Chernomyrdin defended himself by reminding critics that Vladimir Lenin shot cage-reared birds and rabbits, Leonid Brezhnev “hunted” boars tied to trees, and KGB divers hooked fish on Nikita Krushchev’s line.

Ohio State Inspector General Richard Ward has reportedly commenced an inquiry into the **Ohio Department of Natural Resources’** practice of diverting state income tax checkoff donations made for “conservation of endangered species and other wildlife” into paying administrative salaries, including the salaries of bureaucrats whose work is chiefly promoting hunting, fishing, and trapping.

Alberta hunters blamed wolves for a 12% decline in moose over the past few years—but after a three-year undercover sting nabbed 29 alleged poachers in December 1995, 27 of whom were eventually convicted, the moose population recovered, **Alberta Environmental Protection** spokespersons recently told the *Edmonton Sun*.

Timber baron Don R. Johnson, of Spray, Oregon, reportedly got just a warning on February 18, after Oregon State Police and USDA Animal Damage Control staff caught him strafing coyotes from a helicopter.

The New York Department of Environmental Conservation, subsidizing and advertising the fur trade, has issued felt hats with muskrat trim to its 275 fish-and-game officers, at cost of \$9,350. While New York City is the center of the U.S. fur industry, the order was placed with Crown Cap Ltd. of Canada, because no New York firm submitted a bid.

More killing by the Nature Conservancy

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND—To “restore” a “natural” Channel Islands ecology that may never have been anything but a succession of invasions, The Nature Conservancy and National Park Service are close to killing every wild mammal bigger than a fox on the five southern California coastal islands—including the last descendants of Spanish livestock on Santa Cruz Island, introduced circa 1720. The pigs were killed because they carried endogenous psuedorabies, a threat to mainland hog producers. As many as 35,000 sheep were killed on TNC land, say rescuers, who have been allowed to round up and remove another 2,500 sheep, poultry, horses, and burros from 6,200 acres that the Park Service on February 10 seized by order of Congress from the last holdouts against a forced sale.

The TNC sheep massacre paralleled past TNC actions on the islands, for which details are hard to come by, as well as the U.S. Navy slaughter of 27,000 goats on neighboring San Clemente Island, 1972-1990, and the Park Service killing of burros and pigs on both San Clemente Island and Santa Rosa Island, interrupted only by the Fund for Animals’ rescue of about 4,000 San Clemente burros and other livestock, 1981-1985.

While the TNC killing in the Channel Islands, unlike the government actions, passed largely unremarked, Voice for Wildlife president Davida Terry in her winter 1997 newsletter blew the whistle with 26

sharp photos and extensive literature citations on a likewise ruthless TNC “restoration” of tallgrass prairie in the forest preserves ringing Chicago. In absence of the millions of roving bison who maintained the prairie by keeping trees and brush down, TNC volunteers have surreptitiously girdled and killed thousands of native trees and have burned hundreds of acres, destroying a thriving woodland ecology in favor of an ideal that cannot be maintained without ongoing intervention—unless the bison at the Madison and Milwaukee Zoos take up a regular commute to Gary, Indiana.

“We are not against restoring the prairies, nor against their creation,” Terry stipulated, “as long as this is done in areas that are not forested, so that trees are not destroyed. Instead, prairie grasses and wildflowers should be planted in already existing open fields, excluding recreation areas.”

But then TNC might have to experiment on its own extensive holdings, instead of using public property, and might be held accountable for the destruction of habitat for endangered songbirds and—just maybe—cruelty to feral wildlife, also an oft-criticized aspect of TNC “conservation” in Hawaii, where according to former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement officer Carroll Cox, snares set for pigs and goats are a major killer of the endangered native birds on whose purported behalf TNC is acting.

JAILBIRD!!!
Steve Hindi put a canned hunt out of business. In early April, in Kendall County, Illinois, a local court will decide if Hindi can be jailed for a year for doing it--without being convicted of any crime.

A message from Steve Hindi

I’m just back from the Mojave National Preserve, where the Flying CHARCS helped Wild Burro Rescue round up 22 wild burros for adoption so that the National Park Service wouldn’t shoot them. I’m on my way to fly against more captive bird shoots.

But the Illinois Department of Natural Resources wants to jail me instead. A year ago, I asked hunter #1 at a state park to please stop shooting cage-reared pheasants. For this I was fined \$10 for simple trespass and ordered to obey the law for a year. I have obeyed the law--but last November I was jailed for 90 days for alleged contempt of court, and charged with

hunter harassment, after I flew a CHARC paraglider between oncoming geese and the wall of hunters at the Woodstock Hunt Club. Irate that I went on a hunger strike, the local judge kept me jailed for four extra days AFTER the Illinois Appellate Court ordered my release on bond. The contempt order was in connection with a lawsuit in which the Woodstock Hunt Club complained that I was trying to put it out of business. It isn’t likely to succeed; marketplace competition is the American way. The Woodstock Hunt Club IS now out of business--permanently, if the owner can’t clean up enough lead to beat a pollution rap. My appeal of the contempt order is pending. So is the hunter harassment case, which will be the second court test of a 12-year-old unenforced statute which we contend is unconstitutional. One judge has already agreed. Yet the Illinois DNR holds that these pending cases, unsupported by any conviction, are cause enough to jail me--for a year--for purportedly breaking probation.

Please help CHARC take a bite out of animal abuse! Your gift of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500 or more will help us save animal lives! Help us with a tank of gas, a video cassette, the wherewithal for a lawyer to acquaint the Illinois DNR with basic principles of justice, and whatever else we need to get the job done--wherever the abusers skulk to do it. YOUR GIFT NOW can keep us in the air--and give a hunting agency hives.

Thank you!

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A “FINAL SOLUTION” IS PROPOSED FOR WHALES

REYKJAVIK, Iceland—Apparently hoping to lure Iceland back into the International Whaling Commission, IWC secretary Ray Gambrell on March 1 in Reykjavik proposed a “final solution” to the stalemate within IWC over permitting the resumption of commercial whaling. So-called “traditional and cultural” whaling would be permitted within the 200-mile Economic Exploitation Zones that nations maintain over fisheries, while high seas whaling would remain forbidden.

According to *High North Web News*, published by the pro-whaling High North Alliance, “Gambrell explained that his optimism was based on the closed and informal IWC commissioners meeting in Grenada in January.”

Politically, the Gambrell “final solution” might work. It would authorize the present unilateral Norwegian commercial whale hunt, a similar hunt off Iceland, the coastal hunt Japan seeks to revive, and all existing and proposed aboriginal hunts, including those of the Makah off Washington and the Maori off New Zealand. If high seas fishers killed some whales too, then transferred the corpses to whalers inside the 200-mile limit before heading to port, no one need know about it.

But Gambrell’s “final solution” could mean a holocaust for coastal species, including the highly endangered bowheads and northern right whales. Major whale-watching venues like the Gulf of California, Gulf of St. Lawrence, and Stellwagen bank might remain safe, but similar sites in the Third World could become seas of slaughter.

The Gambrell proposal, rejected only by British IWC commissioner Ivor Llewelyn, as other commissioners kept careful silence, had been expected for more than a month.

In Grenada, International Wildlife Coalition president Daniel Morast reported, anti-whaling activists, barred from the discussion sessions, “kept waiting for word to leak that someone had finally put forward the smoking-gun proposal outlining the way forward for the resumption of commercial whaling, but nothing of the sort ever happened.”

Gambrell’s remarks signalled the end of the calm before the storm. Forthcoming in June is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species triennial meeting in Zimbabwe. The IWC annual meeting will follow, in Monaco in October. Both sites are within the World Wildlife Fund “sustainable use” sphere, which holds that the way to save species is to make killing them so profitable that no one will want to wipe out the geese who lay the golden eggs. This argument has historically held little sway with poachers, from desperate refugees to dictators bankrolling mercenaries, but also guides U.S. conservation policy.

“With Norway and Japan moving to downlist minke whales and other species so as to allow international trade in whale products,” especially from Norway to Japan, “every pro-whale person needs to worry,” Morast warned. “If Japan and Norway and their Caribbean supporters win at CITES, the two whaling nations could quickly force a Commission vote to accept a resumption of whaling”—exactly as many foresaw in May 1994, when the U.S. delegation led by Vice President Albert Gore in effect traded approval of a format for resuming commercial whaling to win the creation—on paper—of the Southern Oceans sanctuary. Gore was at the same time brokering a \$261 million sale of U.S.-made missiles to Norway.

“I personally talked to a number of like-minded Commissioners during my five days in Grenada,” Morast continued. “There unfortunately appears to be little hope that this lot of whale friends will accept or allow environmental threats, whale-watching, etc., to become a rationale for the IWC to abolish or significantly stall commerical whaling.”

Threats

As Morast pointed out, threats abound. Japan has unilaterally increased its “research” whaling quotas to the level of profitability, and is killing minke whales with impunity inside the Southern Oceans Whale Sanctuary.

Norway resumed commercial whaling in 1994, and has increased a self-declared quota annually, also without consequence from the IWC and member states. Pressure is now building in districts that prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland needs to keep power to expand the hunt from minkes to orcas. Norwegian coastal fishers assembled at the January annual meeting of their umbrella association, *Nordmere Notfiskarlag*, blamed allegedly proliferating orcas for the decline of stocks in the heavily overfished North Sea.

Norwegian fishers and whalers were vocally unappreciative of Brundtland’s diplomacy in deciding on January 24 against seeking extradition of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society captain Paul Watson and lieutenant Lisa DiStefano, who were sentenced in absentia to serve 120 days in jail for sinking the whaling ship *Nybreana*, soon refloated, at dockside on December 26, 1994. The decision probably means Norway won’t pursue DiStefano for sinking a second whaler, the *Senet*, one year later, which was also refloated, and will not try to extradite Watson to face allegations pertaining to an August 1995 anti-whaling mission that ended when the Norwegian patrol ship *Andennes* rammed the Sea Shepherd vessel *Whales Forever*. Norway blamed Watson for the collision, but wakes and damage to the *Whales Forever* visible in photos published by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** clearly show that the *Andennes* had far the greater momentum.

Watson told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** he was disappointed that Norway wasn’t pursuing extradition, as he had volunteered to go to Norway to stand trial, so long as he could get an extradition hearing in the U.S. first. Knowing such a hearing would attract international publicity, Norway backed off.

Canada, not an IWC member, recently authorized Inuit natives to kill two highly endangered bowhead whales.

Added Morast, “Iceland and Russia continue to make public rumblings about a return to whaling, particularly now that Japan and Norway are getting away with so much”; and the Bill Clinton/Albert Gore administration “is strongly pushing for an aboriginal subsistence quota for the Makah tribe.”

The Makah bid to whale is the spearhead for the World Council of Whalers, an apparently Japanese-financed 10-nation consortium whose first formal international meeting was held February 26 in Port Alberni, British Columbia.

Greenpeace hits Clinton

Greenpeace campaigner Gerry Leape, Morast said, informed him that “Greenpeace is going to aggressively target Clinton and Gore for the administration’s failures on whaling issues,” centering on “Clinton’s unwillingness to sanction or diplomatically confront either Japan or Norway.” Leape and Morast discussed “a possible nationally coordinated Earth Day 1997 protest targeting Clinton and Gore. I think we should get this moving soon,” Morast recommended. “If nothing else, we must get the U.S. to force Japan to stop ‘scientific whaling’ in the Southern Oceans sanctuary.”

Greenpeace, the World Wildlife Fund, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare aligned themselves with Clinton and Gore, against Friends of Animals, the Animal Welfare Institute, and the Humane Society of the U.S., among others, during the 1994 tradeoff debate. At that time, Greenpeace strategist Clif Curtis advised in a memo to senior staff that, “Greenpeace does not oppose whaling, in principle,” and “is neither for or against the killing of marine mammals.”

Aware of rising discontent with his record on whales, Clinton on February 11 took the safest possible high-profile action to enforce the IWC-imposed international whaling moratorium, instructing the State Department “to oppose Canadian efforts to address takings of marine mammals within the newly formed Arctic Council,” a coalition of whaling nations believed to be setting itself up as a rival to the IWC, and “to withhold consideration of any Canadian requests for waivers to the existing moratorium on the import of seals and/or seal products into the U.S.,” as well as continuing “to urge Canada to reconsider its unilateral decision to authorize whaling of endangered stocks and to authorize whaling outside the IWC.”

Clinton did not use his authority under the 1979 Pelly Amendment to the Fishermen’s Protective Act of 1967 to impose sanctions on the import of Canadian fisheries products. He also stated, “I support aboriginal whaling that is managed through the IWC,” a note of support for the Makah—and a warning, in Sea Shepherd Conservation Society Pacific Northwest Coordinator Michael Kundu’s words, that “the government, in order to retain international credibility, must take the appropriate actions to protect grey whales,” including “if a Makah whale hunt were to begin prior to the IWC meeting. In condemning the Canadian government for this bowhead take,” Kundu speculated, “the Clinton administration may have inadvertently forced itself to write a policy of mandatory enforcement, should the Makah kill a whale without IWC approval.”

Leape the lion-hearted

Instead of cudgeling Clinton over whales, Leape hit his administration on March 6 for failing to declare Stellar sea lions endangered and ban factory trawling off Alaska, to enable recovery of the pollock stocks that the sea lions depend on.

“It is time for the National Marine Fisheries Service to do what it should have done eight years ago,” Leape said. “They are going to study this animal to death.”

Greenpeace first sought endangered status for the Stellar sea lion in 1989. NMFS finally recognized the sea lions as threatened—but not yet endangered—in 1990. The Stellar sea lion population plunged from 140,000 in 1960 to 18,000 today, parallel with a fourfold rise in pollock fishing since 1977, 70% of it caught in the major sea lion habitat.

NMFS was to make a decision as to whether to raise the Stellar sea lion to endangered status by last October 6. The overdue decision will be forthcoming soon, NMFS spokesperson Brian Gorman said.

If the verdict doesn’t favor the Stellar sea lion, Center for Marine Conservation deputy vice president Robert Irvin responded, CMC will sue.

A similar battle is simultaneously underway in New Zealand, where the Hooker sea lion, the rarest of the sea lions, may be jeopardized by the drowning of at least 85 in squid nets off two of the Auckland Islands, where 95% of the species breed. More than 100 Hooker sea lions were drowned last year, says the Forest and Bird Protection Society. The New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries is supposed to halt squid fishing each year when observers aboard the vessels report limits of either 63 total sea lions or 32 females are reached.

—K.B.

Blessing the whalers

Still trying to save the whales, Morast concluded, “I cannot leave discussion of the Grenada meeting without protesting the ever-increasing Caribbean association with Japan. We learned that on Sunday, January 26, the government of St. Vincent sponsored a “blessing of the whaling boats” on the island of Bequia. St. Vincent now has two whaling boats, thanks to Japan—one for Athneal Ollivierre, 76, and the other for a young, enthusiastic replacement,” his nephew Arson Ollivierre. “The Caribbean is represented by 12 voting nations at CITES this year. Want to guess how many will support Japan’s downlisting proposals for minke whales?”

At dinner on his final evening in Grenada, Morast recounted, he “spent the evening overlooking a long table surrounded by three Japanese,” including the Japanese whaling commissioner at the head of the table, “and a eight ever-so-accommodating Caribbean fishing and whaling minions.”

On February 10, Japanese officials announced that they would seek approval of small-scale coastal commercial whaling at a March IWC workshop in Sendai, Japan. The proposed annual quota would be 50 minke whales, in addition to the several thousand dolphins the coastal whalers already kill.

Evidence is building that the international whaling moratorium is helping whales to recover, despite pollution, collapsing fish stocks, increased shipping, oil spills, and many other threats to survival. The right whale, so called because it was the most profitable species to hunt, was among those closest to extinction when the moratorium took effect in 1986. However, *The Anchorage Daily News* reported on February 11, recently analyzed photos taken last summer by scientist Pam Goddard from the research vessel *Arcturus* include glimpses of the first right whale calf seen in the North Pacific since circa 1850—and showed four right whales together, the first time more than two have been seen at a time since the mid-1960s.

The whaling moratorium could also be indirectly helping whale species and locations not actually under IWC jurisdiction, just by keeping whale-killing internationally unpopular. One beneficiary may be the isolated belugas of the St. Lawrence estuary—a population whose presence Canada denied until circa 1978, and earlier, even bombed and strafed as an alleged threat to fishing. Now recognized as a tourist asset, the belugas have been believed to be sliding toward extinction; Pierre Beland, who has spent much of his life studying them, declared just last year that they were doomed by pollution. However, Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced on January 21 that extensive analysis of film shot on August 25, 1995 overflights of the St. Lawrence and the Saguenay rivers had produced a count of 705 belugas, up 34% from the 525 discovered by similar means in 1992.

The total, indicating a 16% increase from 1990, with a sharp dip between 1990 and 1992, included actual sightings of 568 belugas in the St. Lawrence, plus a 15% visibility factor allowance, and 51 belugas in Baie Ste-Marguerite, a favorite breeding-and-feeding area off the Saguenay.

Such an increase, combined with poor fishing, could have brought demands from the fishing industry for a resumption of beluga killing—but did not, in contrast to the continuing hatred that Gulf of St. Lawrence fishers show toward seals.

In most places where the whalewatching is good, the Makah reservation at Neah Bay, Washington, being the most notable North American exception, the opportunity to view whales is now recognized as far more lucrative than ever was the opportunity to kill them. That attitude is spreading to the rest of the world. South Australia, for instance, on February 27 announced allocations of \$2.7 million to improve shore-based opportunities to watch southern right whales from a point called the Head of the Bight. Japanese tourists are a significant

American AVthrough 6/97

Critter Crater Rescue Ranch, an adoption and care-for-life shelter for dogs and cats, has relocated from Clarkdale, AZ, where it was established in 1989 as Valley Dale Animal Haven. Experienced management needs \$\$ to develop land. Please contact CCRR at POB 2005, Flagstaff, AZ 86003-2005.

Catch-22 and Canadian sealing

ST. JOHN’S, Newfoundland—Atlantic Canadian sealers are ready to smear the ice with the blood and brains of 285,000 harp and hooded seals, the biggest sealing quota in 15 years, unleashing the frustrations of yet another year idle because they fished cod to commercial extinction, elected politicians who let them do it, blamed seals for falling catches, and remain representatives of the corner of Canada with the least economic prospects, the lowest average level of education, and the most alcoholic violence.

There are educated, sober Atlantic Canadians, including oceanographer John M. Lawson, biologist Edward H. Miller, and biopsychologist William A. Montevecchi, all of Memorial University in St. John’s, Newfoundland.

