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FAMIMALS? ACENDA

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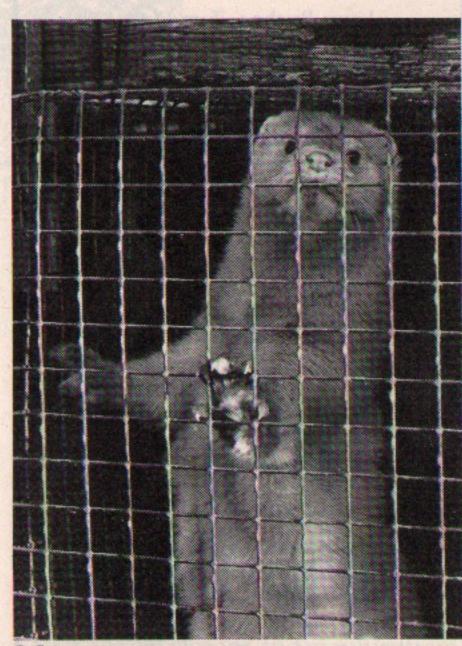
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PAGE TWO

The Problem With Pets

In this issue, much is said about the cruelties involved in the "pet" industry. Animal advocates would agree that many of the problems have apparent solutions-in theory, at least, though they will be difficult to implement. For example, it's wrong to keep wild or exotic animals as companions because their physical and psychological needs can rarely be met in captivity. It's also clearly wrong to intentionally breed dogs and cats while millions of surplus "pets" meet their deaths on the streets and in pounds. But points of contention arise as we reach the core of the "pet" issue.

The dog has been domesticated and genetically manipulated for some 10,000 years. The cat, whose domesticity is debatable, seems to have joined the human community about 5,000 years later. Though the first canines and felines may have originally been brought in to help hunt or protect homesteads from human or nonhuman invaders, their human "masters" soon began to value their companionship. We see evidence of a tender bond between human and nonhuman in the delicately mummified cats of Egypt and in the dog graveyards unearthed recently by archaeologists in Israel.

For people who have been nourished by the love of a dog or cat, the idea that there could be something wrong with making "pets" out of animals may be difficult to grasp. One might argue that the relationship between humans and their "pets" is symbiotic, and, indeed, sometimes it is. But more often, the scales tip on the side of exploitation. The majority of dogs and cats, if cared for by humans at all, are treated more as prisoners, slaves, or amusements than as individuals deserving consideration and respect. They are regarded as property rather than as friends. And as property, they may be easily discarded or destroyed. In better circumstances, cherished dogs and cats may be given all the comforts of a good home, yet remain unfulfilled in terms of satisfying all their instincts and engaging in natural behavior.

It might be better for the "institution" of "pethood" to be phased out altogether since the nature of the "pet" relationship gives the human dominance over the nonhuman. Even with the best intentions, we control our companion animals' reproduction, decide when they can go out and come in, when and where they can relieve themselves, and what they get to eat. They are permitted few choices of their own.

But however good the reasons for an eventual elimination of "pets", it hardly seems likely to happen in the foreseeable future. To those of us who treasure our relationships with nonhuman beings, the prospect of dogless and catless households seems grim. The health and psychological benefits accruing to the human partner in the "pet" relationship are well known, and sharing our homes with animals seems to provide us with a tenuous connection to the natural world that might be otherwise broken. In no way, however, do the benefits we derive from having animals justify propagating them for selfish purposes.

At the present time, faced with the overpopulation tragedy, it would be unwarranted for animal rights proponents to refrain from adopting companion animals for philosophical reasons. Faced with the options of either bringing an animal into our homes or allowing him or her to perish in pounds or on the streets, the former seems the morally correct choice. However, instead of perpetuating an inherently exploitive situation by continuing to breed animals who can live with us in artificial habitats, we should begin trying to create a more natural environment in which human and nonhuman animals can interact and yet function independently.