Jointly correcting media coverage of a recent workshop on the interactions of harp seals and cod, sponsored by the Canadian Centre for Fisheries Innovation, Lawson, Miller, and Montevecchi stated in the March 11 edition of the *St. John’s Evening Telegram*, “The workshop concluded that seals played no role in causing the collapse of northern cod. The scientists also concluded that the 1994 seal population,” on which the present quota is based, “was 4.5 million, not 4.8 million as widely quoted, nor eight million, as some politicians maintain.”

Further, Lawson, Miller, and Montevecchi said, “To assess seal predation in isolation from the complex ecosystem of which both seals and cod are part is both simple-minded and ecologically ignorant.”

They expressed their trust that apologist for sealing Fred Woodman, chair of the Fisheries Resource Conservation Council, “as chairman of the advisory body charged with channelling scientific information to the minister of fisheries, will study the workshop report that was prepared and agreed to by the 29 scientists from around the world—including Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans scientists—and will transmit its contents faithfully to the minister.”

Lawson, Miller, and Montevecchi spoke out after scientists from 15 nations signed a statement at the 11th biennial meeting of the Society for Marine Mammology, pointing

out the same misrepresentations of data by the Canadian government, and calling for more honest use of science.

But telling Atlantic Canadians what they don’t want to hear doesn’t win elections, and Atlantic Canada provides the swing votes that keep the Canadian east/west, Liberal/Progressive Conservative/New Democrat balance.

The \$11 million to \$15 million made from the government-subsidized seal hunt isn’t the issue. Captain Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society found that out on February 7, in case as a New Brunswick native and 25-year anti-sealing campaigner he didn’t already know it, when the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans denied him a permit to continue development of a seal wool collection and weaving industry.

Seeking sound sleep

For more than two years Watson has had European bedding maker Tobias Kirchoff interested in purchasing the molting hair of baby harp seals to make into pricy but lightweight cold-and-water-resistant blankets and sleeping bags—perfect for snow-camping and mountain-climbing. The hair, Watson and partner Lisa DiStefano have shown, is gently and easily combed off the seals as they grow from the whitecoat to beater stage. Collecting it makes the seals worth more alive than the subsidy-inflated \$24 U.S. apiece that sealers get for their corpses.

However, the DFO won’t allow anyone on the ice with the seals without a sealing permit. Sealing permits are issued only to persons who killed fish, until there were no fish, and now kill seals. The DFO wants Watson and Kirchoff to collect seal wool on terms that would allow sealers to vent humiliation at having to comb seals by braining them afterward. The DFO evidently does not understand that the particular cachet of seal wool sleeping gear would come from enabling customers to sleep soundly, knowing the seals who furnished the wool were alive and well on the ice.

Instead the nightmare continues. The International Fund for Animal Welfare on February 10 refreshed global

—*Animal Protection Institute*

memory as to what it’s about with 10 hours of videotape taken last year by investigators who posed as hunting writers. Documented are 144 violations of federal sealing regulations. The Canadian Press news service noted “live seals being pulled from the water with hooks, seals flapping about in prolonged death throes after being shot, and seals lying in bloody piles after being skinned,” some apparently still alive.

The first outside documentation of the Atlantic Canada seal hunt, published 40 years ago, showed the same kinds of mayhem.

Fisheries minister Fred Mifflin called it part of the “annual crusade by IFAW to discredit the seal hunt.”

But IFAW couldn’t discredit it if it didn’t happen.
—*M.C.*

Whalers, Gambrell plot the “final solution” for whales

(continued)

part of the already growing traffic.

But whalewatching itself can be a threat to whales, as competition by vessel operators to get the best views often drives whales away from shore. Whales have moved farther out to sea along both the U.S. Atlantic and Pacific coasts during the past 15 years, despite increasing restrictions on boat operators. Pressured by lawsuits filed by activist Max Strahan, the National Marine Fisheries Service agreed February 11 to require all boats to remain 500 yards from any of the estimated 350 right whales surviving off the Atlantic coast—five times as far as they must stay from other baleen whales.

NMFS has also formed a Pacific Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Team to seek ways of reducing the accidental bycatch of beaked, pilot, and sperm whales, often killed by shark and swordfish netters. Sperm whales come under the IWC; beaked whales and pilot whales, along with dolphins and porpoises, do not. Beaked whales are often extremely rare, with several species known only from a handful of sightings. U.S. fishers kill an average of 39 beaked whales per year, a seeming handful—unless among the last of their kind.

There is so far no effective international protection for most small whales. CITES bans traffic in the remains of small whales recognized as endangered, dead or alive, but does not address killing them for reasons other than traffic. The only other legislation protecting small whales internation-

ally is the U.S. “dolphin-safe” standard for imported tuna, passed in 1990, in effect since 1992, but targeted for repeal by both the Clinton/Gore administration and senior Republicans in Congress. Turned back in the 104th Congress, repeal legislation has been reintroduced in the 105th.

Mexico meanwhile told the February meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, in Santa Marta, Columbia, that it will no longer release information on violations of IATTC dolphin protection rules—meaning there will be no way to monitor Mexican “dolphin-safe” compliance.

The Mexican declaration came as 42 dolphins, three grey whales, and millions of sardines were found dead near the Gulf of California port of Culiacan, apparent victims of yet another threat: NK-19, a cyanide-based dye used by drug traffickers to mark sites where cargos have been left floating for seaplane pickup and relay into the U.S.

Greenpeace Mexico director Roberto Lopez was cautious about his comments, but Homero Aridjis of the Group of 100 suggested the Mexican government might be ignoring NK-19 as a cause of cetacean deaths because of the recently exposed personal involvement of senior Mexican officials in drug dealing—whom Aridjis had fingered for years. Aridjis has even argued that the goal of a proposed Mitsubishi salt evaporation plant at the northern end of the Gulf of California is not to produce more salt, since salt is not a very lucrative

product, but rather to increase the access of drug barons allegedly involved in the deal to lightly guarded parts of the U.S. border. The proposed salt plant is widely viewed as an ecological threat to the calving habitat of about 300 gray whales. The total population of gray whales is about 18,000.

Underscoring the lack of protection for small whales, the Research Center for Marine Mammals counted more than 400 dead dolphins along the western coast of France in February, believed to have been drowned by the same mackerel dragnetters who killed about 40 dolphins and porpoises found on Cornish beaches a month earlier. The toll was the highest since 500 dead dolphins washed up in 1989.

But there isn’t any way to protect animals entirely from people with a bad attitude, as the sadistic shooting of a minke whale off Key West illustrated in early March. Unaware the whale had been shot multiple times, apparently by several different gunners, stranding rescuers helped her off a mud flat, but she washed up dead the next morning. The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, with an annual budget of \$600,000 and assets of \$450,000, almost all in ships, immediately posted a reward of \$7,000. A day later, HSUS, with an annual budget of \$32 million and \$45 million in assets, put up \$3,000. Some wire service accounts mentioned HSUS and the total reward fund of \$10,000 without mentioning the Sea Shepherds at all.

—*M.C.*

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Refuge of scoundrels (from page 1)

priority—even as Clinton opened another 23 refuges to hunting by November 1996. Exactly 300 of the 509 National Wildlife Refuges now permit hunting, about twice as many as a decade ago.

A case in point

The Thompson memo and attachments reached **ANIMAL PEOPLE** ten days after Julia Butler Hansen Refuge manager James Hidy on February 28 issued a *Summary of Comments and Responses*, *Finding of No Significant Impact*, and *Public Notice* of authorization to proceed, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, preparatory to hiring a USDA Animal Damage Control trapper to kill coyotes whom Hidy and refuge biologist Al Clark blame for the failure of the resident Columbian whitetailed deer to reach population targets. The diminutive deer in 1973 became one of the first animals protected under the Endangered Species Act, and the Julia Butler Hansen Refuge was among the first designated critical habitats for an endangered species. Hidy and Clark have run the refuge ever since. It consists of three small wooded islands and a large tract of open fields on the Washington side of the Columbia River, near the town of Cathlamet.

From the creation of the refuge, cattle have grazed there free of charge—and hay and silage have been taken from the refuge.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service set the target Julia Butler Hansen Refuge deer population at 400 individuals, a density of 50-plus per square mile. Wildlife managers usually recognize five to 10 deer per square mile of good habitat as optimal, 20 as problematic, and 35 as dangerously high. The initial refuge deer count showed 214 individuals. It grew only to 235 by 1983. Concluding that the deer were not getting enough to eat to bear twins, as deer normally do, Hidy and Clark invited hunters to shoot most of the resident elk population. Responding to public outrage, USFWS biologists produced two studies purporting that Columbia whitetailed deer cannot eat mature grass, and would starve if cattle didn't keep the grass short. Killing the elk—as many as 350, according to local media—did induce the deer herd to increase to 500 in just two years. As the elk recovered, however, the deer declined, then crashed when spring 1996 flooding killed all but an estimated 60 members of the Washington mainland herd.

That's when management took a chapter from cattle ranch management and blamed coyotes for failure.

Kangaroos

Paying repeated fact-finding visits to the Julia Butler Hansen Refuge, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** pointed out in a 23-page response to the Environmental Assessment of the projected trapping that the deer survived for thousands of years at the site without cattle, but became endangered only after cattle came; that the cattle not only take food from the deer, but also prevent the growth of cover; that the refuge offers less than half the cover generally considered optimal for herd growth; that much of what cover is available is on swampy or submerged ground, inappropriate for resting fawns; that the absence of rabbits from the refuge indicates both the extent of soil compaction by cattle hooves and the improbability that coyotes den there; that there is no evidence on most of the grazed and/or fodder-cropped part of the refuge that the fields have ever been harrowed, fertilized, or reseeded, the services that refuge management claims to get in trade for free grazing; the role of fodder-cropping in removing whatever tall grass cover the fawns might otherwise have, which refuge management claimed was adequate cover; the role of the grain shaken off grass stems during haymaking in bringing quick population expasions of meadow voles, which in turn draw coyotes to catch them; and the slim chance that the refuge ever supported the 2,200 cows that management claims once coexisted there with the elk and deer. This would have required keeping the cows at almost stockyard density.

World-recognized predator expert Paul Joslin of the Wolves and Whales Conservation Society filed parallel criticisms, and offered the use of roadkill to bait coyotes away from fawn resting areas as an alternative to killing coyotes. Friends of Animals offered to pay the cost. The Joslin proposal was sup-

ported by more than 400 letters of comment.

Hidy wrote in his *Finding of No Significant Impact* that of the 400 responses he received, “none included substantial new data, nor were convincing arguments made with countered information presented in the Environmental Assessment,” which he and Clark wrote, essentially making themselves the judges in their own case.

Two adult female coyotes and one male were killed during the first week of trapping, apparently drawn by scent lures.

None of the coyote massacre critics knew the Thompson memo existed until after the killing began. It was forwarded through former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement officer Carroll Cox by another whistleblower still within USFWS. Cox, formerly one of the USFWS staff most praised and honored for vigorous pursuit of poachers and wildlife traffickers, was dismissed after blowing the whistle on other USFWS activities which appear to contradict and circumvent the agency mandate to conserve wildlife. Cox is now suing USFWS, alleging wrongful dismissal both as a whistleblower and as a victim of discrimination, having been among the first Afro-Americans to wear the USFWS badge.

Since **ANIMAL PEOPLE** put the Cox case on page one of our January 1997 edition, other government personnel have sought his help in exposing further alleged failures of their agencies to obey wildlife protection law. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has received documents through Cox involving almost every wildlife agency in the Pacific states.

Such information was instrumental in exposing in March how the USFWS ignored factual findings to authorize the U.S. Navy to bomb habitat for endangered ovenbirds, sea turtles, humpback whales, and 15 other federally protected species on Farallon de Medinilla, a tiny island in the western Pacific.

That revelation shook loose still more documents. Cox told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** he is receiving and relaying information from some people he never previously knew, and others whom he viewed as part of the problems within various agencies, whose dissatisfaction he previously hadn't suspected.

What the memo said

“As we enter into a review of animal trapping within the Refuge System,” Thompson wrote to the National Wildlife Refuge managers on January 28, three days before an informal hearing on the proposal to trap coyotes at the Julia Butler Hansen Refuge, “some perspective on the activities that are occurring in the national and international arenas on this subject will be valuable. To this end, I have attached a variety of information,” he said, “primarily related to the activities of the Fur Resources Technical Subcommittee of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies,” a private organization that unofficially represents U.S. wildlife management in negotiations with the EC.

The first attachment advertised “special pricing on quantities of 500 or more” of a pro-trapping video, *Balancing Nature: Trapping in Today's World*. “There are two versions,” the advertisement explained, “a 28-minute version with women from 25 to 40 designated as the target audience and a shorter 9-minute version designed for the delivery of a ‘why trapping’ message to North America’s governmental decision-makers.”

The producers were Scott Huber, a wildlife damage control employee of the South Dakota Fish and Game Department, and Butch Isom, assistant director of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Joining Huber and Isom in the scripting were Tom Decker, furbearer biologist from the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Wildlife, and Tom Krause, of the National Trappers Association. Both are on the IAFWA Fur Resources Technical Subcommittee on Trapping.

The second attachment to the Thompson memo was a January 9 letter to the IAFWA executive committee by IAFWA legal counsel Paul A. Lenzini.

“While the interest of the Fur Resources Committee has been to preserve the European market,” Lenzini explained, “I considered it my special responsibility to assure that we 1) avoid any international agreement at the federal level which could be the basis for a claim of federal preemption of state authority, i.e. a binding international agreement; and 2)

avoid assertions in any international agreement which would purport to bind the states to any particular course of action.”

Continued Lenzini, “In late November (1996), it appeared that the Government of Canada and the Russian Federation, which each have less at stake here than the United States, were willing to enter into what we in the U.S. viewed as a binding international agreement with the European Union. The U.S. declined to do so, both on grounds that the executive branch lacked the authority, and on policy grounds as well.”

Both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Department, representing the U.S. in international trade agreements, are parts of the U.S. Executive Branch.

“As a substitute,” Lenzini went on, “the EU Commission proposed that the U.S. and the EU enter into a so-called Agreed Minute wherein the U.S. would endorse a set of standards for humane trapping to be annexed thereto. Unfortunately, the EU also sought a commitment that traps not meeting the standards be phased out within four years, from date of ratification of the Canadian agreement, whether or not, when tested, conventional legholds meet the standards. At the same time, the EU is willing to extend a safeguard clause permitting a state wildlife agency to continue using any trap which fails to meet the standards, including the conventional leghold trap, if a workable alternative is unavailable, so long as an effort is underway to find a replacement trap. The ability to point to language saying that the leghold trap will be prohibited in the U.S. is of importance to the EU Commission, and the fact that by reason of the safeguard, legholds might actually continue in widespread use here is apparently of no concern.”

Lenzini alleged, in effect, that the EU Commission would accede to a Big Lie, if phrased so as to deflect public pressure. However, Lenzini added, “Discussions with the EU since early December have run aground on the inability to commit states which are sovereign in this matter to this or any other specific course. Off and on during December,” Lenzini explained, “I have been in contact with the Office of Legal Adviser at the State Department. Legal advisers at State offered helpful suggestions and wording changes so that the U.S. package could not be construed to be binding. The Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental Affairs also offered helpful suggestions.”

—Carroll Cox

Enclosing a draft of the so-called Agreed Minute, Lenzini said he was satisfied that it “would not constitute a binding international agreement should it be agreed to by the EU and would not constitute a basis on which it could be successfully be claimed that there had been federal preemption of state authority to regulate traps and trapping methods.”

The proposed Agreed Minute requires neither the U.S. nor the European Community to do anything more than “encourage and support research, development, monitoring and training programs,” which “promote the use and application of traps and trapping methods for the humane treatment” of furbearing mammals.

The language in effect defines the use of “traps and trapping methods” as “humane,” without defining the term ‘humane’ itself, then commits the U.S. and EC to promoting “the use and application” of such undefined “traps and trapping and trapping methods,” so as to reaffirm the role of wildlife agencies in supporting fur trapping as presently practiced, against public opposition.

European Union environment ministers and foreign ministers have to date been skeptical of the Agreed Minute. Trappers did gain some ground in mid-February, when The Netherlands, holding the EU presidency, agreed to extend the deadline for reaching agreement with the U.S. Canada, and Russia on trap standards from April to June, before imposing the ban on the import of furs possibly caught by “inhumane” means.

However, on February 24, reported Caroline Southey of *The Financial Times*, “EU foreign ministers agreed on a mandate for fresh talks with Canada and Russia on the banning of leghold traps, dismissing as too weak a deal struck by European Union negotiators. The mandate for fresh negotiations includes reducing the period over which the use of traps will be phased out, and introducing an arbitration system in the event of countries failing to impose the ban. The ministers also called for a similar deal with the U.S.”

Added Southey on March 4, “European Union environment ministers confirmed their earlier rejection of a provisional deal struck between EU negotiations, Canada, and Russia. The ministers have insisted that any agreement must include a comprehensive and immediate ban on the use of all leghold traps.”

As **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press, further dickering was set for March 17.

—Merritt Clifton

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ANIMALS IN ENTERTAINMENT

Gini Barrett, formerly senior vice president of the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers’ Public Affairs Coalition, has succeeded the retired Betty Denny Smith as American Humane Association western regional director, responsible for overseeing animal use in screen entertainment. Barrett also serves on the Los Angeles City Animal Regulation Commission, to which she was appointed in 1993.

“The use of live tigers and other undomesticated animals in retail store promotions conducted by our company-operated stores” is prohibited, EXXON has advised field managers. EXXON intends to continue using tigers in TV advertising, along with tiger balloons and people dressed as tigers in live store promotions, a spokesperson said.

Despite selling a record number of tickets, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo had a drop of 20,000 this year in actual live attendance. Officials blame wet weather.

Demanding that the Interior Ministry of Spain rescind or amend a law requiring post-bullfight veterinary inspections to detect any horn-shaving or other tampering to make the bulls less dangerous, the Federation of Bullfighting Professionals bullfighters on March 4 agreed to suspend a two-day strike during a two-month negotiation period. Bullfight fans, especially tourists, have complained recently that fighting bulls these days just aren’t dangerous enough to be thrilling. The fighters respond that they consider getting gored an occupational safety hazard, not actually part of the job.

Afro-American rodeo clown Leon Coffey is still trying to shrug off a remark to the audience by fellow clown Rick Chatman at the National Western Stock Show Rodeo in Denver on Martin Luther King Day, about how Coffee should have been better with a rope because his father and grandfather purportedly both died at the end of one. “I’m from Texas,” Coffey recently told Gwen Forio of the Philadelphia Inquirer. “They hung horse thieves there. For all I know, some of my ancestors were horse thieves.” Chatman’s remark drew a rebuke from Denver mayor Wellington Webb, who is also Afro-American. The controversy heated up again when announcer Hadley Barrett used an anti-Semitic phrase several nights later to describe negotiations over the price of a horse.

People & Organizations

Fred O'Regan, former director of the Office of Europe, Central Asia, and the Mediterranean for the **Peace Corps**, has succeeded **Richard Moore** as chief executive officer of the **International Fund for Animal Welfare**. Moore moved into a consulting role nine months ago. Best known for international campaigns against sealing, whaling, and dog-and-cat-eating, IFAW also issued grants to no-kill animal shelters and rescue programs totalling \$395,000 in fiscal year 1996-1997, according to field activities correspondent and pet rescue project coordinator **Kristina Hemenway**. To receive the IFAW Pet Rescue Grant Project guidelines for fiscal year 1997, write to Hemenway at 411 Yarmouth Port, MA 02675-1822. No grants will be made before August 1, 1997.

The agenda for the April 10-12 Summit for the Animals, an annual gathering of U.S. animal rights group leaders to be held this year in Rockville, Maryland, indicates that the main business will be to assess dues, prorated by the assets of the member organization. Underwritten by **United Animal Nations** since inception in 1985, the Summit now must become self-sustaining because UAN, after the departure of longtime program coordinator **Vernon Weir** to become a freelance consultant, has elected to focus resources on the Emergency Animal Relief Services program led by **Terri Crisp**. Other Summit topics include a day-long series of discussions and lectures about working within the U.S. political system, featuring three speakers of whom two are British; and a session on "Recruiting and Reaching Ethnic Groups," for which no speaker had been chosen at press time. As **ANIMAL PEOPLE** pointed out in January 1993, no national animal rights group has a person of color among its top five salaried staff, nor as a non-salaried board president. Members of ethnic minorities direct numerous hands-on animal care facilities, however, both public and private, as well as some regional animal rights groups. Apparently to reduce friction, the Summit has abolished a traditional "open forum" in favor of discussing questions which are to be submitted three weeks in advance.

The \$150,000 Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement, administered by the University of Southern California, was split among primatologists **Jane Goodall**, **Birute Galdikas**, and **George Schaller**. Goodall, founder of the **Jane Goodall Institute**, is known for her 38 years of field study of chimpanzees; Galdikas, of **Orangutan Foundation International**, has observed orangutans for almost as long; and Schaller, of **Wildlife Conservation International**, is noted for field investigations of gorillas, lions, tigers, snow leopards, and pandas. WCI was formerly known as the **New York Zoological Society**.

The British-based Tiger Trust on Valentine's Day withdrew a full-page newspaper ad, published in Hong Kong, that showed a picture of **O.J. Simpson**'s face captioned, "Brain behind the slaughter." The ad attacked the use of tiger brains in traditional Chinese acne medicine.

PETA on March 11 severed relations with model Naomi Campbell, one of the five stars of the "rather go naked than wear fur" campaign, after she was photographed twice wearing furs—most recently for Fendi, of Milan, a major fur designer. PETA spokesperson **Michael McGraw** said Campbell was the only one of 50 models who pledged not to wear fur, including **Ellie Macpherson** and **Claudia Schiffer**, who broke the promise.

Legislation In Support of Animals, known for sparking pound reform around Louisiana and for providing emergency animal services when a budget crisis brought a six-month suspension of the New Orleans animal control contract, has opened a five-cage no-kill Pet Care Center to promote adoptions of animals from the **Jefferson Parish Animal Shelter**, using space rented from a Metairie veterinary clinic. "No need to sound the trumpets," said LISA president **Jeff Dorson**. "We are waiting to see if the public responds to the idea," in which case the adoption shelter will expand as needed.

Animal rescuers Jenny and Alasdair MacGregor, of Monmouth, Gwent, Britain, in January won custody of a Welsh pony they nursed back to health, on condition that they pay owner **Anthony Probert**—convicted of abusing the pony—half his asking price of about \$1,400. **The Royal SPCA**, which legally assisted the MacGregor's, then billed them for costs of nearly \$13,000, on top of their own expenses of circa \$10,000. The RSPCA told the London *Daily Telegraph* that the billing was "very unfortunate," but would not have occurred if they had just given Probert the pony.

Salt Lake City Animal Services director Peggy Hinnen, unable to update the city animal control ordinance in three years of trying, announced March 7 that she will step down from the top job to take over public relations duties as soon as a replacement is hired. Joining SLC/AS in 1978, Hinnen has been director since 1987.

The Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation on February 20 renamed itself **Los Angeles Animal Services**, to improve public recognition of its pet adoption, lost-and-found, and anti-cruelty programs. Also seeking a new image, the **Los Angeles SPCA**, founded in 1877, retitled itself **SPCA/LA** on December 3, 1996. SPCA/LA and the **Long Beach Bureau of Animal Control** are discussing plans for a new shelter, possibly to be shared by both.

Australian Services Union industrial officer Brian Springett said on March 13 that he would ask the Labor Council of New South Wales and the Australian Council of Trade Unions to boycott **Greenpeace Australia**, after Greenpeace Australia told the NSW Industrial Commission that former staffers **Ben Pearson** and **Jean McSorley** are not entitled to 32 weeks and 48 weeks of back pay, respectively, for uncompensated overtime. Pearson and McSorley lost their jobs last year when Greenpeace Australia laid off a third of its staff. Pearson was chief spokesperson aboard the *MV Greenpiece* during the 1996 campaign against French nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll. McSorley was a regional nuclear campaigner.

Information

Dick Weevil, host since the 1991 inception of the Animals & Society subsection of the Pet Care Forum on America OnLine, and founder of a new Rescue subsection, was fired February 17 by the veterinary firm that owns the forum, apparently due to conflicts over resource allocation with the heads of subsections run by animal fanciers. Under Weevil, also targeted for at least two years by anonymous hunters and trappers using the screen names "Ster600" and "MdPhdStud," Animals & Society was among the 50 most visited features among the more than 5,000 AOL offerings. Weevil indicated that he might start his own online forum. Several Animals & Society assistant hosts and facilitators resigned in solidarity with Weevil, including **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, a regular presence at Animals & Society since January 1994, with compensated status since October 1996. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** had declined an offer to publish our electronic archives through Animals & Society, opting to stay with our own web site.

The Animals' Agenda and Animals' Voice magazines, both financially faltering, have merged—but according to a telephone message left by an advertising representative, they will have only 1,000 more subscribers combined than either did alone. Founded in 1981 by Doug Moss and Jim Mason, *Animals' Agenda* moved into the black ink under the editorship of Kim Bartlett, 1986-1992. Moss left in 1988 to found *E: The Environmental Magazine*. Bartlett and Merritt Clifton, *Animals' Agenda* news editor 1988-1992, left to found **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, after which the *Animals' Agenda* subscription renewal rate reportedly fell from 84% to 35%, and publication frequency dropped from 10 issues a year to 4-6 a year. *The Animals' Voice*, begun in 1986 as a newsletter by former *Animals' Agenda* typesetter Laura Moretti, lost heavily, according to IRS Form 990 filings, after expanding into a slick magazine under the patronage of entrepreneur Gil Michaels, who was reputedly annoyed with *Animals' Agenda* because editor-at-large Patrice Greanville opposed the 1988 presidential campaign of Robert Dole, a former recipient of the Animal Welfare Institute's Albert Schweitzer award. Greanville now produces the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** web site.

Henry Spira

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.

Marine mammal info denied to public

WASHINGTON D.C.—Congressional Research Service senior analyst Gene Buck advised online correspondents on March 5 that, “In response to evolving CRS policy, I believe it is prudent that I suspend providing my weekly fishery and marine mammal summaries to non-Congressional parties, and retract all permission previously granted for use of this material. CRS is sensitive to perceptions that its material is more widely available than might be helpful in fulfilling its limited role of serving Congress. Thus I am taking this step to terminate what could be perceived as an inappropriate exposure of CRS material.”

Pressed for explanation, Buck insisted, “The decision to stop posting my summaries was entirely voluntary on my part after several meetings with higher-level CRS management and attorneys earlier this week. Last week, CRS received an irate letter from several constituency groups expressing concern that some of my work was out of bounds and should be restricted to the legislative limits that we work only for Congress. This related to the wide distribution of one of my draft reports for peer review and comment.”

The draft report, distributed on December 31, 1996 to reviewers including **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, was entitled *Marine Mammals in Captivity*, and factually summarized current issues pertaining to the status of captive marine mammals under federal law. Seeing nothing in it that might reasonably have annoyed any constituency group involved in marine mammal issues, either for or against keeping marine mammals in captivity, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** filed Freedom of Information Act requests seeking the “irate letter from several constituency groups” and other relevant documents. As the CRS is not part of the Executive Branch of government and is therefore not directly subject to FOIA, Buck didn’t cooperate—though the same materials should have been available by going through Executive Branch officers with access to CRS—but he hinted that vital clues were available at the World Wide Web site of the Federation of American Scientists, formerly called the Federation of Atomic Scientists.

FAS, founded in 1945 by members of the Manhattan Project that produced the first atomic bomb, in conscientious response to the use of the bomb, describes itself as “a privately funded nonprofit policy organization whose board of sponsors includes over 40 American Nobel Laureates,” who are “engaged in analysis and advocacy on science, technology and public policy for global security.” **ANIMAL PEOPLE** is familiar with FAS from decades of related news coverage, and is a participant in a global FAS online forum dedicated to tracking emerging animal diseases and zoonotic epidemics.

One division of FAS is the Government Secrecy Project, whose current focus is “Liberating the Congressional Research Service.” Explains FAS *Secrecy & Government Bulletin* #65, dated March 1997 and posted to the web site, “The Congressional

Research Service of the Library of Congress produces well-regarded analyses of legislative and policy issues for members of Congress. It also adheres to an anachronistic secrecy policy. Although CRS maintains thousands of its reports and issue briefs in electronic form on its web site, that site has been signed so as to prevent public access. One would have hoped that the Library of Congress would be at the forefront of new initiatives to break down old barriers to public access to government information. It would seem desirable for the public and their representatives to operate from a common knowledge base, particularly since its contents are neither classified nor otherwise privileged. Indeed, they are widely available in hard copy to Washington insiders and lobbyists.

Double standard

“To help fill the void created by the CRS non-disclosure policy,” the FAS bulletin adds, “the Committee for the National Institute for the Environment,” headed by zoologist Stephen Hubbell, “has scanned and posted several hundred CRS reports on environmental topics on its website, >>http://www.cnie.org<<. It even solicits financial contributions in order ‘to add new and updated CRS reports’ to its collection. But after the FAS Space Policy Project posted a dozen or so CRS publications with the CRS logo, obtained with the assistance of a Congressional staffer, a CRS official sent an e-mail message to project director John Pike to complain.”

Wrote CRS Science Policy Research Division chief Eric Fischer, “While we are honored that you consider [these reports] worthy of such a posting, I need to point out that we work for Congress and do not encourage such forms of dissemination beyond Congress. It is essential that we maintain our ability to serve the Congress well as an objective, nonpartisan resource. We therefore cannot risk our products being falsely perceived as being associated with any outside organization, no matter how worthy.”

Responded FAS, after pointing out again that CRS documents are neither copyrighted nor under national security restrictions, “There is little danger that anyone would perceive CRS as being affiliated with FAS, but if that is a real concern, then why doesn’t CRS make its publications available itself, just as the General Accounting Office does?”

Partisan politics would appear to be involved. The Committee for the National Institute for the Environment, with which CRS seems to have no problem, seeks to form a scientific umbrella and source of research funding along the model of the National Institutes of Health, a relatively noncontroversial project, except for the cost, favored by many Republican Congressional leaders as well as Democrats. FAS, on the other hand, has never quite lost a “left” reputation dating to the early days of the Cold War. Anxiety at CRS over appearing to be cooperative with FAS might just be the whole problem.

Congressional politics

The Fund for Animals Congressional Scorecard for the 104th Congress gave Senators 25 points each for opposing federal subsidies to the mink industry, opposing a moratorium on new Endangered Species listings, opposing funding of the BION space experiments on monkeys, and opposing bills that would have weakened the Endangered Species Act. Achieving 100 each were 13 Democrats and two Republicans: **Dale Bumpers** and **David Pryor** (both D- Arkansas); **Daniel Akaka** (D-Hawaii); **Tom Harkin** (D-Iowa); **Edward Kennedy** and **John Kerry** (both D-Massachusetts); **Carl Levin** (D-Michigan); **Paul David Wellstone** (D-Minnesota); **J. Robert Kerrey** (D-Nebraska); **Judd Gregg** (R-New Hampshire); **Frank Lautenberg** (D-New Jersey); **Ron Wyden** (D-Oregon); **Fred Thompson** (R-Tennessee); **Patrick Leahy** (D-Vermont) and **James Jeffords** (R-Vermont); and **Patty Murray** (D-Washington). Representatives gained 25 points each for opposing mink subsidies, opposing making hunting an official purpose of the National Wildlife Refuge system, opposing funding of the USDA Animal Damage Control program, and opposing weakening the “dolphin-safe” tuna import standard. Fifty-one Representatives scored 100, among whom the only Republicans were **Jan Meyers**, Kansas, and **Dick Zimmer**, New Jersey. The scorecard is available from the Fund at 200 West 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

Pennsylvania activist William Detwiler has announced formation of two new organizations, Rep America and GreenMission. “Rep America,” Detwiler said, “is a national Republican grassroots group that wishes to return the Republican party to its conservancy roots and stop the anti-environmental agenda.” Rep America has a web site at >>http://www.repamerica.org<<. GreenMission “is an Internet-linked group of schools that gets involved in actively trying to make a difference for the environment.” It has a web page at >>http://www.rep.org/kidpower<<.

Wise-use wiseguys

Kathleen Marquardt, just a few months after announcing the merger of her anti-animal rights group **Putting People First** with the far-right **American Policy Center**, was billed at a February 15 fundraiser for Congressional Representative **Rick Hill** (R-Montana) as spokesperson for something called **Putting Liberty First**—on the same bill as APC founder **Tom DeWeese**. An extensive online data search indicates that Marquardt’s husband, attorney **Bill Wewer**, may not have appeared in public or written for PPF since July 1991, and has apparently surfaced in articles about PPF in mass media only once since PPF moved in 1994 from Washington D.C. to Helena, Montana—Marquardt’s home town. “I have not been as visible lately,” Wewer said by fax, “because I have moled into a movement organization using an identity which, although assumed, does contain a humorous clue to my real identity, if you know how to look for it.” From 1990 to 1994, it was Wewer rather than Marquardt who tended to have the higher public profile. Wewer and Marquardt were two of the four board members at the **National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare** when it ran afoul of two Congressional investigations and was reprimanded by the U.S. Postal Service and the Justice Department in the mid-1980s for allegedly misleading fundraising. Wewer subsequently incorporated the **Doris Day Animal League** in 1987; did legal work for the **National Alliance for Animal Legislation** in 1989, preparatory to the 1990 March for the Animals, after Marquardt founded PPF; and left DDAL and the Alliance to represent PPF in early 1990.

“**Despite an urgent fax alert from Chuck Cushman’s Land Rights Network**, only three property rights protesters appeared outside the Embassy Row Hotel in Washington D.C., the site of the **Environmental Grantmakers Association** conference,” in early February, reported the February 10 edition of the **Clearinghouse on Environmental Advocacy and Research** electronic newsletter *Clear*. Cushman, founder of numerous wise-use “groups,” whose existence is often manifested only by a maildrop and fax

The floods of ‘97

Animal rescuers were stretched thin from late January to St. Patrick’s Day by flooding in northern California and twisters followed by torrential rains that on March 4 raised the Ohio River to its highest level in 30 years. The American Humane Association had just a boat-carrying mobile clinic to a regional training event when the floods began, and didn’t get it into action until March 10, when it set up in Falmouth, Kentucky. The Kentucky animal relief effort to then was apparently led by Henry Wallace’s Henry’s Ark petting zoo, in Prospect.

The Humane Society of the U.S. reportedly published newspaper ads bal-lyhooing involvement in the California animal rescue work, but according to Bob Plumb of the Promoting Animal Welfare Society, which sent \$5,000 and several staff to the hardest-hit area, actually rescued just one bird. Four HSUS staffers and two from AHA mostly helped the California Veterinary Medical Association emergency team with paperwork, reports from the field agreed. United Animal Nations Animal Rescue Service coordinator Terri Crisp meanwhile organized 600 volunteers to rescue and care for 857 animals, housed temporarily at the Sacramento fairgrounds, with no supply help, she alleged, from other national groups.

HSUS, Crisp said, “sent three people in nice clothes” to visit, on just one of the 22 days the temporary shelter was operating. “I have a real problem with them borrowing our boat and our waders, to pose for pictures,” Crisp fumed. “Donors are being deceived.”

Crisp mustered seven trained rescuers to help in Clermont County, Ohio, beginning March 7, when they rescued 46 abandoned and isolated animals, and added five more rescuers to her staff the next day.

Arkansans for Animals coordinated the rescue work around Arkadelphia, said president Joyce Hillard, picking up more than 150 scared, wet animals including a Siberian tiger and a wolf hybrid. Help came from UAN, Friends of Animals, and the Pet Savers Foundation. Little Rock Animal Control, the Saline County Humane Society, and the Humane Society of Pulaski County reportedly also took in more than 100 extra animals each in the first days after the twisters and rain hit.

UAN Animal Rescue Service training workshops are scheduled—if disasters don’t interfere—for April 6 in Houston, April 19 in New York City, May 3 in Wilmington (N.C.), June 7 in Atlanta, June 21 in New Orleans, July 19 in Boston, August 2 in Cleveland, August 3 in Cincinnati, September 6 in Las Vegas, September 27 in Madison, October 25 in St. Louis, and November 1 in Arlington, Virginia. Info: 916-429-2457, or fax 916-429-2456.

WATCH YOUR PENNIES

“Know what works good?” homeless Earl asked Mike Barnicle of the *Boston Globe* last November, as Barnicle researched a feature on panhandling. “Get a can and cover it with pictures of hurt dogs. People give you money: they think it’s for hurt dogs. The ‘feed the family’ sign, that don’t get you anywhere near as much as a picture of a hurt dog.”

Pioneered decades ago by the March of Dimes, the counter change can is a staple of grassroots fundraising, especially important to small town humane societies and neighborhood rescue groups, who have learned that the regulars at restaurants and coffee shops will often chip in to help the feral cats around the dumpster. The secret, agree experts, is having lots of attractive cans out in lots of locations—and visiting them often, to avoid losses to petty theft. Can campaigns involve much driving, so may not bring a big net if a humane society has to provide the vehicle and personnel, but running one makes a dandy job for a volunteer who likes to drive.