Last call for holiday gifts

It's still not too late to order gifts of The ANIMALS' AGENDA for your family and friends. Order cards are located at page 55. You can also give a gift to The ANIMALS' AGENDA. Contributions over and above the cost of subscriptions allow us to continue to expand our outreach efforts, and donations are taxdeductible.

—The Editors

DECEMBER 1987

LETTERS

Challenging Religion

I found your extensive interview with Peter Singer (September 1987) very informative. But while he makes many valuable and perceptive points, I think it is counterproductive to state that "the Judeo-Christian religious tradition is our

It is unfortunately all too true that people don't always live up to religion's highest teachings. This is our challenge: to remind religious people of the tremendous gaps between their words of compassion, justice, and kindness, and the reality of conditions for animals and people today.

I believe that we can best promote animal rights by challenging people who profess to be religious with this question: In view of strong religious mandates to be compassionate to animals, preserve health, help feed hungry people, protect the environment, and conserve resources-and the very negative effects flesh-centered diets have in each of these areas, how do you justify not becoming a vegetarian?

- Richard H. Schwartz, Associate Professor The College of Staten Island 715 Ocean Terrace Staten Island, NY 10301

Editor's Note: Dr. Schwartz is the author of Judaism and Vegetarianism.

Interpretation of Singer's Position Misleading

Tom Regan's letter [November 1987] commenting on my Interview in the September issue may mislead readers who are not as philosophically sophisticated as he is. Although he knows my writings well, he does not mention that I have consistently stated that I support claims about "the rights of animals" when they are used to support a political campaign. For instance, to say that farm animals have a right to an environment which suits their needs, or that laboratory rats have a right not to be used as if they were convenient research tools, are handy political slogans - a shorthand way of saying that farm animals and laboratory rats are sentient creatures whose lives can go well or badly, and that it is totally unjustifiable to treat such creatures in the way they are now being treated.

Since the animal rights movement is a political, campaigning movement, and not a philosophical school, there is no error in people regarding Animal Liberation as the "bible" of the movement

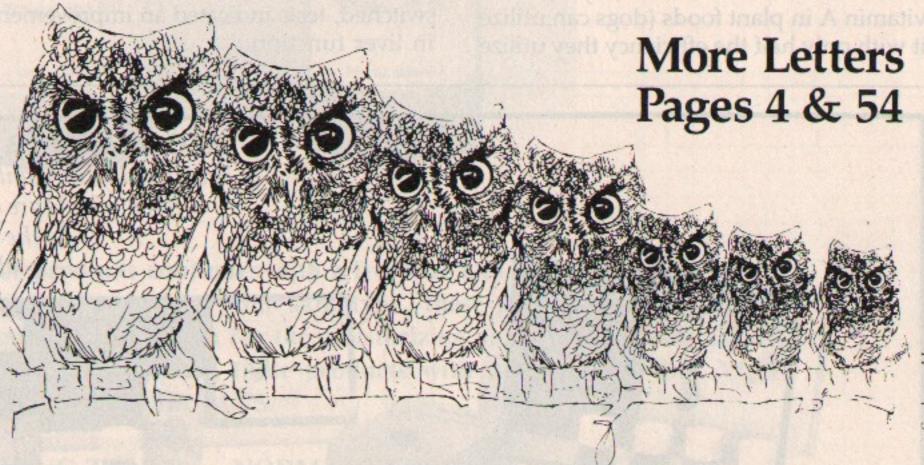
(except that "bibles" of any sort are a bad thing, because no text should be treated as a sacred, unquestionable authority). In the political arena, the terms "animal rights movement" and "animal liberation movement" are interchangeable.

It is true that on a deeper philosophical level, I don't think the idea of a "moral right" refers to anything fundamental. It seems to be plucked out of the air by those who use it, and I prefer to base my moral judgements on something more concrete - such as the avoidance of pain and suffering, and the promotion of the satisfaction of needs and desires. The important point, which Tom has again not mentioned, is that my rejection of the idea of rights as a basis for ethics includes human as well as animal rights. I can readily agree with the great 19th Century pioneer Henry Salt, who wrote in his book Animals' Rights, "Do animals have rights? Certainly, if humans have them." I just happen to think that, at a deep level, neither of them do. My ethical objection to giving both humans and aniquences of such research in the real world, not in purely hypothetical cases.

Incidentally, I do find it curious that although Tom is keen to point to what he regards as deficiencies in my views, he never responds to the objection I have made to his statement that in a lifeboat situation, it would be preferable to throw a million dogs into the sea to drown rather than throw one human out. Is this a view which he thinks animal rights advocates should also hold? Will the public understand why this would be right, but the sacrifice of a single dog in cancer research is not?

I shall end, however, by expressing my firm agreement with Tom on his opening statement: we have worked together and will continue to work together for the good of animals. I am sure Tom would join me in expressing the hope that such cooperation, despite differences of opinion, could serve as a helpful model for the animal movement.

> — Peter Singer Victoria, Australia



mals anything less than equal consideration has its roots elsewhere. This puts a different complexion on some of the views Tom attributes to me.

Tom repeats a claim that he has made previously: that my moral principles justify some harmful research on animals so that humans benefit. That is theoretically conceivable. Again, it is also theoretically conceivable that my moral principles justify harmful research on humans so that animals benefit. In practice, though, I am convinced that the best way to advance the interests of animals and humans would be to stop all harmful research on animals, and use the money thereby saved in other, more productive, ways. So I don't think it is true to say that if people act on my principles, harmful research on nonhumans will continue. We have to look at the conse-

A Tip for Sign Makers

How often our grassroots group used to admire the professional-looking signs and banners we saw at the big rallies! But, alas, we were poor and unskilled, and our homely hand-scrawled signs confirmed that fact. Then one day a signpainter shared her secret with us, and we used it to create professional banners and signs for no more than the cost of materials.

First, we cut slogans and graphics from magazines, pamphlets, and clip art sheets (avoiding, of course, copyrighted logos). We pasted these on an 8-1/2" by 11" sheet of paper and had it reproduced onto a transparency at our local copy shop. Then we borrowed an overhead projector from our school, traced our images onto poster Continued on next page

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

board and canvas, and painted them. With our new signs, we improved not only our public image but our self-image as well. We know our organization's looks are now as solid as its beliefs.

> -Jenny Arthur UMASS Animal Rights Coalition Student Union University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA 01003

More on Vegetarian Cats

There are some individuals in the animal rights movement who, after having decided to abstain from meat for reasons of compassion, have taken to imposing their vegetarian dietary habits on their dogs and cats [see "Caveat for the Vegetarian Cat" in the May 1987 issue; also the October Letters section]. They should be aware of the following nutritional points concerning canines and felines:

• 1) Cats are completely unable to utilize beta-carotene, the only form of vitamin A in plant foods (dogs can utilize it with only half the efficiency they utilize

vitamin A from meat and dairy products).2) Cats cannot utilize linoleic acid, the fatty acid which is the main component of vegetable oils. But this compound does have the potential to cause cancer due to its high susceptibility to oxygen-related damage, which turns it into a carcinogen.

• 3) Cats require an amino acid (protein component) called taurine which is very rare in plant foods. Recent findings have disclosed that as many as 1.6 million cats may die each year from a heart ailment called dilated cardiomyopathy which is triggered by taurine-deficient commercial cat foods, including major brands which have been using cheap soy meal instead of meat as their main source of protein.

• 4) Soy products are very high in natural plant hormones similar to the synthetic form of estrogen called diethylstibestrol (DES). Cheetahs in zoos across the country have suffered liver damage and infertility caused by these hormones which are delivered by the soy meal ingredients in the commercial diets they were being fed. Fortunately, however, when the felines' diets were switched, tests indicated an improvement in liver function.