Unfortunately, the seeming ease of change collection also attracts questionable operators. And usually, as the Bucks County SPCA found out in 1995, there isn’t much anyone can do about it. Two years after winning conviction of Puppyland pet store owners Sheri Gould and Alan Deitschman for neglecting dogs at the Richland branch of their two-store chain, and one year after the Deitschman conviction was upheld on appeal, Bucks County SPCA investigator Jeanette Rilling traced counter cans for an unknown “Animal Welfare League” to a maildrop and unlisted telephone number. The telephone rang at an answering service. The operation was incorporated by Gould and Deitschman. Since neither the IRS nor state agencies pay much attention to charities financed by small change, and since begging is a constitutionally protected free speech, about all the Bucks County SPCA could do was make sure that merchants who had the cans on their counters understood that the “Animal Welfare League” was an unrelated organization.

The most ambitious change can operation yet may be the Volunteer State Humane Society and Humane Society of the Carolinas. Since fall 1996, the twin organizations have placed hundreds of tin banks shaped like dogs on counters along a route from Knoxville, Tennessee, through Hendersonville,

North Carolina, to Ashville, South Carolina. Behind it are one Troy Taylor, the listed owner of the PostNet maildrops in each city, where the “humane society” telephones ring—but **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, in repeated tries, never got an answer, nor were messages returned. We did obtain bylaws, articles of incorporation, a mission statement, and a letter of introduction for the Volunteer State Humane Society. The introduction opened, “Our organization is primarily a fundraising entity, which frequently serves to engender fear and suspicion on initial contact with animal welfare organizations.” It went on to decry “people worried about high school kids dissecting frogs,” and to deplore “people taking their children to see the Barnum and Bailey [circus] and being screamed at,” asserting that “the animals in a high-quality circus have a better life than the majority of human beings.”

Added the letter, “We have pledged to keep our overhead at less than 50%,” well above the 40% ceiling set by the National Charities Information Bureau. It also explained, “We will be paying those people on the street doing the work a modest salary.” It suggested that an attorney might contact any critics.

The much shorter mission statement said “The Volunteer State Humane Society was organized as a non-profit fundraising entity, designed to help provide financial assistance to various animal shelters, rescue groups for both pet and livestock animals, and low-cost spay and neuter clinics. It should be noted that all funds raised in the community will be donated to programs directly in the community.”

However, humane societies in Knoxville and the western Carolinas that run such programs said they hadn’t received any VSHS or HSC money, adding that the tin dogs had cut into their own counter can revenue.

The VSHS mission statement continued to assert that VSHS, “following the lead of the Humane Society of the United States,” is “dedicated to helping fund education aimed at raising consumer awareness of conditions existing in many commercial livestock operations, as well as helping to provide assistance and encouragement of farmers to raise and process food animals in a more humane and healthy manner.”

The remaining four paragraphs of the mission statement attacked humane opposition to eating meat.

Animal control & rescue

Public demands an end to old-style animal control

A series of early 1997 small-city clashes over animal shelter management suggest that the cultural transformation hitting big city shelters for more than a decade is now universal: the public sees more, expects more, and business-as-usual won’t hack it.

Retiring sheriff Lee Vasquez of Yamhill County, Oregon, said so in almost as many words in January, when as his last official act he ordered a halt to the 30-year practice of selling pound animals to Oregon Health Sciences University and the Oregon State University college of veterinary medicine. “It is clear to me,” Vasquez concluded, “that the sale of live animals is no longer a practice which our county should tolerate.”

New sheriff Norm Hand was left to figure out how to replace \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year in lost animal control revenue. Pressure to reverse Vasquez’s order came from the biomedical research community, since Yamhill County was the only supplier of dogs and cats to either OHSU or OSU, but Hand indicated that he would try to honor Vasquez’s wishes.

In Elyria, Ohio, the Animal Protective League of Lorain County responded to the January 9 premature euthanasia of a 15-year-old stray golden retriever by firing three staffers after a six-week investigation, two weeks after county chief assistant prosecutor Mike Szekely filed a misdemeanor cruelty charge against euthanasia technician Heidi M. Poschner. APL executive director Linda Gullifer told Stephen Hudak of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* that she fired Poschner, medical supervisor Melinda Davis, and aide Terrie Terbrack, “not because I don’t think they’re good employees, but because of public pressure.”

The golden retriever’s owner, Lisa Tylicki, was charged with failure to license. She had filed a lost dog report at the shelter earlier the same day the dog was brought in and killed, the day after the dog got out of her yard. Ohio law requires a three-day waiting period before killing strays.

The Arizona Department of Public Safety in January confirmed allegations raised last June that Willcox firefighters assigned to animal control duty to save the town money routinely shot or drowned dogs and cats, slashed a dog’s throat, and left a dog to die of exposure in a trap. Willcox fire department lieutenant Guy Acuna testified that former department commander Paul Grant thought that the city animal control budget of \$600 a year to handle as many as 400 animals was still too high. Grant quit in May 1996. Acuna, firefighter/paramedic Clifford McCluer, and police officer William Reed were fired February 20 for allegedly lying to state investigator Thomas Rogers.

A parallel Arizona Department of Public Safety investigation of the conduct of 12-year Cochise County animal control officer Gary Wocjik, also of Willcox, concluded that he violated state and federal laws pertaining to animal cruelty, waste disposal, and keeping public records. Wocjik was suspended for 21 days in July 1996, but was allowed to return to duty with a promise to obey the law. On February 7, however, he was again suspended, with pay, for claiming to have killed a dog who later turned up alive, and for failing to record another alleged dog pickup.

In Swansea, Massachusetts, dogcatcher Herman Camara resigned on January 27, under fire for killing 639 of the 762 dogs he picked up in the preceding three years—an 84% killing rate, compared to a killing rate for neighboring towns of from 37% to 51%. Camara, also a livestock auctioneer, had been part-time dogcatcher since 1980. He worked alone, took the dogs he picked up to kennels at his auction facility, and illegally buried their corpses on town land—which now must be covered with at least four feet of clean fill to comply with state law. Camara’s telephone number was unlisted. He was paid \$7,500 a year, plus \$6 a day for boarding each dog he picked up for a maximum 10 days. Camara billed Swansea for the maximum budgeted amount, \$15,000, in each of the past three years.

FARM (March, April or May, and June))

WHAT'S IN A NAME? NO-KILLS AND THE HEART OF DARKNESS

PHOENIX—Fast losing public support for the traditional “full service shelter” concept, which it has advanced without significant modification since forming in 1954, the Humane Society of the U.S. at its Animal Care Expo in mid-February unveiled a campaign to persuade no-kill shelters to relabel themselves “limited access shelters.”

HSUS central/south regional office director Phil Snyder and Cat Care Society executive director Kathy Macklem introduced the “limited access” term in panel discussion, after which Macklem tried to enlist the endorsement of No-Kill Directory publisher, No-Kill Conference founder, and Doing Things For Animals president Lynda Foro.

Responded Foro, “The euphemisms for no-kill may be more palatable for a lot of people, but they miss the point. Why is it that killing animals makes a shelter full service? I stand by the use of no-kill because it is an honest term. The majority of killing that takes place in traditional shelters is not euthanasia in the literal sense. No-kills perform euthanasia; traditional shelters kill more than they euthanize. Honesty in the use of these terms is a start in being truthful with ourselves.”

The HSUS campaign is reminiscent of former HSUS director for companion animals Ken White’s effort, 1993-1995, to relabel no-kill shelters “turnaways.” White was founding executive director of the San Francisco Department of Animal Care and Control, the city agency formed to take over animal control duties after San Francisco SPCA president Richard Avanzino surrendered the city animal control contract in 1984 to focus on low-cost neutering and adoptions. White’s departure helped smooth the way for the 1994 implementation of the Adoption Pact, under which the SF/SPCA, no-kill since 1989, has successfully guaranteed placement of all healthy or recoverable animals taken in by the SF/DACC, making San Francisco the first city in which shelters kill animals only to prevent immediate suffering or to facilitate legally mandated rabies testing. In early 1995, White left HSUS to become president of the Arizona Humane Society—and led the applause for Avanzino, the keynote speaker, at the September 1995 No-Kill Conference.

Following the San Francisco model, the Humane Society of Missouri, American SPCA, and Wisconsin Humane Society have surrendered the St. Louis, New York City, and Milwaukee County animal control contracts. The Progressive Animal Welfare Society, of Lynnwood, Washington, in the greater Seattle area, is also committed to phasing out non-euthanasia shelter killing, according to longtime shelter executive Mitchell Fox, despite the departure last year of former executive director Craig Brestrup, who had stirred considerable controversy by announcing that choice of direction.

The effect of a humane society surrendering contracts to kill animals for population control and announcing a no-kill objective within a specific time frame is inevitably to increase public support of the society, as it disassociates itself with a highly unpopular program that often operates at a significant net

loss. The humane society thereby gains resources for use in preventing animal births. The transition time from surrendering the animal control contract to seeing the first positive results tends to be two to three years. Animal shelter intakes and killing rates, already falling in St. Louis, New York City, Milwaukee, and the Seattle suburbs prior to the surrender of the animal control contracts and/or commitment to no-kill, continue to drop. The fastest progress is evident in New York, where the Center for Animal Care and Control, though still killing about 40,000 animals in 1996, nonetheless killed slightly fewer *per capita*, 5.5 per thousand human residents, than the SF/DACC, which killed 6.5 per thousand—with the national average at 20 per thousand. Seattle and surrounding cities are at approximately eight per thousand.

Kurtz up the river

Ironically, NY/CACC founding president Marty Kurtz resigned February 21 under intense pressure, an apparent victim of backstabbing by board, staff, and some former staff who—though fired for cause—mounted a successful media campaign against his administration, to which Kurtz could not respond effectively because he could not release the contents of their personnel files. A seven-member search committee including four animal advocates and three representatives of New York city government was at deadline inviting applications from potential successors, including NY/CACC chief veterinarian and acting head Sue Kopp, American Humane Association animal protection division chief Ed Sayres, SF/DACC president Carl Friedman (who reportedly declined the opportunity), and former American SPCA executive vice president John Foran, a retired military officer who helped ASPCA president Roger Caras make the transition to no-kill.

As the NY/CACC search commenced, Sayres hosted an invitation-only conference on future directions in shelter practice at the AHA offices in Englewood, Colorado, occasioned by the private distribution pending publication of a Brestrup monograph based on his PAWS experience, attacking the conventional philosophic rationale for shelter killing. The monograph paralleled observations and critiques issued as far back as 1981 by psychologist Alan Beck, and in ensuing years by Avanzino, Tufts University Center for Animals and Public Policy founder Andrew Rowan, former HSUS vice president Ed Duvin, who is now heading companion animal programs for In Defense of Animals, and animal handling consultant Temple Grandin, whose studies of the attitudes of slaughterhouse livestock handlers proved applicable as well to animal shelter staff—except that among the standard responses to doing high-volume killing that Grandin identified, shelter workers were less likely than slaughterhouse workers to become either mechanistic or sadistic, and were far more likely to ritualize.

The purpose of the invitation-only conference was apparently to facilitate a detente between no-kill proponents led by Avanzino and a faction of conventional com-

panion animal program administrators who have generally identified themselves with “animal rights” as opposed to “animal welfare”—among them Kim Sturla, former executive director of the Peninsula Humane Society, directing Fund for Animals companion animal programs since 1991, and one of Avanzino’s most ardent public critics for at least a decade. Other conference participants who have generally favored conventional approaches to pet overpopulation while expressing generally “animal rights” views included AHA companion animal programs chief Carol Moulton and Marin Humane Society executive director Diane Alivado, who like Sturla has long denounced Avanzino’s initiatives both in print and out.

Mothers of invention

The distinction between an “animal rights” approach to companion animal issues and the traditional “animal welfare” approach advanced by HSUS and other humane societies has never been clear, however. Since the Women’s Humane Society of Philadelphia became the first humane organization to take on a municipal animal control contract, in 1873, the conventional emphasis has always been on providing a “merciful death,” and on trying to prevent pet overpopulation through coercive legislation based on licensing and fines. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, the largest self-defined animal rights group, has from founding in 1981 taken a position on shelter killing identical in all but minor details of wording to that of HSUS—no surprise inasmuch as PETA cofounder Ingrid Newkirk developed her animal rights philosophy as a sheriff’s deputy on animal control assignment and protege of Phyllis Wright, the first HSUS director for companion animal programs. Wright articulated the ideas that HSUS has advanced ever since—but late in her life encouraged Rowan and others to explore alternatives. She died in 1992.

According to Brestrup, Sturla has recently revised her thinking, in light of the San Francisco success. A forthcoming position paper on no-kill sheltering and euthanasia, to be jointly prepared by Sturla, Moulton, and Alivado, may for the first time define a difference between “animal rights” and “animal welfare” views on these topics—and, if

diverging from PETA policy, signal a significant fracture in animal rights movement philosophy. Other self-defined animal rights groups that openly favor no-kill, such as Friends of Animals, did so before PETA was founded, and have continued at political cost.

Conventional humane societies still far outnumber no-kills, and handle more total animals, but shelter statistics and IRS Form 990 filing information gathered by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** indicate that no-kill organizations as far back as seven years ago surpassed conventional shelters in cumulative number of animals adopted per year, cumulative number of neutering operations performed and/or funded, and cumulative funds raised in direct public contributions, including bequests.

While the San Francisco SPCA, Humane Society of Missouri, American SPCA, and Wisconsin Humane Society are all still full service in every sense except doing animal control, most hands-on no-kill organizations do a single specific specialized job. Common specialties include high-volume adoption, pioneered by the North Shore Animal League, placing animals mostly taken from animal control shelters, where they would otherwise be killed; care-for-life sheltering, exemplified DELTA Rescue, usually handling special needs animals such as exotic species, hard-case dogs and cats, unreleasable rehabilitated wildlife, and/or pets whose care may be endowed by bequest; shelterless rescue/foster societies, like most breed rescue networks; and shelterless low-cost neutering programs, pioneered by Friends of Animals and the Animal Rescue Foundation of Nevada. The latter took over the Las Vegas animal control contract in late 1995, after establishing a formidable record in neutering and adoption, with intent to achieve a no-kill city by a somewhat different avenue than San Francisco, necessitated by differing circumstance.

—M.C.

No KILLS IN ‘97

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CHILDREN & ANIMALS

SHEEP KEEP ETHICISTS AWAKE (from page 1)

transplanting Lanyu pig nuclei into 30 four-cell embryos, which were then transferred to the womb of a Landrace pig. Of eight piglets born in March 1991, five survived, and bred conventionally at maturity.

The Taiwanese experiment may have been the first use of cloning in species conservation. In theory, cloning could both prevent extinctions and erase the need to protect habitat, since the genetic survival of species could be guaranteed. Endangered species law does not now address conserving environment-linked wild behavior.

Zhu Yuding of the China Academy of Agricultural Sciences' Institute of Animal Sciences said on March 11 that a secret project in Beijing had cloned "rabbits, pigs, goats, and bulls using embryonic cells," but added that the research was likely to be dropped due the high cost and limited opportunity for genetic manipulation of the embryonic method.

But in Melbourne, Australia, a team led by Alan Trounson announced March 13 that they had cloned 470 cattle embryos identical to the first, a significant advance toward mass clone production. The previous record was fewer than 100.

Cloning for dollars

While media discussion centered on the possibilities and ethical implications of human cloning, present prospects for profit mostly involve animals bred for medical and agricultural use. Explained *New York Times* reporter Youssef M. Ibrahim, "Through genetic engineering and cloning, animals could be created to produce pharmacological proteins like the clotting factor that hemophiliacs need. Cloning might also permit widespread transplantation of animal organs into humans. For example, pig clones could be engineered to make their surface proteins identical to proteins that coat human cells. The researchers would then make cloned pigs whose organs would look to a human immune system like human organs, and not be rejected."

Marketing rights to milk from sheep conceived by the Roslin cloning process belong to PPL Therapeutics PLC, whose managing director, Ron James, told Lawrence M. Fisher of *The New York Times* that the firm could produce transgenic cloned animals capable of secreting pharmacologically useful proteins in their milk within two years.

"Also," James said, "instead of producing just one, we could produce half a dozen females at a time, making sure we could produce enough proteins to go into clinical trials."

Public sale of new drugs from the process remains a decade away, James indicated, allowing for delays in testing and winning approval from the Crown, the European Union, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and agencies of other nations.

One firm, Genzyme, has already completed first-phase human trials of a blood-clotting drug made in the milk of genetically altered goats. The estimated market for this drug alone is circa \$200 million a year.

"Transgenically derived proteins should be safer than [conventional] blood-derived proteins because they will not be subject to the theoretical risk of transmission of viruses," Fisher explained, "They should also be less costly than biotechnology drugs produced by fermentation, because one large mammal can produce far more protein in her milk than the vast colonies of cells needed for current processes. Biotechnology industry analysts say these could substantially increase the market for therapeutic proteins, currently about \$7.6 billion dollars a year and expected to grow to \$18.5 billion" within three years.

The Roslin Institute stands to make a bundle, not least because the British Ministry of Agriculture for reasons unclear axed the institute's governmental funding, effective March 1, after six years of supporting the cloning research. Funding of the institute as a whole had already been trimmed repeatedly, a reduction of fulltime staff from 450 in 1987 to just 170 now. The Roslin Institute will get BMA funds at half the 1996 level through fiscal 1997, and will then be completely cut off.

As a free agent, the Roslin Institute will be able to sell its knowhow to the highest bidder, but Wilmut still expressed disappointment. "We will certainly get industry collaboration to use our cloning technique commercially," he said on March 1, "but we have to get funding to improve our effectiveness." Wilmut had hoped this might be funded by the BMA, toward finding a way to eliminate the cattle disease bovine spongiform encephalopathy, which has ravaged British herds since 1986 and is suspected of infecting humans as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Wilmut needn't have worried. Offers poured in from Britain even before investors elsewhere heard about the chance to cut a deal.

The Roslin Institute research may be closer to payoff than U.S. cloning work, experts said, because it was directed at practical goals. In the U.S., Princeton biologist Lee Silver told Gina Kolata of *The*

New York Times, "No way can you write a grant proposal saying you want to clone a sheep," because National Institutes of Health reviewers would respond, "What questions are you asking?"

"If Wilmut had submitted a grant application to the NIH, it would not have been supported," agreed University of Wisconsin professor of reproductive biology Neal First. In the U.S., applied research and development is expected to be supported by private investors. Thus agricultural researchers achieved the major breakthroughs in such areas as artificial insemination, embryo transplants, genetic modification of sperm, and—just last year—replicating the sperm of one animal in the testes of another.