Although I could give more examples, I think the above points should serve as a sufficient warning to those who attempt to turn companion cats into vegetarians. -Mark Sunlin Saratoga, CA

Boards Need Business Skills

I read with interest the Page Two in the September issue. I am one who believes that far too often the requirement for "business acumen" on a board of directors is overlooked by charitable organizations whose objective is to best serve the animal world in one way or another. Webster defines acumen as keenness and depth of perception, discernment, or discrimination in practical matters. wonder if animals can be best served without some strong element of this characteristic on a board. A lack of good business principles will just as surely result in animals being shortchanged as will the lack of adequate humanitarian principles.

The correct formula is a balance of Continued on page 54

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The Foreman of Radical Environmentalism

A discussion with Dave Foreman of Earth First!.

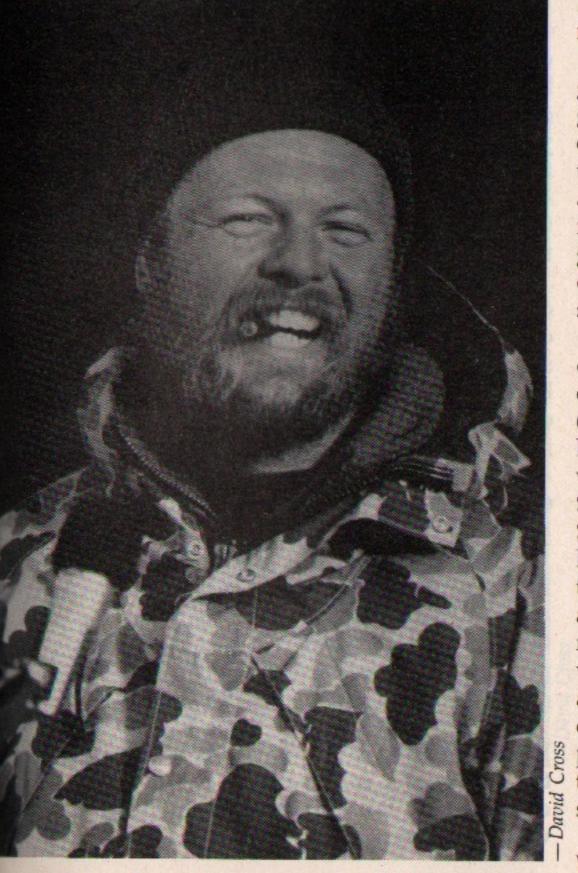
INTERVIEWED BY WAYNE PACELLE

"I reject out of hand their being environmentalists. They are terrorists, they are outlaws, they should be treated as such."

—J.D. Hair, chief executive officer of the National Wildlife Federation, when asked by an ABC News correspondent about Earth First! adherents (September 11, 1987)

s we ready ourselves for the interview-him resting against a thick pine, me sitting on a smoothedout stump somewhere in Arizona's Kaibab National Forest – I feel a little out of place with my two tape recorders and my prewritten questions. They are a bit too technical, too rational. What's more, there is Dave Foreman. Bearded and brawny, donning an army camouflage cap and dark glasses and looking like the redneck he calls himself, he is nothing if not selfassured. An undesignated leader of Earth First!, the environmental quasi-organization which has thrived on shock tactics, Foreman speaks as if he is certain of Earth First!'s declaration of priorities and his commitment to "Mother Earth". Calling himself an "animal liberationist", but admitting he eats meat and hunts, I'm curious to hear him explain that apparent contradiction and anxious to straighten him out. On the other hand, when he speaks, he is particularly fluent and profound-someone knowing where he comes from and what is going on, and who can give animal liberationists a fresh, if perhaps flawed, perspective.

INTERVIEW



Dave Foreman at Earth First!'s annual Round River Rendezvous in Idaho in 1986.

In the late 1970s, you left your position as chief lobbyist for the Wilderness Society. That event marked your departure from the "mainstream" environmental movement and your entry into the "radical" environmental movement. Though the mainstream movement is no monolith, what were some of the problems you had with it?

Along with some other people, I began to sense that we were losing our passion and our soul. People who began working for environmental groups because they were committed and believed in the cause were becoming more concerned with career, salary, and access to high places. Concurrently, we were compromising more and getting less. For example, in RARE II (the Forest Service's second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation in 1977-79), where the Forest Service was looking at 80 million acres of roadless lands, we only asked that 35 million acres of this wilderness be protected because we wanted to be reasonable, to be credible. We were getting away from our role as constant advocates for wilderness and trying to become decisionmakers.

In other words, you were being so reasonable you were being co-opted?

Yes. There was a fundamental change going on within the environmental groups themselves because of their success. Increasingly, they were moving toward a corporate world view. When you are running a corporation with a \$26 million-a-year budget, getting a hundred-grand-a-year salary, having the board of directors breathing down your neck, you start to think like a corporate executive.

Other factors could set a group on that dangerous path of "success" as well. For example, the worst thing that Jim Watt (former Secretary of the Interior under Ronald Reagan) ever did to the environmental movement was double the Sierra Club's membership. Suddenly, the Sierra Club had lots of "soft" members. In response, its magazine editors had to tone down the organization's journal to avoid offending the newcomers. The magazine had a very low renewal rate with these people because they were soft, and the organization had to do more direct mail to keep increasing its supporters because they had gotten used to the cash flow from an increased membership base.

What's the problem with direct mail as you see it?

It's a waste of resources for one thing.

It's also an addiction. It's like being a junkie—once you start direct mail you have to keep doing it. And you are hiring outside professionals to do it who have a stake in it, who make their money that way. You are filling people's mail-boxes with garbage and you're having to do it at a level to keep your cash flow up. I know some groups that spend 90 cents on every dollar they raise from direct mail on more direct mail. It just makes more sense to me to have a lower budget and avoid that addiction.

Could you tell us which environmental groups are doing good work and which are not?

I think everybody is doing some good. We need the Sierra Club lobbying on Capitol Hill; we need the Wilderness Society doing economic analysis; and we very much need the Nature Conservancy buying land. But we also need more radical action. And we need moderate groups to take a stronger stand. It's not that they shouldn't be lobbying, but that they should be asking for more.

Has the radical wing of the environmental movement made the rest of the movement more palatable to mainstream America?

It has had several effects. One of our Continued on next page



An Earth First! action in Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park dramatized the unsatisfactory treatment of grizzly bears by the National Park Service and the Forest Service.

Still accepting holiday orders

INTERVIEW

Continued from previous page

goals in beginning Earth First! was to realign the environmental movement. I think we have succeeded. Back in the early 1980s, people were calling the Sierra Club extremist. Nobody is doing that now. There have been newspapers out West condemning Earth First! and praising the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society. Ten years ago, they would have been condemning the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society. We have made the mainstream groups appear to be middle-of-the-road—which they really are. We've shifted the spectrum.

The other thing we've done is that we've somewhat radicalized the main-stream groups. In some cases, the Sierra Club has enlarged its wilderness proposals because of our influence. They're saying, 'Why should we compromise? Why shouldn't we ask for what we really want?' People in the mainstream environmental movement are now talking about biocentrism—wilderness for its own sake.

The environmental movement was as boring as could be. The media began to print articles indicating that the environmental movement had died. We wanted to make the environmental movement exciting again.

What are the pillars of Earth First! philosophy and practice?

We are a biocentric warrior society. Our most fundamental philosophical view is that all things have intrinsic value and that human beings are not the measure of value for all things. You preserve wilderness for its own sake; you defend a grizzly bear because she has just as much right to be here as any of us do.