University of Pennsylvania professor of veterinary medicine Ralph Brinster told Kolata that sperm replication could theoretically keep the genetic qualities of champion racehorses or prize bulls essentially immortal—and the sperm could be reproduced by a mouse. The catch to that is that many highly inbred racehorses don't produce much effective sperm. The Triple Crown winner Secretariat was a notoriously mediocre stud, while Cigar, the 1995-1996 Horse of the Year, with 16 straight victories and almost \$10 million in winnings, has covered 36 mares, impregnating none of the first 20 tested.

Therefore, said former owner Allen Paulson, who retains an option to repurchase Cigar, "We are certainly looking into cloning."

Presumably Cigar could be cloned—but to prevent artificial genetic manipulation of racehorses, say by inserting into a horse the speed genes of a cheetah, the Jockey Club bars horses produced by artificial insemination from sanctioned races. The rule could be extended to clones.

Further, cautioned James Stewart of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, "When the clones start to breed, they'll bring out recessive traits. You'll open up some problems you don't want to think about."

Biological limit

Simon Elliott of the Center for Vaccine Development at the University of Maryland School of Medicine warned colleagues on March 5 via the Federation of American Scientists' PROMED-AHEAD newsgroup that infectious disease could limit the value of cloning. "A group of 1,000 genetically identical individuals could all be killed by one disease," Elliott explained. "Such a group would experience magnification of pathogenicity." Thus influenza, for instance, could "become hyper-virulent and lethal. There is evidence of this in plant monocultures and in highly inbred lab animals," Elliott said.

Examples also exist in wildlife, and are why the Species Survival Plans for endangered animals administrated by the American Zoo Association emphasize keeping separate and discreet populations of species descended from a limited gene pool—such as cheetahs, who are all nearly genetically identical due to some prehistoric catastrophe that nearly wiped them out, and blackfooted ferrets, who were nearly annihilated when canine distemper killed the entire captive breeding population in 1985. The current blackfooted ferret population, both in captivity and in the wild, was rebuilt from a handful of other individuals who were elsewhere when the distemper hit.

Clifton A. Baile of the University of Georgia told Richard Saltus of *The Boston Globe* that cloning may have many agricultural uses, but expected opposition. Formerly with Monsanto Inc., Baile headed the team that developed bovine growth hormone, now widely used to make cows produce more milk. Baile recalled that lawsuits filed against BGH approval by Jeremy Rifkin of the Foundation on Economic Trends "really held us back."

Gary Webber of the National Cattleman's and Beef Association added, "I see more and more consumer pressure for natural approaches. I think we are going to have people screaming, 'stop this train for a while,' while society confronts the ethical and health issues."

An ABC *Nightline* telephone poll of 519 adults found on February 25 that 53% approved of cloning animals, with 44% opposition. Eighty-seven percent opposed cloning humans. President Bill Clinton responded with an executive order banning the use of federal funds in human cloning experiments, and asked privately funded researchers to respect a moratorium on such work at least until May, when the National Bioethics Advisory Commission, appointed last summer, is to report on the legal and ethical implications of cloning humans.

"Each human life is unique," Clinton said on March 4, "born of a miracle that reaches beyond laboratory science. I believe we must respect this profound gift." The words may haunt him after his veto of a ban on federal funding of partial-birth abortion, in which the brains are sucked out of a sentient fetus—a procedure that critics describe as vivisection.

—M.C.

Pig disease scares capitalists

LONDON— Millions of dollars invested in genetically engineering pigs to produce organs for human transplant may be lost, and tens of thousands of people desperately awaiting transplants amid a shortage of donated human organs may die, if the biomedical research industry can't find a way around PERVs, short for "pig endogenous retroviruses."

It may be that pigs will have to be genetically re-engineered to eliminate PERVs before engineering transplantable organs can proceed.

In the March 1 edition of *Nature*, neurosurgeon James Schumacher and colleagues reported successfully transplanting fetal pig cells into the brains of 12 patients with advanced Parkinson's disease, demonstrating for the first time that animal tissues can grow within the human body. Some patients, Schumacher said, had experienced relief of Parkinson's symptoms for up to two years after the transplants; all were improved. The Schumacher team has now implanted fetal pig cells into the brains of seven Huntington's disease patients, hoping for similar results.

Patience

But in the same edition of *Nature*, Clive Patience of the Institute of Cancer Research in London announced the discovery of a pig virus able to infect human cells. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regulatory author Louisa E. Chapman told *Boston Globe* science writer Richard A. Knox that the finding short-circuited conventional wisdom that pigs would be a safer source of organs for transplant than primates. African green vervets eaten by humans are believed to have been the source of the human HIV and Ebola retroviruses.

"We're not trying to hold back transplants," Patience said. "We're saying, 'This is good, but you have to worry about these things.' We have no idea what this could do if it crossed the species barrier."

Patience validated warnings issued for almost a year by Robin Weiss of the Chester Beatty Laboratory in London, who isolated and identified two PERVs, both present in all domestic swine, and suspected there were more. One of the

PERVs that Weiss found seemed incapable of infecting human cells. The other, though apparently not dangerous to humans, readily integrates itself into human cells. "I've talked about this for months at various meetings in Europe," Weiss frustratedly told Laurie Garrett of *Newsday* last November. "The companies [developing pigs as potential transplant sources] know. They've heard it."

High stakes

The problem, said Weiss, is that "even if you have a virus that normally only infects pigs, how long will it take to adapt to human cells if it sits around inside of a human as a transplant? This is especially likely to occur in these companies' pigs for transplant, as they've modified the animals," replacing key segments of genetic code pertaining to the pigs' immune systems, so that humans won't reject the pig-grown tissue. "That just ups the chances of virus transmission," Weiss explained.

Similar warnings have been issued in the U.S. by virologist Jon Allen of the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, in San Antonio.

In Britain, the PERV problem could make permanent the moratorium on pig organ transplants into humans issued on January 16 by health secretary Stephen Dorrell, responding to concern raised by xenotransplantation ethics advisory group chair Ian Kennedy. Dorrell also formed a Xenotransplantation Interim Regulatory Authority, chaired by pharmacologist Lord Habgood, former Bishop of York, which must issue a permit before any xenographs may proceed. A similar ruling took effect in New Zealand a few days later.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is currently drafting guidelines for xenography. With the stakes so high, the pressure is intense, and at least one major player, U.S. Surgical, is considered likely to fight adverse regulation on the legislative and litigative levels. U.S. Surgical holds world marketing rights to xenographic products developed by Alexion Pharmaceuticals, believed to be among the firms that are closest to putting pig-derived organs into the medical marketplace.

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SPACE FOR THE BIRDS

(from page one)

Intelligent, warmblooded, and apparently as old an order as the closely related dinosaurs, birds may provide the best available index to the health of the planet. But the sheer variety of birds makes the index hard to read. Birds live both wherever reptiles and mammals do, and where neither reptiles nor mammals normally venture. More than half of all terrestrial vertebrate species are birds. Most have a brief lifespan, but parrots may live 100 years or more, and a female fulmar banded as a mature bird in 1951 still breeds annually on the island of Eynhallow, north of Scotland. Members of the petral family, fulmars were almost extinct in 1900, with just one known breeding site, but this particular fulmar, dubbed #57, has more descendants now than the sum of her species then.

Whether the bird news is good or bad, in short, depends on which species you look at, over what time frame.

The popular belief that birds are in trouble seemed to be affirmed from a seven-year study published in February by the journal *Global Change Biology*, which found a 90% decrease in the presence of sooty shearwaters off the California coast from 1987 to 1994, coinciding with a rise of half a degree in ocean temperature. This brought a crash in plankton growth, also believed to be hurting baleen whales. Among the most common of all birds, sooty shearwaters breed in southeastern Australia, New Zealand, Chile, and the Falkland Islands, but migrate around both the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

Investigators called the report, “The first scientific indication of a link between global warming and the loss of a major wildlife resource.”

But the unknowns still far outnumber the knowns. Warmer seas could stimulate some plankton species to replace others. The estimated four million missing shearwaters may have moved farther offshore. Since global warming seems to have begun at least 40 years ago, both the plankton and the shearwaters may have been declining before the study began.

Bald eagles thrive

Ninety U.S. bird species, 14% of those who breed here, are endangered or in decline, the National Audubon Society warned in October 1996. Typifying species at risk by region, Audubon president John Flicker cited the golden-winged warbler in the northeast, the curved bill thrasher in the southwest, and the yellow-headed blackbird in the northwest.

Audubon Christmas bird count figures for 1996 seemed to confirm a drop in avian diversity. The 39th annual count by the Audubon Society of Broward County, Florida, found 122 species, well below the high of 174 reached about 20 years ago. At the opposite corner of the continental U.S., the 11th annual count by the Audubon Society of Whidbey Island, Washington, found 111 species, down from 116 in 1995, which was one less than the all-time high of 117, even though an unusually harsh winter in British Columbia pushed snowy owls and other species normally rare in the Puget Sound area down to Whidbey.

But the most avidly conserved birds are way up in number—those of most target interest to hunters, especially waterfowl and wild turkeys, and the charismatic raptors, who if they aren’t poisoned or shot, tend to thrive on the pigeons, rats, and roadkill that come with human development.

Bald eagles, federally downlisted from “endangered” to “threatened” in 1994, came off the Wisconsin “threatened” list on February 26, after the 1996 count of nesting pairs soared to 612, up from 464 in 1993 and 107 in 1973. Then as now, Wisconsin had the most bald eagles of any continental state. There were then just 450 nesting pairs in the U.S. outside Alaska; there are now 4,000-plus, and 16,000 total individuals.

The New Jersey bald eagle count soared to 176, up from 116 last year. And it seems eagles especially like airports. A January 13 count at the U.S. Army’s Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland found 152 individual eagles and 23 nests, up from 20 eagles and three nests in 1981, when annual counts began, while at least 57 eagles now live near the two-year-old Denver International Arport, helping to keep other birds off the runways at risk of becoming airstrikes themselves.

The U.S. success does not necessarily give hope to the Philippine Eagle Recovery Foundation, formed to save the recently recognized Philippine national bird. The monkey-eating Philippine eagle not only suffers from food chain build-ups of pesticides and habitat loss, the factors that kept the bald eagle in decline even after hunting was curbed, but also takes two to three times longer to reach sexual maturity, and produces only one egg every two to three years, whereas the bald eagle produces an egg almost every year. PERF believes it has virtually stopped eagle hunting in the Philippines. Pesticides known to cause thinning of eagle eggs have been used in the Philippines far more heavily than in the U.S., however, for longer, with less restrictions, and there are apparently only 87 Philippine eagles left, including 14 in the PERF captive breeding program. PERF hatched two healthy eaglets from artificial insemination in 1992, but has not been able to do it again.

Recent setbacks to regional bald eagle recovery in the U.S. could be disastrous if anything similar occurred in the Philippines. Near Daytona Beach, Florida, six bald eagles died and three survived serious illness last year after scavenging the carcasses of animals killed by the Flagler County Humane Society and buried at the Volusia County Landfill, the *Orlando Sentinel* reported on February 26. According to federal regulations, the carcasses should have been burned as hazardous waste. Upon learning of the problem, shelter director Joye Wood quit sending carcasses to the landfill, and sent \$7,000 to the Florida Audubon Society Center for Birds of Prey to cover the cost of rehabilitating the surviving bald eagles.

Eagle shooting continues, not only by ranchers who think they’re protecting stock, but also by hunters who don’t think at all. At least four bald eagles have been shot in upstate New York during the past two years, including a four-year-old female killed just before Christmas by Judson A. Tompkins, 17, of Red Creek, and Richard M. Egnor, 18, of Wolcott.

“We were out hunting coons and we shot at a bird. We didn’t know it was an eagle,” Egnor told Greg Munno of the Syracuse *Post-Standard*.

Random shooting accounts for 20% of all bald eagle deaths in South Carolina, state Department of Natural Resources biologist Tom Murphy testified recently, persuading the state legislature to increase the maximum penalty for eagle killing to a year in prison, plus a fine of \$500 and a five-year suspension of hunting privileges. The old penalty was 30 days in jail with a fine of \$100. When it was imposed, Murphy indicated, random shooting accounted for 60% of bald eagle deaths—but there were far fewer eagles.

Lead poisoning from ingesting shot, a familiar threat to waterfowl, has also surfaced in bald eagles, who scavenge carcasses killed but abandoned by hunters. After two eagles died of lead poisoning in two months, the Wildlife Center of Virginia on January 6 issued a special appeal to hunters to retrieve their victims—as is required by largely unenforced law.

An unidentified brain-destroying disease or toxin, apparently also afflicting coots, killed 23 bald eagles in southwestern Arkansas this winter, and killed 29 eagles two winters ago—but only one eagle during the harsh winter of 1995-1996. The winter of 1995-1996 hurt Ohio and Michigan eagles, however, as the survival rate of fledglings fell to 50%.

Other raptors

Black vultures are viewed as a public nuisance wherever they congregate near people, notably in Hinckley, Ohio, and Leesburg, Virginia. Hinckley welcomes the vultures with an annual festival, but Leesburg in early March asked the USDA Animal Damage Control unit to roust theirs. Not allowed to kill vultures, because they are a protected species, the ADC hopes to live-trap and relocate them. This is expected to be messy, as black vultures defend themselves—like the dilophosaurus in the film *Jurassic Park*, and like the unexpectedly longlived fulmars—with noxious projectile vomiting.

Some raptors are still struggling, especially owls, whose needs are often highly specialized. Spotted owls have proved able to like outside old growth forests, contrary to the beliefs of a decade ago, but tend to lose second-growth habitat in competition with barred owls, with whom they also hybridize. The battle over designating spotted owl critical habitat resumed on March 7 when chief circuit judge Harry Edwards of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. reversed a 1996 District Court ruling that had expedited acceptance of President Bill Clinton’s 1994 Northwest Forest Plan. The timber industry may now file suit against the plan.

University of Wisconsin sociologist Bill Freudenberg told the American Association for the Advancement of Science on February 14 that there is “no statistically believable evidence of a ‘spotted owl’ effect on logging jobs,” contrary to the assertions of the timber industry, which has blamed spotted owl protection for downsizing actually due to exhausted forests, technological change, and the export of logs rather than finished lumber to Japan. But the Freudenberg findings are not likely to dampen the rage of unemployed timber workers.

The ongoing purge of prairie dogs across the Midwest jeopardizes the burrowing owl, says Burrowing Owl Research Team chief Geoff Holroyd, of Edmonton, Alberta. The owls use the burrows of prairie dogs and badgers, a leading prairie dog predator. The burrowing owl population summering in Alberta and Saskatchewan, now at about 1,000 pair, is declining at 16% per year, according to Holroyd, who is trying to persuade farmers to leave both prairie dogs and badgers alone.

On February 28, the cactus ferruginous pygmy owl, native to Arizona, was added to the federal endangered species list, under pressure of a lawsuit filed by the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity. The center intends to press the suit regardless, said executive director Kieran Suckling, seeking designation of critical habitat. The owl needs ironwood trees in river or wash areas. At least a dozen of the owls have turned up recently on private land northwest of Tucson, accounting for about half of all recorded sightings in several decades. The owls were reportedly abundant in the region circa 1900, however, and according to Southern Arizona Home Builders Association president Alan Lurie, are still “prolific in Mexico.”

Legal strife over the status of the owl is likely to center on 5,500 acres of ironwoods and endangered saguaro cactus in RedHawk, a Tucson suburb, purchased in May 1996 from Westinghouse by Cottonwood Properties. Cottonwood wants to build a 9,000-home subdivision, with four golf courses and three resort hotels. Cottonwood president David Mehl claims the whole purpose of the SCBD lawsuit was “to

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—Robert Harrison

try to stop development.” Since Westinghouse barred Arizona Game and Fish Department staff from the land, there is no official verdict as to the presence of owls; a survey commissioned by Cottonwood claimed last October that there were none.

An endangered listing is pending for the Queen Charlotte goshawk, native to old growth coastal rainforest in southeastern Alaska. That listing might have been highly controversial while pulp mills owned in part by Senator Frank Murkowski (D-Alaska) were still operating in Juneau and Ketchikan, but both mills are now closed for dismantling. Listing the goshawk could still affect logging in the Tongass National Forest, on Alaska state lands, and on tribal property.

As many as 20,000 of the 400,000-strong migration of Swainson’s hawks from North America to Argentina were killed in 1995 by exposure to the pesticide monocrotophos, used on Argentinian alfalfa and sunflower crops to control grasshoppers, the Swainson’s hawks’ primary food. But an monocrotophos will no longer be sold or used in Swainson’s hawk habitat during their southern migration, according to a deal cut last October among the Canadian Wildlife Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10 nonprofit conservation groups, the Argentinian government, and the makers of monocrotophos, the Swiss-based firm Ciba-Geigy. The question now is whether related pesticides still in use, such as dimethoate, will hit the Swainson’s hawks as hard.

Sharp-shinned hawk sightings in New York rose 9% last year, and in Pennsylvania by 21%, stimulated by the resurgence of waterfowl, their primary prey. Redtailed hawk sightings were up 1% in New York and 6% in Pennsylvania, while a 3% decline in New Jersey was probably just a matter of redtails moving temporarily into the neighboring states.

Water birds

Waterfowl continue to benefit from the midwestern flooding of 1994, which extensively replenished wetlands. The growing midwestern waterfowl population has fanned out far beyond the flood zone. Nearly 90 million ducks flew south in late 1996, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported—the most in 40 years, nearly twice the flights of the late 1980s.

Geese are doing so well that besides opening hunting seasons on the resident Canada geese of the Atlantic seaboard and upper midwest, who are descended from birds raised as live hunting decoys and annoy suburbanites by pooping on lawns, wildlife managers are hot to expand opportunities to kill the much smaller migratory snow geese. Lesser snow geese, the most numerous subspecies, summer in northern Canada and winter in Arkansas and Texas. Greater snow geese also summer in Canada, but winter on the Atlantic seaboard.

The Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group held in a 118-page report published in mid-February that lesser snow geese have destroyed 35% of their nesting and grazing habitat in a belt from James Bay to the Northwest Territories. Supposedly the snow geese may cause the extinction of 200 other birds who share their habitat, and have shared it for millions of years, during which populations and environmental impacts have often fluctuated. Snow goose numbers are up from about one million in 1960 to anywhere from 3.5 million to six million. Wildlife managers agree only that about one million should now be blasted by paying permit holders.

North Dakota Game and Fish Department migratory game bird supervisor Mike Johnson issued the high-end snow goose population estimate in the August 1996 edition of *North Dakota Outdoors*, just as other North Dakota wildlife authori-

(continued on page 18)

Bill Nooter (renewed through 3/98)

—K.B.