We also recognize that there are far too many people on this planet. We are out of bounds and upsetting the whole biosphere. We are facing the most perilous moment in 3.5 billion years of biological evolution. The rate of species extinction is greater than it has ever been beforeeven faster than 65 million years ago in the Cretaceous (a period characterized by the disappearance of dinosaurs). There are prominent ecologists saying that vertebrate evolution is at an end, that we'll lose a third of all species in the next 20 years, and that 20 years from now the only large mammals on the earth will be the ones that we choose to allow to survive. We are the most important generation of human beings ever to exist. The holocaust is here right now. The stormtroopers are knocking on our doors and they are wiping out everything that is good and beautiful and pure about this

planet. Forget about career, about family, about VCRs and power boats and get out and fight.

Whether spiking trees or lying down in front of bulldozers, Earth First!ers make frequent use of direct action tactics as a means to defend wilderness areas. Can you tell us why these tactics are useful to the radical environmental movement?

They are a means of getting the point across to the public through the media. If you have people dressed up in grizzly costumes in Yellowstone National Park, you can reach a lot of people—more so than by sending out press releases to the newspaper. Also, by being arrested, you

We are the most important generation of human beings ever to exist. The holocaust is here right now.

cause the public to think, 'If this person is willing to go to jail or be run over by a bulldozer, maybe I ought to look at this issue.' It also is a good way of self-empowerment and personal growth. I do not tell anybody to get arrested, but I recommend it. I think the experience of being handcuffed, booked, and thrown in jail gives you a much better appreciation of the power of the state and a realization that, despite all of our freedoms here in this country, we are still on a leash and when we hit the end of that leash we are going to be jerked back.

What do you think of the concept of speciesism?

I think it's the opposite of biocentrism, of globally-centered thinking. The anthropocentric view in every civilization establishes human beings as the measure of value for all things. I think we have to get away from that and look at the intrinsic value of all things. Something is not valuable because of what it means to humans. The grass, the pine tree, the wind, and the mountain lion all have a right to be here.

Along those lines, some deep ecologists have argued that animal liberation philosophies are in fact anthropocentric. Can you comment on that?

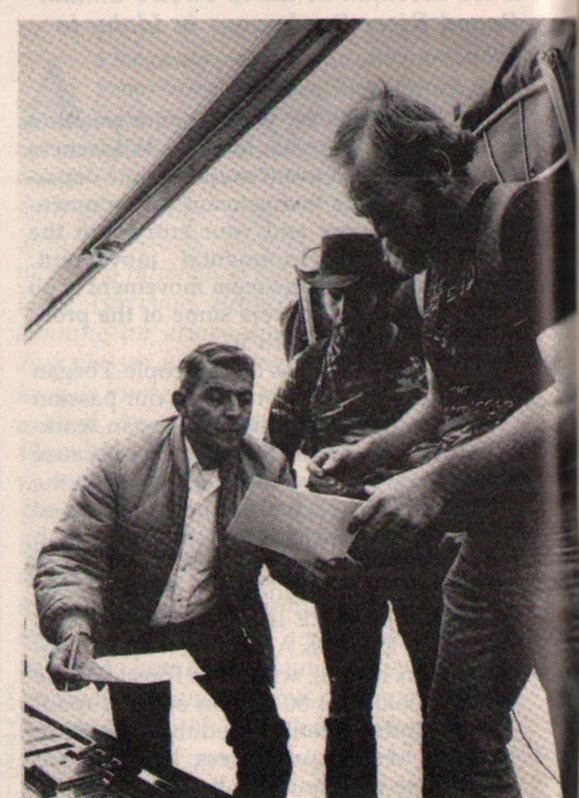
I think that there is a fundamental rift

between deep ecology and animal liberation. Deep ecology is coming from an ecological world view and the animal liberation movement is coming from a compassionate world view. On that basis, you end up valuing things a little differently. I think that ecosystems are more important than the individuals who make them up. The species is more important than an individual.