CHEATGRASS AND SHOTGUNS

(from page 17)

ties, including state veterinarian William Rotenberger, argued that more foxes and coyotes must be trapped and sent to southern chase pens to protect waterfowl. In an unrelated matter perhaps illuminating Rotenberger’s credibility, North Dakota agriculture commissioner Roger Johnson on March 7 reportedly recommended that Rotenberger be fired, after learning that Rotenberger had applied for \$5,000 from South Dakota to fence an elk farm he planned to start with 10 female elk and five bulls—just after Rotenberger took to his South Dakota ranch without permission 10 female elk and five bulls belonging to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

Apparently also taking advantage of better habitat, endangered migratory whooping cranes briefly exceeded the post-1937 record count of 158, reached in 1995, but in November 1996 one crane died, dropping the year-end count back to 158. The recorded low was reportedly either 14 or 16, at some point in the 1930s. Like migratory ducks and geese, whooping cranes rove between the southern U.S. and Canada. The only whooping crane wintering site, however, is the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, along the Texas coast.

Good news about trumpeter swans came in January, when the Ohio Division of Wildlife confirmed that of 15 captive-bred swans released a year ago at Magee Marsh on Lake Erie, six migrated successfully—four to the Keiger-Gavin lock on the Ohio River, and two to the Walhonding River in Coshecton County. One died of lead poisoning, probably from ingesting lead shot or a lead fishing sinker, and three had to be recaptured due to difficulty with flying. There are now about 1,000 trumpeter swans in the upper midwest. In Illinois, however, hunters killed four and wounded two, purportedly mistaking them for snow geese.

“That’s like mistaking a Volkswagen for a bicycle,” observed Dick Connors of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Neither habitat loss nor hunters are the current threat to loons in northern New England. Though nearly hunted to extinction for their feathers in the 19th century, loons seemed to be making a comeback—until hit by mercury poisoning, identified by Mark Pokras of the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine. The mercury comes from a diet of fish whose bodies contain about 10 times as much mercury as the global norm. Where the fish get the mercury is uncertain, as the effect is too widespread to indicate a single pollution point source. One theory is that the mercury arrives with acid rain. The mercury isn’t just a regional problem, however, as rising levels are also evident in the Everglades and Okeefenokee swamps, in Florida and Georgia, which are also critical bird habitats but are both well south of the acid rain belt.

A January 15 meeting of the New Jersey state advisory council on wildlife heard that both mercury pollution and other toxic chemicals are turning up at alarming levels among the birds of Barnegat Bay. The concentrations are most evident among eagles, as the top avian predators, but also may be afflicting snowy egrets, whose numbers have dropped from 550 pairs in 1976 to 100 as of 1995; glossy ibises, down from 400 pairs to 100; and black-crowned night herons, down from 225 pairs to only two. Black-backed gulls and herring gulls, who thrive in disturbed habitats—and prey on the declining species’ nests and fledglings—are sharply up.

Both pesticides and habitat loss afflict birds within the 280-square-mile Klamath Basin Wildlife Refuges complex, as documented in August 1996 by Kathie Durbin of *Cascadia Times*, an environmental newspaper published from Portland, Oregon, and confirmed on March 1 by Richard Cole of Associated Press. Under the terms that established the refuge in 1928, farmers retained rights to the refuge land and water. The 1964 Kuchel Act further stipulated that up to 25% of the leased land on the refuge may be used to grow row crops, the cultivation of which involves extensive use of chemical sprays. The Kuchel Act was passed after the late Rachel Carson detailed harm to birds within the Klamath Basin Refuges from DDT and other pesticides, in her 1962 bestseller *Silent Spring*.

“Until 1994,” explained Durbin, “when the Oregon Natural Resources Council blew the whistle, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sanctioned the unpermitted use of federally restricted toxic pesticides by Tule Lake Refuge lease holders.” The Tule Lake Refuge is one of the major divisions of the Klamath complex. “The USFWS itself contines to apply the pesticide 2,4-D,” lethal to many birds, “on grain crops it grows on the refuges to provide food and cover for waterfowl,” Durbin continued. “Waterfowl numbers have plummeted from six million to three million in three decades.”

Agribusiness water diversions have also robbed salmon and an endangered sucker species of access to spawning areas. Said Cole, “Tule Lake has become little more than an agricultural sump holding runoff from leased farms. The lake once covered 150 square miles up to 50 feet deep in wet years. It now covers only 20 square miles with less than a foot of water—sometimes polluted to the alkalinity of dish soap.”

The situation is scarcely unique to the U.S. On February 4, Greg Roberts of the *Morning Herald* in Sydney, Australia, revealed that, “Hundreds of waterbird nestlings have perished after their breeding swamps along the Murray River in western New South Wales were drained at the insistence of the Victorian government,” contrary to a 1993 conservation agreement, to irrigate nearby farms for about four days. “As many as 4,000 night herons, egrets, spoonbills, and other waterbirds were forced to abandon nests,” Roberts reported. These were the first nests they had been able to start in years. “The forests once contained some of Australia’s largest waterbird colonies,” Roberts wrote, “but the construction of dams has prevented them from being flooded annually and retaining sufficient water for nesting.”

Grass and sage

An exception to the recovery of birds favored for hunting, and therefore by wildlife agencies, are grouse—which have always been believed to be so numerous that hardly anyone bothered to stock them, protect their habitat, or significantly limit their assassination. In the east, the Ruffed Grouse Society, of Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, has just begun a five-state, six-year study to try to find out whether late-winter hunting hurts grouse reproduction. Another contributing factor may be the destruction of forest understory by deer, whom wildlife agencies have encouraged to proliferate to record numbers to please hunters, with—as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** outlined in March—devastating impact on many forest bird species.

In the west, the sage grouse is declining, says High Desert Ecological Research Institute executive director David Dobkins, because non-native cheatgrass is overgrowing its habitat. Nationally, sage grouse are down by anywhere from 30% to 80%; Idaho losses are 70-90%. Of the 39 songbirds who nest in the Idaho sage, 37 species are declining, not just the grouse, and Martha Hahn, Bureau of Land Management director for Idaho, calls extirpating cheatgrass “a priority.”

Yet no one has ever stopped the spread of a thriving plant species, no matter how much money has been spent in the effort, and burning off cheatgrass can backfire. The accidental Cox’s Well fire over Labor Day, 1996, ravaged 209,000 acres, killing any cheatgrass that happened to be there—and annihilating at least 40 leks, or grouse nesting sites, according to Idaho state game biologist Jack Connelly, for a net loss of at least 4,000 sage grouse, plus songbirds, plus thousands of the prairie dogs whom the burrowing owls need.

Hunters continue to shoot sage grouse, while ranchers extirpate sage, plant hay grasses for beef cattle, and drain aquifers to keep the introduced grasses growing. A record 5,038 birds representing 54 species were meanwhile discovered in a June 1996 survey at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, whose grounds include 890 square miles of undeveloped sage, no hunters, and no cows.

Agriculture also threatens the grassland species of upstate New York and New England. Conservationists have long viewed the decline of farming in New England as an ecological triumph, allowing pastures to revert to forest, while trees maturing in yards and along streets add to a 33% increase in forested habitat throughout the Northeast since 1970, and have made heavily populated Connecticut the most forested of the 50 states. The recovery of forest, however, according to 30 years of North American Breeding Bird Survey data, has brought an 84% decline of upland sandpipers, who migrate from southeastern Maine and Wisconsin to the pampas of Argentina; a 97% decline of eastern meadowlarks; a 97% decline of grasshopper sparrows, native to New York; and a 92% decline of field sparrows, native to Vermont.

“Of the entire suite of grassland-nesting birds in the Northeast,” former *Audubon* magazine editor Les Line wrote recently in *The New York Times*, “only the bobolink and savanna sparrow appear to be holding their own. Other species in jeopardy include the northern harrier, barn owl, short-eared owl, horned lark, sedge wren, and Henslow’s sparrow.”

Says Connecticut College zoologist Robert Askins, “Historical accounts and analysis of pollen deposits show that open grasslands existed on the east coast at the time of European settlement,” which “resulted from burning and agricultural clearing by Indians. Natural disturbances, such as wildfire and beaver activity, produced grasslands even before Indians cleared the forest.”

Post-European settlement, cleared hayfields compensated for the extirpation of beavers and loss of beaver meadow. There are still about as many open fields in the Northeast as there were when the Mayflower landed, and maybe more in the upper midwest—but over the past 30 years, the chief method

Cormorant. (Robert Harrison)

of grass cultivation has shifted from twice-per-summer hay-making to more frequent silage cutting. That means more nests are pulverized or stripped of their cover, much more often.

Many neotropical migratory songbirds, losing nesting habitat to deer in the U.S., are also losing winter habitat to changes in Central and South American coffee growing technique, the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center reported in mid-February. Traditional shaded coffee plantations harbor as many as 150 bird species, center director Russell Greenberg told Heather Dewar of Knight-Ridder News Service, more than any other habitat but tropical rainforest. The densely planted high-yield “sun plantations” coming into vogue in Guatemala since 1978 accommodate barely half as many species. The Guatemalan conversions of shade plantations into sun plantations are often underwritten by U.S. aid, while the product, cheap coffee, is for U.S. consumption. The species most harmed include the wood thrush, down by a third since 1966, and the Baltimore oriole, down 20% in 10 years. Coffee brands are usually not labeled as to whether they are shade-grown or sun-grown, but the more flavorful coffees are reportedly likely to be shade-grown, perhaps excepting Starbucks, which has not joined a covenant of shade-grown producers.

As if songbirds needed yet another threat, the eye disease *Micoplasma*, seen in non-native eastern house finches since 1993, has reportedly spread to American goldfinches, and is moving west. Open questions are whether goldfinches, common at backyard feeders, will infect other species, and whether the infection will cross into the native western house finches. The highly inbred eastern house finches are apparently wholly descended from a small flock of western house finches who escaped in New York City about 50 years ago.

Recovery efforts

Announced by researchers in February, “The remarkable discovery that the Seychelles warbler has the ability to control the sex of its offspring is a valuable reminder of how important it is to save even the most obscure endangered species because we never know what we’ll learn from them.” Rare Center for Tropical Conservation president Roger F. Pasquier wrote in a February 20 letter to the *New York Times*.

“The Seychelles warbler was discovered in the 1870s on Marianne Island,” Pasquier continued, “as the island was being cleared of forest. It was never seen there again. The bird’s home is now 70-acre Cousin Island. Because most of the island was given over to coconut production, the bird became rare,” with just 50 surviving as of 1965. “The International Council for Bird Preservation began a conservation program on the island in 1968, removing coconuts and encouraging regeneration of the native vegetation, on which the warbler depends. The birds responded quickly,” Pasquier said, “and the population reached 250,” the present number, “by 1975.”

Great blue herons, though federally protected, are not endangered, and ARCO Petroleum and the Trillium Corporation, a forestry-and-development firm, recently moved to insure that they won’t become endangered in the northern

(continued on page 19)

Puget Sound area by purchasing and protecting the Point Roberts heron rookeries at Cherry Point and Boundary Bay. The estimated 600 blue herons who nest at these sites are an important part of the flock of 8,000 to 9,000 who live between Washington and southeastern Alaska. About half of them frequent the Georgia Straight, between Vancouver Island and mainland British Columbia, where logging and development are associated with a gradual decline.

Private initiatives avoid the problems associated with legally restricting habitat. At the same time, private projects tend to focus on popular species—and often the only habitat for an endangered species is an area inaccessible to private conservers. That necessitates invoking the Endangered Species Act, if the species is to be saved, stoking the national furor over ESA reauthorization. An incident sure to be used for anti-ESA propaganda purposes erupted on March 6 in Barnstable, Massachusetts, when USFWS told the town council to move a traditional Fourth of July fireworks celebration because an endangered piping plover’s nest was found near the site just before the celebration last year.

The potential risk was demonstrated, to the horror of bird lovers worldwide, when an errant New Year’s Eve skyrocket torched the

Pelicans and gull,
Sanibel Island, Florida.
(Sue Clark)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
County humane society in Little Rock, Arkansas seeks an executive director with experience in shelter management, strong PR, fundraising, development, and humane education. Grant writing helpful. Resume/salary requirements to Humane Society of Pulaski County, 14600 Colonel Glenn Road, Little Rock, AR 72210, Attn.: Ron Rye, or fax to 501-372-3311.

Jim Harris

“INCOHERANCE AND DISARRAY” (from page 18)

Abrolhos Nature Reserve on Redonda, in the Abrolhos Islands, 375 miles northeast of Rio de Janeiro. About 160 newly hatched frigate birds were killed, and 200 eggs were destroyed—a loss of 95% of the reserve’s protected frigate bird population. A month later, in early February, a fire built by tourists escaped control on Isla Larga, off Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, killing 124 endangered bobo ducks and destroying 144 eggs. The USFWS was understandably eager to avoid such a disaster within observation distance of Boston media and half a dozen international conservation and animal protection groups which have local offices.

But meeting the USFWS requirements, by taking the fireworks four miles out to sea, could cost Barnstable \$15,000.

“Over my dead body,” Barnstable councillor John Boyle said. “We’re celebrating Independence Day because our forefathers felt that government was getting overbearing, so they stood up and did the right thing.”

Protecting the nests of both piping plovers and snowy plovers, their also endangered western cousins, has paid off. Nationally the piping plover population increased 7%, 1991-1996, including a 27% rise along the Atlantic coast, their second most important nesting habitat. The population in the northern great plains nesting habitat declined 5%, possibly because the same flooding that helped waterfowl washed out plover nesting habitat.

The most successful plover conservation measure has been simply setting up snow fence around nest sites to keep people, vehicles, and four-legged predators away.

Killing to save species

More aggressive plover protection isn’t much more popular with many animal defenders than it is with fireworks fans. Golden Gate National Recreation Area superintendent Brian O’Neill recently closed Ocean Beach, in San Francisco, to off-leash dogs. SF/SPCA president Richard Avanzino has pledged to fight the closure in court. O’Neill moved to protect a colony of about 70 snowy plovers. Dogs had run free at Ocean Beach since Spanish mission days—and Avanzino argues that they kept away raccoons and gulls.

“The dog ban is a symptom of bureaucratic incoherence and disarray in protecting endangered species,” Avanzino says. “The Golden Gate National Recreation Area has refused to consider constructing a fence to protect the Ocean Beach plovers. Astonishingly, the reason GGNRA officials gave for rejecting this option was that it might encourage snowy plovers to breed on Ocean Beach, and thereby result in more of these rare birds frequenting our shores!”

Back east, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service touched off a furor in May 1996 by poisoning more than 2,000 sea gulls on Cape Cod to prevent predation of piping plover fledglings, as the start of a projected four-year campaign, but stopped it on January 31 this year under pressure from the International Wildlife Coalition and at least four other groups.

Three days later the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection withdrew a plan to trap red foxes to keep them from raiding the nests of the estimated 10 piping plovers who may settle near Brigantine. After the Brigantine council drafted an ordinance banning fox-trapping and feeding on city land, NJDEP spokesperson David Jenkins said the agency decided to “educate the public” instead—meaning an effort to sell fox-killing.

“I just feel there hasn’t been enough research done to determine right out that by eliminating the foxes the plover population will come back,” Marine Mammal Stranding Center director Bob Schoelkopf told *Philadelphia Inquirer* reporter Amy S. Rosenberg. “There are other predators to the plover,” such as gulls. “There’s a major problem with four-wheel drives and bathers. All of that creates a problem,” but with beach driving permits fetching Brigantine \$180,000 a year in revenue, complete habitat protection isn’t politically likely.

Similar politics delayed for two years the restoration of brown pelican nesting habitat off Folly Beach, South Carolina, as the Folly Beach County Park commissioners tried to claim 85,000 cubic yards of sand promised to the pelicans by the Army Corps of Engineers. The fight ended only after the Corps of Engineers expanded a dredging project to give the beach 50,000 cubic yards of sand while the pelicans will still get the 85,000 cubic yards. “The pelican nesting area, known as Bird Key Stono, was the largest brown pelican nesting area in the country,” Explains Arlie Porter of the Charleston *Post & Courier*, “before it disappeared when sand was dredged in the Folly River to renourish Folly Beach.”

Some wildlife agencies are beginning to recognize that trapping, shooting, and closing beaches may harm species recovery more in the long run by generating public resistance, than they do short-term good by eliminating a potential threat to one particular species in one time and place.

Taking a cue from private conservation efforts, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is attempting bribery to keep farmers from illegally shooting sandhill cranes, of which about 12,000 reside in the state. Farmers tolerate deer, who do an estimated \$37 million worth of damage to corn fields each year, because the losses are compensated at up to \$5,000 per incident from a fund maintained by hunting license revenue. Accordingly, the WDNR has asked the legislature for \$321,000 over the next two years, with which to similarly compensate for crane damage.

But the ornithology establishment and wildlife agencies have been intertwined for more than a century, since scientific birdwatching was chiefly done with a shotgun. After encouraging huntable waterfowl, the next biggest bird-related budget item for many wildlife agencies is breeding and stocking

non-native Chinese pheasants. Yet the National Audubon Society, World Wildlife Fund, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, and The Nature Conservancy, all normally opposed to non-native introductions, say nothing against pheasant programs—which have lost money for years. The number of pheasant hunters in New York state alone is down 81% since 1969. While pheasant programs are often ballyhooed as hunter financed, the Fund for Animals recently discovered a tax allocation of \$178,000 that was spent to improve a New York pheasant facility last year. One old-line conservation group that has spoken out is the Delaware Otsege Audubon Society, of south-central New York State, which notes that this is apparently more money than was spent to protect any of the 38 native New York birds who are listed as “endangered, threatened, or of special concern.”

The major World Wildlife Fund initiative for birds right now is distribution of a report called *Collision Course*, distributed by a new Fatal Light Awareness Program, FLAP for short. “The significance of lighted building collisions on migratory populations cannot be underestimated,” according to *Collision Course*. “Songbirds appear to be especially vulnerable, in part due to lower altitude migration.”

ANIMAL PEOPLE has pointed out since inception that cats, often fingered for the songbird decline, tend to be blamed for killing birds who were already disabled by collisions with windows, cars, power lines, and exposure to pesticides. But are night-migrating birds really less likely to smack into buildings if the lights are off?

Among the lethal bird “conservation” projects abroad with the greatest chance of sending a negative message are an attempt in South Africa by Cape Nature Conservation, the Cape Bird Club, and the University of the Western Cape to poison Indian crows, also called house crows. The crows already outwitted an attempt to shoot them, learning to recognize guns. The poisoning began at the Barcelona squatter camp, near the Cape Town International Airport. What the conservationists saw as extirpating a non-native competitor with native species, the squatters probably saw as white people killing black birds in front of black people whom the white people likewise claim have no right to be there.

Another predictable fiasco came in the Pureora Forest, near Taupo, New Zealand, last October, where the Department of Conservation air-dropped 564 metric tons of carrot shreds laced with the deadly poison Compound 1080, in hopes of exterminating Australian possums. Introduced to New Zealand by fur trappers, the possums are blamed for allegedly damaging bird habitat and preying on the eggs and chicks of some endangered species, such as the kokako. The air drop supposedly did kill 95% of the possums and Norway rats at the site, but also wiped out half the native robins and tomtits. Surviving possums have become so poison-shy, regardless of what bait is used, that the NZ/DOC is now sponsoring studies to find a new luring technique. NZ/DOC science director John Holloway insists that endangered birds including the kokako, morepork, kaka, blue duck, weka, and kiwi were unharmed, and will yet benefit.

The NZ/DOC was more careful in poisoning mice on Mokoia Island, first removing 32 endangered wekas. Two wekas died during five months in captivity. The survivors were returned to the island, where they were introduced about 40 years ago, last December 6.

The poisoning began after NZ/DOC staff at the Rimutaka Forest Park saw an increase in tui and native pigeons, and the arrival of the first native falcon in 20 years, after an unusually cold winter depressed possum numbers. Killing possums and stoats is also credited with helping the mohua, or yellowhead, to achieve a modest recovery on Mount Stokes, from just 10 birds when rediscovered on the mountain 12 years ago, to about 30 now.

While some birds and mammals are killed on behalf of other birds, birds are also killed wholesale on purported behalf of fish. Cormorants are especially often blamed for declining fisheries, since they often find fish where humans can’t, and habitually eat their catch in plain view. The European Commission is now drafting a proposal to rescind the protection cormorants received in 1979 under Annex I of the European Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds. Cormorants would retain protection in Britain under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act—which does, however, permit some licensed culling.

“Permission is rarely granted, and then only for small numbers of birds,” according to *London Times* countryside correspondent Michael Hornsby.

Unmollified by Liverpool John Moores University research that shows cormorants have nothing to do with the decline of fish stocks, British anglers are clamoring for cormorants to be reclassified as “vermin,” with an open season. Similar sentiments are evident in North America, especially around the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence basin.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, while defending cormorants, is conspicuously absent from efforts by Animal Concern of Scotland to stop the annual slaughter of about 2,000 young gannets at Sula Sgeir rock, by 10 “men of Ness,” who are selected each year as an honor by the villages of Lewis Island in the Outer

Brown pelican. (Sue Clark)

Hebrides. Carried on for 800 years, the killing was exempted from the 1954 Protection of Birds Act, and is okay with the RSPB, according to Caroline Davies of the *London Daily Telegraph*, because “it is a tradition, it is not illegal, and is not a conservation issue, as the gannet population is healthy and rising.”

But it is politically and ethically difficult for conservationists to make a case against animal killing for purported economic or cultural reasons, if they condone and even encourage mass killing themselves, either to benefit favored species or because hunting license sales help fund their projects.

Taking a different approach, Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society general secretary John Cortes is leading an effort to introduce Spanish ravens and red foxes to The Rock to control yellow-legged gulls, now estimated at 35,000 and rising, compared with a human population of 27,000. The ravens are close relatives of the crows killed in South Africa. The red foxes are close relatives of those the National Audubon Society wants the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to annihilate wherever they prey upon piping plovers and clapper rails. Cortes works on the theory, though, that nature prefers a natural process to direct human intervention, and that if human settlements weren’t in the way, the ravens and foxes might be on The Rock already.

—Merritt Clifton

SF/SPCA (renewed to May)

RELIGION & ANIMALS

Zoos

ALF bombs mink feed depot

SALT LAKE CITY—Five pipe bombs detonating over 10-15 minutes circa 2 a.m. on March 11 destroyed the main office and four trucks at the Utah Fur Breeders Agricultural Collective feed storage depot in Sandy, Utah, shooting shrapnel into an adjacent parking lot. A sixth bomb placed under a truck did not go off.

Living in trailers at the site but unhurt were truck driver Ben Flitton, his wife, their two-year-old son, and mechanic Flaviano Garcia, who apparently left responding to the blasts to about 60 firefighters. Slaughterhouse owner Michael Speechley, of Minsterworth, England, narrowly escaped injury during a similar attack on June 24, 1996, when—apparently aware only of a fire—he drove a truck away from two burning trucks that police later found were ignited by Molotov cocktails. A third Molotov cocktail had been placed on top of the front off-side wheel of the truck Speechley moved, but did not explode.

As other trucks were available, feed deliveries to Utah mink farms that kill about 600,000 mink per year—20% of the U.S. total—were not delayed. The bombing did an estimated \$750,000 to \$1 million in damage. Four hundred mink at a nearby research ranch were undisturbed.

In Dallas, Texas, Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade founder J.P. Goodwin told media he got an anonymous call at about 3 a.m. claiming the attack as the work of the Animal Liberation Front, about the 40th ALF action in Utah during the past six years, including previous arsons. Goodwin said he was told the bombings were a salute to Jeffrey Watkins and Nicole Rogers of the Syracuse (New York) Animal Defense League, who were on the 12th day of a hunger strike at the Onondaga County Jail. Watkins on March 1 began serving seven months for splashing red paint on a passerby’s fur coat and jumping on a police car, at separate protests. Rogers drew 60 days for chaining herself to a fur store security gate.

Response

Syracuse ADL spokesperson Joel Capolongo said the group was 100% supportive of the attack. As of six days later, no national animal defense organization was known to have issued a statement.

In a personal statement to fellow members of the Society of Environmental Journalists, picked up by Vince Horiuchi of *The Salt Lake Tribune*, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor Merritt Clifton noted the “unconscionable and pointless cruelty” inherent in both trapping and fur-farming, as well as in factory farming of all sorts, and explained that, “I view a pipe bomber in an otherwise generally peaceable society, regardless of the cause, in the same light as a trapper: a skulking coward who profanes the whole cause of a just, humane, kind world.” Clifton also called “obscene” the exemption of fur farms and other agricultural operations from the cruelty statutes of 29 states, including Utah.

The bombing was also denounced by Utah Animal Rights Alliance founder Anne Davis. Stephen Hunt of *The Salt Lake Tribune* credited her with winning renova-

tions at the Hogle Zoo in Salt Lake City.

On January 13, Hunt disclosed that nine days after the ALF claimed credit for firebombing the Majestic Meats plant in Salt Lake City, in June 1995, Davis, 37, told police that Jaime Boulter, then a co-worker at Public Interest Communications, had pointed to a newspaper article about the fire and said, “We did this.” Boulter, 18, was charged with arson.

“Since then,” Hunt wrote, “Davis has received death threats, including a toy bear smeared with red dye and accompanied by the warning, ‘You talk, you die.’ Her own rallies were put under surveillance by police looking for terrorists.”

In December 1996, Davis told deputy Salt Lake district attorney Ernie Jones that she was afraid to testify against Boulter.

“Davis was jailed as a material witness to ensure her cooperation,” Hunt reported. “Davis was arrested without warning and held in lieu of \$100,000 bond—four times the bond posted by Boulter, whose lawyer arranged for her surrender at her convenience. Davis was locked up for 32 hours; Boulter spent four hours in jail.”

Although Boulter was placed close to at least one ALF action 90 minutes before it happened, and purported ALF paraphernalia was found in a search of her home, the felony charge was eventually dropped.

Fundraiser

Neither Davis nor Boulter works for PIC now. Davis told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that PIC, based in Falls Church, Virginia, does telemarketing from a Salt Lake City office for PETA, the Doris Day Animal League, the World Wildlife Fund, and Defenders of Wildlife. “The fees that PIC charged were incredibly high,” she said. Davis asked **ANIMAL PEOPLE** to investigate PIC, but became irate, purportedly over questioning about her retreat in the Boulter case, when asked for particulars. “I did not refuse to testify!” she e-mailed. “They dropped the charges! It was someone I worked with who caved in, Calvin. I fully complied. I just wanted protection. So @#\$\$ you and your @#\$\$ing ilk!”

A second message from the UARA e-mail address, signed by one Larayn Halton, said “I’ll wait to see an article about you being sprawled all over the city streets with glee.”

Goodwin, recently hired as a campaign coordinator by In Defense of Animals, has announced at least 22 other ALF attacks on fur-related targets in 10 states, and via online forums has vigorously defended those actions, including the release of about 3,000 pregnant mink near Rochester, New York last year in late winter conditions which, as wildlife ecologist and Animal Protection Institute program coordinator Barry Kent MacKay pointed out, gave them mostly a chance to freeze or starve, but posed a significant threat to other local wildlife at their most precarious time of year if many of the mink did live long enough to hunt.

Goodwin said the cost to the farmer in that case was “a quarter of a million dollars.” The actual loss was reportedly \$24,000.

COURT CALENDAR

Activism

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously ruled March 14 that the **U.S. Forest Service** had no legal cause to conceal the location of northern goshawk nests from the Maricopa Audubon Society, of Phoenix, Arizona. The Audubon group sought the data in 1993, alleging that a Southwestern region forester and his deputy improperly ignored protection of endangered species. The forester took early retirement and the deputy transferred, after then-Forest Service chief **Jack Ward Thomas** hired an outside consultant to do a special inquiry—but the Forest Service released only an edited edition of the findings.

Troy Gregorino, 21, of Twinsburg, Ohio, a Kent State University journalism senior and member of **Campus Animal Rights Expedition**, drew 180 days in jail and a \$200 fine, both suspended, after pleading no contest to taking documents from the laboratory of psychology graduate student **Debra Vantilburg**. Vantilburg is studying memory patterns in eight caged rhesus macaques.

Patrick Shipsey, 44, owner of a 960-acre private wildlife reserve and chief petitioner for a failed Oregon ballot measure to bar cattle from streams, faces trial soon in Grant County for allegedly shooting 11 cattle belonging to **Robert Sproul**, 82, last October, a week before voters rejected the “clean streams” initiative by almost a 2-1 margin. Shipsey’s attorney reportedly seeks a cash settlement with Sproul that would keep the case out of court.

Patricia Ann Thomas, 41, of Tucson, drew 65 hours of community service on February 26 after pleading guilty to illegally feeding bears last July 4 at her cabin on Mt. Lemmon. Foraging bears have attacked humans in nearby tents and cabins four times in two years. Brownie **Jennifer Corrales**, age 8, suffered eye damage, and 4-H Club camper **Anna Louise Knochel**, 16, was severely mauled, in separate incidents less than 10 days after Thomas was charged. The **Arizona Game and Fish Department** killed three problem bears on Mt. Lemmon during the summer and relocated nine—after releasing eight problem bears there from 1985 through 1988.

Humane enforcement

Bruce Daniel Gallant, 45, a Motel 6 resident in Fremont, California, on January 15 drove his truck 50 feet through the front of the city animal shelter after refusing to sign release forms to reclaim his allegedly neglected dogs, injuring an animal control staffer and a police captain. Gallant then drove off, pursued at low speed by two police cruisers, but hit five cars at a red light, causing five more cars to crash. Six people were hurt, none seriously. Gallant adopted the dogs last year. The shelter took them back on December 22.

Tim Hendricks, 17, of Stow, Ohio, on February 7 sued Cuyahoga Falls patrolman **Richard Garinger** and the city of Cuyahoga Falls for alleged malicious arrest, for charging Hendricks with cruelty last July 8, after Hendricks drove over a wild mother mallard and her three ducklings in front of Garinger. Referee **Jasper Liggins** of Summit County Juvenile Court ruled in November that the Ohio cruelty statute applies only to owned animals.

Crimes against people

Testifying last December that former junior hockey coach **Graham Jones** raped him weekly for six years, Boston Bruins hockey star **Sheldon Kennedy** said Jones first attacked him at age 14, after showing off a shotgun and talking “ominously” of duck hunting. Jones drew 42 months in prison.

New York State Police say Christopher P. Gilson, 58, believed to have killed himself on December 29 in a hunting accident in the Town of Halfmoon, sent a Christmas Eve parcel bomb that burned **Jordan Reardon**, 10, of Clifton Park, over 27% of her body. Jordan’s uncle in 1991 fired Gilson from a high-paying sales job, due to alleged alcoholism.

Pit bull terrier breeder Rodney Borushaski, 24, of Granby, Missouri, was convicted on January 29 of killing his in-laws, **Bobie and Marilyn Blewer**, at their funnel-cake stand at Iowa State Fair last August 12. Borushaski drew life without parole.

Dennis L. Copling, 21, of East Camden, New Jersey, was convicted February 5 of murder and manslaughter for shooting **Kirby Bunch Jr.**, 19, and **Mark Sylvester Winton**, 30, over an allegedly stolen pit bull terrier puppy.

Tracy S. Walter, 34, and **Randy Thomas**, 35, of Colville, Washington, were accused February 5 of tying **James L. Peterson**, 39, between trees in subfreezing weather and spreading bacon around him to attract predators, after a dispute of unspecified nature arose while the men were at a remote site circa 2 a.m. with a 16-year-old girl. Walter allegedly first tried to shoot Peterson.

Multimillionaire John E. duPont may serve only five years for killing Olympic wrestling champion **David Schultz** at his estate on January 29, 1996, because a jury on February 25 found him insane—in part because he pointlessly killed animals.

Susan Zeff, 46, wife of **Shoreline Star** greyhound track owner **Robert Zeff**, on February 26 carried Fairfield County deputy sheriff **Richard Orr**, 69, a block through Bridgeport, Connecticut on the hood of her car, hitting a pedestrian, after Orr tried to serve a lawsuit on Robert Zeff in connection with the track bankruptcy. Susan Zeff said Orr climbed on the hood and wouldn’t get off.

A jury in Suffolk, New York on March 4 found **Kenneth Worrell**, 23, not guilty of killing **Kelly Lewis-Purcell**, 23, on December 23, 1995, as they tried to jacklight deer from a pickup truck driven by **Daniel Kart**, after drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana. Juror **Cora Ress**, 55, of Sayville, told *Newsday* that there was no evidence that Worrell fired the fatal shot on purpose. Worrell allegedly shot at a deer from the bed of the moving truck, hitting Lewis-Purcell instead as he leaned out the window to fire from the cab. Worrell said his gun went off by accident.

Curtis Lee Scales Jr., 45, of New Orleans, a.k.a. **Donnie Ray Burns**, drew 18 months in federal prison on January 22, for allegedly defrauding victims in seven states, claiming he was a truck driver who had found their missing dogs and needed money to send the dogs home.

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BOOKS

In Your Face

by Chris DeRose

Duncan Publishing (order c/o Last Chance for Animals, 8033 Sunset Blvd., Suite 35, Los Angeles, CA 90046), 1997. 303 pages, \$21.00, paperback.

Chris DeRose rather enjoys writing about Chris DeRose and his exploits during the course of *In Your Face*. His adventures are often the type of stuff that without adequate context can give animal rights activists a bad name, especially when direct action comes across as a shortcut taken because it’s exciting, bypassing the obligations of citizenship, instead of as a desperate last resort when normal civil process has failed. Blurb phrases about “the frontlines of the fight,” “covert infiltration,” and being arrested for civil disobedience emphasize that animal rights activism can offer James Bond-ish danger and excitement—and cause one to question whether that’s what attracts DeRose, who as the promotional literature also ballyhoos, is a Hollywood actor by trade who “has also been a cop, a private investigator, a black belt in martial arts, a pilot, a reporter.”

DeRose’s main concerns are the theft and subsequent slaughter of pet animals for human consumption, as well as the plight of animals kept in experimental laboratories for vivisection. The horror and inhumanity of these situations is enough to make anyone heartsick; and indeed DeRose, the founder of Last Chance for Animals, is doing something about it. But one might appreciate a little less action-thriller adventure in the recounting.

—Pamela Kemp

Cats’ Meow!

An Anthology of Cat Tales

edited by Jeannette Cakouros and Ruth K. Flowers
Maine Rhode Publishers
(RR #1, Box 635, Woolwich, ME 04579), 1996.
160 pages, paperback, \$13.50.

Besides a *lot* of stories, essays, poems, and a few elegantly simple line drawings, *Cats’ Meow!* offers biographical sketches of the many authors.

Everything is about cats, except for the bios, which do not separate aleurophiles from aleurophobes—but how did the latter get in here, anyway, with a handful of creepy stories, and some about cats with disgruntled owners?

Inevitable are some poignantly sad pieces, reminders of what small, fragile creatures cats are, in a large unfriendly world, and how often those who love and would protect them are also among the weaker and less secure.

Cat ladies, innocent children, cat enthroners enthralled and enthusiastic, and raconteurs of apparently old family tales take their mini-turns. This might be a book to give to aspiring writers or elderly family historians, to start them chronicling cats they have known, for evidently there are many editors these days who realize that anything about cats has a good chance of becoming the cat’s meow.

—Phyllis Clifton

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The Lost History of the Canine Race:

Our 15,000-Year Love Affair With Dogs

by Mary Elizabeth Thurston

Andrews and McMeel (c/o Universal Press Syndicate, 4520 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64111), 1996. 301 pages, indexed, glossary, bibliography, photos; \$24.95.

Mary Thurston has seemingly tracked down every bit of history of human interactions with the dog and included it in *Lost History*.

From educated speculation on how ancient humans and dogs got together, to the sometimes disastrous outcomes of modern attitudes to dog ownership, this book is interesting reading for dog lovers.

”Drawing on archival documents, artifacts, engravings,” etc., Thurston has put together an informative book not in the usual genre of dog treatises.

Hungry For Home: A Wolf Odyssey

by Asta Bowen

Simon & Schuster (Rockefeller Center, 1230 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10020), 1997. \$21.00, 224 pages, paperback.

An anthropomorphic fictional story about wolves looking for a safe place to settle after relocation into Yellowstone National Park, as seen through the eyes of the mother wolf. For those who like Disney.

—Pamela Kemp

Prisoned Chickens Poisoned Eggs:

An Inside Look at the Modern Poultry Industry

by Karen Davis

Book Publishing Company, Box 99, Summertown, TN 38483), 1996. 175 pages, referenced and indexed. \$12.95 paperback.

The Great House of Birds:

Classic Writings About Birds

edited by John Hay

Sierra Club Books (85 2nd St., San Francisco, CA 94105), 1996. 306 pages, hardcover, \$24.00.

Next time you gobble down an egg or a chicken nugget, if you ever do, consider the birds: housed in overcrowded and dangerous “factory” barns, their beaks cut off, their wings clipped, overfed, underexercised, never seeing the light of the sun, from hatching to slaughter.