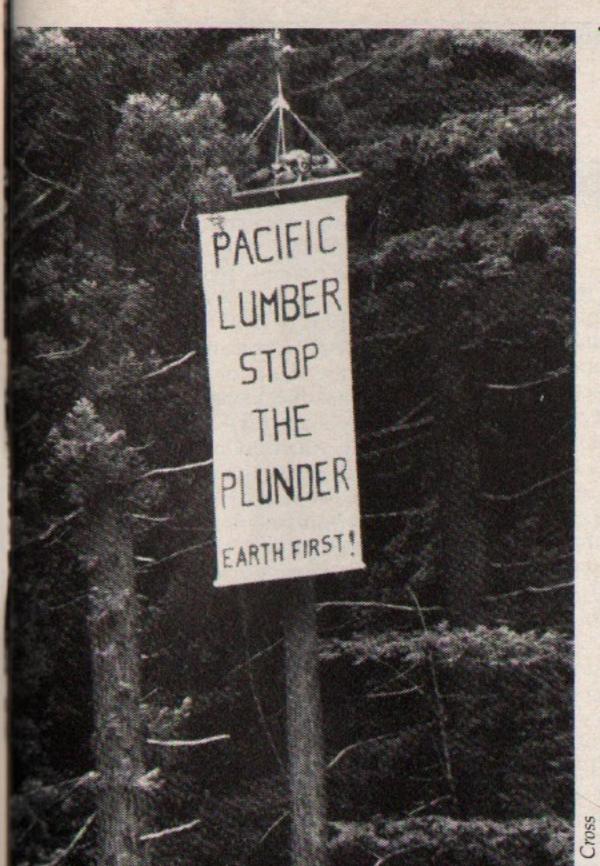
Animal liberation philosophy, on the other hand, emphasizes the individual creature and his or her potential for suffering—judging those closer to humans as more valuable because they can suffer more obviously. In that respect, it is anthropocentic.

I see individual lives as momentary energy blips on a grid. There is a life force out there that manifests itself for a little while as a blade of grass, as a human being, or as a deer. Then that individual dies and is consumed. The energy continues, but the individual doesn't. What is important is the flow of energy and the flow of life.

If we accept the importance of a biocentric philosophy, can't we still have ethical consideration for individual nonhumans who, as we can clearly determine from



A Salt Creek, New Mexico Sheriff serves Foreman with a restraining order after an abbreviated blockade.



A sit-in to save a redwood in September 1987.

their physiology, do experience pleasure and pain?

Sure, but I think everything can experience pleasure and pain. I think the Grand Canyon can experience pleasure and pain. The Grand Canyon is suffering right now-I hear it screaming out. You don't have to be a mammal, a primate, or a vertebrate to experience pain. You don't have to be mobile. I think that it is anthropocentric to say that the closer something is to human beings the more valuable it is. We owe a fundamental goodwill and compassion to everything. But that doesn't mean we can't fulfill vital needs. When it becomes wrong is when we go beyond our needs, such as when we slaughter millions of kangaroos in Australia for unimportant reasons or when we don't show respect or compassion.

Couldn't it be one of our goals as individuals to minimize the suffering of the entire nonhuman world?

Suffering is inherent in life. Taken to its extreme form, animal rights is lifedenying or death-denying, which is the same thing. It's saying that we want to do away with suffering in life. We are all going to die. We should work to see that there is no gratuitous violence, no gratuitous suffering, but we can't walk

INTERVIEW

across this meadow without causing a little bit of suffering. We are stepping on plants and bugs.

I hope that one day something will eat me. I don't want to be pickled and put in a lead box, where I am totally taken out of the life cycle. I want to die out in the wilderness so that buzzards can peck my eyeballs, and weasels can crawl inside of in assuming that by living in our suburbs, practicing vegetarianism, and using cruelty-free cosmetics that we are significantly changing anything. What we need is a fundamental critique of our whole society, of our relationship to nature, and ultimately do away with the entire industrial system. *Now* we can't do that. There are five billion people on the

We are acting as liberal reformists in assuming that by living in our suburbs, practicing vegetarianism, and using cruelty-free cosmetics that we are significantly changing anything.

me and eat my liver so I can go on forever like that.