While people are chastized for their misuse of antibiotics, which apparently has encouraged the evolution of untreatable SuperBugs, very little is said about antibiotic overdosing of chickens, and other food animals. In order to live and grow in terribly crowded conditions, chickens are routinely dosed with antibiotics, which saturates their meat and eggs, and encourages the evolution of resistant deadly bacteria.

Karen Davis covers all this and much more in *Prisoned Chickens Poisoned Eggs*, in straightforward reportorial style. If you still eat chicken, you’ll stop looking at buffalo wings with salivating expectation.

The Great House of Birds, on the other hand, is a motley collection of poetry and supposedly lyrical prose on how birds are the muses of mankind. It is about the pretty birds, the wild and high-flying ones; it seems that chickens need not apply. The exotic birds are for our souls, the chicken apparently just for our stomachs. Reverence for the esthetically pleasing and disdain for the commonplace are dangerous sentiments to promote.

—Pamela Kemp

Sherry DeBoer

S

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Bunny Huggers Gazette
(free, can hold)

OBITUARIES

Stephen Leatherwood, who with Randall R. Reeves co-edited the *Sierra Club Handbook of Whales and Dolphins* (1983 and updates), died January 25 of lymphoma. Formerly senior research biologist for the Hubbs Marine Research Institute, Leatherwood spent his last years with the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation in Hong Kong, as representative of the Cetacean Specialist Group within the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. His special project was seeking the survival of the baiji, or Chinese river dolphin. “There are no truly reliable numbers on the size of baiji populations,” Leatherwood warned in November 1995. “Published estimates indicate a decline from 400 or so in the late 1970s, to 300 or so in the mid-1980s, to 120 or so in 1993. However, the first carefully planned and coordinated survey of the species’ entire range, about 1,200 miles, from Shanghai to Yichang, employing a large vessel in mid-channel and one smaller vessel along each shore, resulted in sightings of only five baiji. Even accounting for animals missed, it is difficult to conclude that the population is more than a few dozen animals. This is not being taken passively,” Leatherwood continued. “An eleventh hour effort is underway to capture as many of the remaining dolphins as possible and move them into Shi Shou Seminalural Reserve, a 24-square-mile oxbow of the Yangtze. There are no guarantees, but we are trying.” The one dolphin at the reserve now is a male, who has been there for 18 years. In December 1995, after three years of trying, the baiji recovery team captured a second dolphin, a female—but on June 23, 1996, she drowned in one of the nets that encloses the protected site. Looming over the whole question of baiji survival, meanwhile, is the impending construction of the Three Gorges Dam across the upper Yangtse, one of biggest engineering projects ever undertaken, with almost incalculable potential impact. “The line from Chinese scientists in 1987-1992,” Leatherwood told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “was that it would damage 25% of the habitat and affect 10% to 30% of the population. Then, after the official resumption of construction and a series of official government meetings to evaluate the evidence, all Chinese scientists magically shifted to the view that the dam is no problem.” One way or another,” Leatherwood said, “The Yangtse has been sacrificed to development. It is only a matter of time before the baiji, the most visible symbol of loss, disappears from the fetid flow. Who knows what else will spin down the vortex?”

Paul E. Tsongas, 55, former U.S. Senator from Massachusetts and Democratic presidential candidate in the 1992 primaries, died January 18 of cancer. Forced out of the 1992 presidential race by questions about his health, Tsongas left the Senate in 1984 during a battle with another form of cancer. As a lobbyist, Tsongas represented the Massachusetts SPCA, the Humane Society of the U.S, and the Sierra Club. “I think I can speak for research animals because I’ve been one for the past three years,” Tsongas reportedly said at one point. “Even when the animals are informed about the procedure, and have given their consent, the animals are scared.” Because of Tsongas’ work on biomedical research issues, the Illinois Medical Society asked the medical and research professions to oppose his presidential candidacy.

Sue Royal, executive director of the White Mountain Humane Society in Pinetop, Arizona, died in December.

Judi Bari, 47, leader of the 1990 Earth First! “Redwood Summer” protests, died March 2 of cancer at her cabin in Willits, California. Born in Balitmore, Bari left studies at the University of Maryland circa 1969 to dedicate heself to anti-Vietnam War protest. Moving into labor organizing, she led a successful wildcat strike at a U.S. Postal Service bulk mail facility but failed in an attempt to unionize grocery store clerks. Relocating to northern California in 1979, Bari became a carpenter—and became locally controversial for her pro-choice position on abortion. She joined Earth First! in 1987, upon learning the age of the tree that furnished some of the redwood siding she was installing on a house. Bari emerged as voice of the strongest faction within Earth First! after cofounder Dave Foreman was arrested in 1989 and eventually convicted on a plea bargain for conspiracy in connction with a plot apparently hatched chiefly by two FBI undercover operatives to blow up electrical transmission lines in rural Arizona. Under Foreman, formerly a mainstream hunter/conservationist, Earth First! was often perceived as tree-huggers opposing loggers. Bari, said longtime friend Anna Marie Stenberg, “made the connection between the exploitation of the forests and the exploitation of the workers.” Convincing the California chapter of Earth First! to renounce tree-spiking, “She was successful in driving a wedge between the companies and the workers,” Georgia-Pacific spokesperson Dave Odgers acknowledged in 1990. However, on May 24, 1990, as Bari and musician/activist Darryl Cherney drove through Oakland, California, on their way to Santa Cruz to drum up support for “Redwood Summer,” a nail bomb detonated under the seat of Bari’s car. Cherney escaped with minor injuries, but a shattered pelvis and lower back injuries left Bari permanently disabled. Although no evidence ever linked Bari and Cherney to the bomb, both were arrested within hours for allegedly possessing it. The charges were later dropped. Local media and private investigators eventually named three other potential suspects, who allegedly had histories of having threatened Bari, but no other arrests were made. A year later, Bari and Cherney sued the FBI for allegedly destroying evidence, misrepresenting the facts of the case to media, ignoring the death threats issued against Bari, and withholding evidence from the investigators representing Bari and Cherney. The case is still pending. Despite her injuries, Bari remained among the most visible Earth First! leaders until her death, as Foreman resigned in August 1990. A lifelong Republican, Foreman told media he was uncomfortable with Bari’s “class-struggle, left/counterculture approach,” and returned to mainstream lobbying.

Floy Mae Seales, wife of John Seales, longtime animal services director for Hot Springs, Arkansas, died February 9 of cancer. “In March 1978,” John Seales recalled, “I expressed to my wife that I had just about had it up to my neck with the job,” which he undertook after founding the first animal shelter in Vietnam some years earlier. ““This is the dirtiest job I have ever done,” I said. ‘More complaints than I have ever heard, and the most thankless job in the world.’ She looked at me and made a very soft statement: ‘Why don’t you try to make a difference?’ That was the turning point of my career. Because of my wife, I was able to see things in a more positive way. As I look around my spacious office, and walk through our new modern animal shelter, which they named after me, I owe it to Floy Mae.”

Daniel Pratt Mannix, 85, died January 29 in Malvern, Pennsylvania. Keeping a menagerie as a teenager that included porcupines, hawks, and vultures, Mannix became a traveling carnival performer after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania, and went on to careers as a professional hunter and collector of wildlife for zoos and circuses, before writing more than two dozen books, including *Backyard Zoo*, *All Creatures Great And Small* (not to be confused with the James Herriot book of the same title), *Tales of the African Frontier*, and as his views on hunting shifted, *The Fox And The Hound*, which became a strongly anti-hunting 1981 Walt Disney animated film.

Edith Hurd, 86, died January 27 in Walnut Creek, California. Hurd was author/illustrator of more than 50 books for children, often collaborating with her late husband Clement, who died in 1988. Among her many animal-related titles were *The Blue Heron Tree*, *The Mother Whale*, and *The Mother Deer*.

Vero C. Wynne-Edwards, 90, died January 5 in Banchory, Scotland. Wynne-Edwards revolutionized human understanding of evolution with his 1962 book *Animal Dispersion in Relation to Social Behavior*, which argued that instead of operating solely through individual survival of the fittest, evolution also occurs as result of the self-regulatory mechanisms of whole species, manifested in territoriality, dominance hierarchies, and allocation of resources. Wynne-Edwards postulated that evolution often favors not the animal best able to survive alone, but rather the animal best adapted to survive within the social context of the kind. A 1927 graduate of the New College at Oxford, Wynne-Edwards taught zoology at McGill University in Montreal, 1930-1946, formulating his then-controversial theories while studying how seabird populations disperse at sea. He then served as Regius Professor of Natural History at Aberdeen University in Scotland, 1946-1974. Wynne-Edwards was elected to the Royal Society in 1970, received the Royal Society’s Neill Prize in 1973, and capped his career by receiving the Frink Medal of the Zoological Society of London in 1980.

Joseph Kastner, 89, died February 6 at his home in Grandview-on-Hudson, New York. A writer and editor for *Life* magazine, 1936-1969, Kastner authored *A Species of Eternity*, a history of early North American nature study which was nominated for the 1977 National Book Award; *A World of Watchers*, a 1987 history of birdwatching in America; and the text for two anthologies of visual material from the New York Public Library collection, *The Bird Illustrated, 1550-1900* (1989) and *The Animal Illustrated, 1550-1900* (1991).

Beryl Reed, 76, who died in October 1996, left her cottage on the Thames and about \$5,000 to fellow actor Paul Strike, 48, the *London Times* disclosed on February 4—on condition that he care for the six survivors among her onetime colony of 13 cats. Reed described them in *The Cat’s Whiskers*, a volume of her memoirs. “I arranged for her to get one of her cats from a Chinese restaurant because she didn’t think he was happy. The others were strays who had been neglected or thrown out on the street and ended up at animal shelters,” Strike said. Neighbor Edward Baty described Strike as “stupid about cats—he just loves them.”

TRIBUTES

In honor of Lewis Gompertz, a Jewish mystic who graced 19th century England with nonpareil reverence. He conceived myriad inventions, embraced implacable animal rights, lauded black people, and espoused liberation for women. His emphatic veganism exemplified a visionary idealism through intuitive communion with Providence.
—Brien Comerford

MEMORIALS

In memory of Charlie, my friend and constant companion for 18 years.
—Judy Meincke

In memory of Rupert (1985?-1997)
You meant the world to Vicky, and always will.
—Joe & Karen Connelly

In memory of a great friend of all creatures and the earth—Judi Bari, Earth First!
—Dave & Laren Naslund

CLASSIFIEDS

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Events & deadlines

Ongoing: View work by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** photographer **Robert Harrison** in library, L.I. Campus, Polytechnic U., Farmingdale, N.Y.

Ongoing: More animal events on the World Wide Web at >>Best Friends@msn.com<<.

April 1: *AHA Be Kind To Animals Kids* nominations are due. Info: 303-792-9900.

April 4-6: *Atlantic Coastal Dolphin Conference*, Univ. of North Carolina at Wilmington. Info: 910-962-7266.

April 8: *2nd Intl. Wildlife Law Conference*, Washington, D.C. Info: 510-558-0620.

April 26: World Day for Lab Animals protest, Emory U., Decatur, Ga. Info: 770-242-4343.

April 27-May 1: *Mexican Society for Marine Mammalogy* international annual meeting, Puerto Vallarta. Info: Hector Perez Cortes, >>criplp@balandra.uabcs.mx<<.

May 12-13: The Role of CITES in International Wildlife Law, University of Nottingham, U.K. Info: 44-0-115-951-5700.

May 15-17: *Hands Across the Border*, National Animal Control Association conference, St. Paul. Info: 1-800-828-6474.

May 17-18: *Conference on Habitat Conservation Plans*, hosted by the National Wildlife Federation, Wash., D.C. Info: 202-797-5485.

May 18: *Walk for Animals*, for Neponset Valley Humane Society, at Borderland State Park, Sharon, Mass. Info: 617-297-5049.

May 24-28: *The Predators of Yellowstone*, Predator Project field trip. \$600 includes all meals. Info: 406-587-3389.

June 14-18: *American Society of Marine Mammalogists* annual meeting, Stillwater, Oklahoma. Info: Karen McBee, 405-744-9680.

June 21-22: *Public/Private Strategies for Cat Population Control*, Spay/USA conference, Denver. Info: 1-800-248-SPAY.

June 26-30: *Animal Rights '97 National Convention*, Washington D.C. Info: FARM, 1-888-FARM-USA or >>farmusa@erols.com<<.

July 2-6: *37th annual convention of the American Vegan Society*, Olympia, Washington. Info: 609-694-2887.

July 17-20: *Ferrets & Prairie Dogs in Northern Montana*, Predator Project field trip. \$600 includes all meals. Info: 406-587-3389.

July 24-25: *Intl. Society for Anthrozoology annual meeting*, Boston. Info: 508-839-7991.

There's no better way to remember animals or animal people than with an **ANIMAL PEOPLE memorial**. Send donations (any amount), along with an address for acknowledgement, if desired, to **POB 960 Clinton, WA 98236-0960.**

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Fellow lover of animals,

I’ve had an emergency 4-day rescue that kept me in the forest from dawn til dusk . . .
. . . and I returned exhausted every day, aching all over, blisters on
my feet from hiking up and down the 6,000 foot level, and I just could not see the key-
board to type this letter!

It all began on Thursday . . .

Someone dumped four bags of dog food in the Angeles National Forest, at a fire
break on a huge mountain. You can see the bags in the
picture at right.

You can also see how rugged the country is . . . it’s mountain lion country!

After dumping the food, this person opened the door of his car, and pushed two
nine-month-old puppies out of the car and into the forest.

While they stood there confused, he sped off leaving them in a cloud of trail dust.
Another man, hiking the steep fire break trails, saw this happen.

He watched the dogs try to run after the speeding car, and he watched them finally
stop, worn out and lost.

I don’t know why he waited a day to try to get help for these dogs, but the hiker
returned on Friday and saw “Io” and “Europa” again.

This time they were on the next ridge, and had not seen the bags of food that were
left with them. They were hungry and scared. They saw the man, and cried out to him,
but they kept their distance.

This hiker thought about the dogs all day and finally told a ranger about them
on Friday afternoon.

Driving out to the site, the ranger did not see the dogs, but he found the bags
of food. There are miles of forest here, the frightened dogs could be anywhere.
On Friday night the ranger called me.

Saturday morning . . .

I found the bags of food and the dump site. But there weren’t any dogs around and
nobody had touched any of the food. I didn’t know it then, but these unlucky puppies
would always “just miss” the food I would leave for them.

After a few hours of hiking, I located a tiny town in the middle of the forest. It was
about a mile and a half from the dump site, and downhill. I knew the dogs would end up
there . . . if they lived through the dangers of hungry mountain lions, rattlesnakes,
and coyote packs.

In town, there was no sign of any extra dogs.

I set out food at the edge of the forest there, where the trail would take the puppies if
they came that way, and returned to the mountain-top dump site. It was about 5 o’clock.

I parked, got out my camera with a long lens to scan the area, and began hiking.

Instantly I heard the most magnificent sounds from the next ridge over . . .

. . . two frightened dogs, barking at me! They were telling me they were hungry,
yet too afraid to accept my help. I had to look hard to see them, they were hiding in the
brush. But as I swung my camera lens around, they popped into view . . .

. . . two thin,
young dogs . . .
obviously siblings.

I called to them, and they started to move away from
me. They were terrified. So I walked away from them, let-
ting them settle down.

For the next half hour, I watched them from behind a
bush. I tried to figure out how in the world I would rescue
them.

At one moment, they were both looking in my direc-
tion, and I snapped the picture you see above . . .

. . . then they began limping away, downhill to my left,
into the thick brush below.
I was worried about them, about their safety, and about how
I was going to rescue them.

This must have been the ridge that the hiker had seen
the dogs on the day before. They didn’t come back to the food bags, probably not know-
ing they were even there.

I set up one of the bags on the ridge where I’d seen the pups, and I laced it with cans
of fresh dog food.

My plan was to get away from there so the dogs would return to the ridge, finding the
food and hopefully camping there overnight.

In the morning I would return with two traps and maybe I would get lucky!
Sunday . . .

Before dawn, I was at the site, hiding some distance away to see if I could spot the
dogs. But through my binoculars I saw a very disappointing picture . . .

. . . the canned food had not been touched. Our puppies, Io and Europa, had not
returned to the ridge as I’d hoped.

I set up my traps anyway, and spent the entire day searching both ends of the forest
for them. I did not see them again. I prayed that they survived the night.

Monday . . .

Another very long day in the heat, hiking up and down mountains. I set up more

food for the puppies, but none
of it had been touched. If they

were still alive, they were starving.

Tuesday . . .

I loaded my traps and set off for the mountain. Seeing their faces that first day,
I fell in love with Io & Europa, and I was obsessed with them . . . not sleeping nights,
worrying about them, plotting where they might be on my maps.

My stomach was in a knot as I arrived at the end of the trail. If only I could see them,
just for an instant.

Then, 100 yards from the untouched food I left earlier, I saw Europa in the street,
standing guard over Io. Europa saw my vehicle and vanished up a mountain.

I got out of the van and walked up to a nearby house. Io was waiting outside the gate,
hoping someone might have a morsel of food for her. But nobody was home.

My heart broke for those dogs all over again. As Io saw me and ran off up the moun-
tain, I prayed, “please let me have them.” They deserved another chance. Life had been
cruel to them so far, but they kept going, hoping to find the place in their dreams.

They were unloved by whoever abandoned them. They were hiding from coyote
packs and mountain lions. And they were painfully hungry after four days of starvation.

They had survived it all, but they couldn’t go on much longer. I had to rescue them,
now, if only I could get lucky.

All day they stayed hidden. But I set my two traps anyway, close to where they dis-
appeared. Then, late in the day, I watched excitedly as Europa came down the mountain
and walked right into a trap to devour the food that was there. She was so thin.

Over the next hour, Io circled the second trap, but would not go in. And I knew I
would stay out there with Europa until I caught Io, no matter how long it took.

I sweetened the trap with cat food and fresh water, and I waited. Adrenaline shot
through me as Io came down and began eating the cat food, her first meal in four days.

When that door slammed down and Io was safe, tears of happiness ran down my face.
They would live.

And as I drove to our sanctuary, I watched these two sisters smiling broadly in their
cages, knowing something wonderful was finally happening to them.

At our shelter, I sat with them and fed them some more. Europa kissed me . . . a lot.
And Io leaned forward and licked my hand.

I remember how sad I felt to see Io begging for a scrap of food at the gate, and
nobody was home. How I would have given anything to see her eat again. And now,
thanks to you, she can.

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For the animals,

Leo Grillo

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help this month. It is a pocket-size book of short stories of my animal rescues. It also con-
tains our Pet Adoption Guide for finding loving new homes for pets.

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