I see the wilderness as the real world. This is where the real wisdom is. This is where we belong. It's not in our concrete boxes, not in our freeways, not in our cars. Urban life and the whole industrial system is fantasy, is make-believe.

Certainly, the animal agriculture industry is one of the pillars of this industrial system. How do you feel about it?

I don't like it. But neither do I like factory farming of soybeans. The trouble is that there is no reform possible of our current system. It is inherently corrupt, inherently cut off from the natural world. Its basic philosophical premises are wrong. We are acting as liberal reformists

planet and we are locked into our situation. There is no peaceful transition from what we've got now to a compassionate, ecologically-balanced society. What will happen is that this whole rotten system is going to come crashing down because it is out of balance with the earth. After that, I hope that we will have the seeds to form an appropriate and compassionate society.

Furthermore, I think there are good practical arguments not to eat meat under the current means of production. My argument with vegetarianism is with the absolute moral position that it is wrong to eat mammals because they are closer to us. Factory farming of animals and the health risks of eating meat—given the problems of cholesterol build-up and the

Continued on page 52

COMING SOON

- ♦ LIVESTOCK GRAZING ON PUBLIC LANDS is turning the American West into a wasteland. For decades, ranchers and their government lackeys have worked to create a profitable system—often described as "welfare ranching"—which consumes tax dollars as quickly as range livestock consumes the environment.
- ♦ AFTER SURVIVING ON EARTH FOR NEARLY 200 MILLION YEARS, alligators faced extinction in the 1960s. But the species rebounded so well that alligators are now considered "nuisance" animals in much of the Southeast United States, where a burgeoning human population and diminishing wildlife habitat has put humans and the potentially dangerous reptiles on a collision course.
- ◆ DICK RANDALL, FORMER GOVERNMENT TRAPPER, reflects on his years of involvement with Federal predator control programs and tells how he came to realize the cruelty and inefficiency of massive trapping and poisoning efforts.

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NETWORK NOTES

The Kentucky Fried Five

In our April 1987 issue, we reported on the January arrests of five Animal Liberation Front (ALF) activists in Toronto, Ont. in connection with the spraypainting of a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet. The activists, facing a multitude of various charges, were released on bail but were given very strict bail conditions. A trial date for the five is anticipated sometime this winter; sentencing will likely occur more than a year after the arrests. Legal representation for the activists continues to be costly. Donations may be made payable to Mary Bartley, Barrister and Solicitor, 11 Prince Arthur Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5R 1B2 Canada-write "Toronto Animal Rights Defense Fund in Trust" on the check or money order. Those wishing to learn more about the case, or about how to support the ALF without breaking the law, may contact: The ALF Support Group, P.O. Box 915, Station F, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2N9 Canada.



Chickens' Lib Video

The British group Chickens' Lib has released a video documenting the conditions suffered by battery hens (egg layers) and broiler chickens (raised for meat) in Britain's factory farms. Conditions for chickens in Britain are quite similar in most respects to those in the U.S. Two half-hour segments, entitled "Chicken for Dinner?" and "Sentenced for Life", are included on the video. The Farm Animal Reform Movement (FARM) is distributing the video in the U.S.-it's available for \$20 a copy, or a \$20 refundable deposit for rental. Contact FARM at: P.O. Box 70123, Washington, DC 20088; (301) 530-1737.

EDITED BY LESLIE PARDUE



- Bill Mannetti

Furs don't grow on trees.

Fighting the Furriers

A new edition of Project Floodlight's "Anti-fur Resource Book" is available to activists upon request. The book features camera-ready ads and literature for groups to use in local campaigns, and also includes ordering information for a variety of other items such as t-shirts, stickers, and calendars. For a free copy, write to: Project Floodlight, P.O. Box 3782, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

Activist Retreats

Squak Mountain Activist Training Retreats are designed to teach participants techniques for lobbying, networking, media coordination, outreach, fundraising, and vegan cooking. The retreats are held the first and third weekends of each month For information, write or call: P.O. Box 603, Issaquah, WA 98027; (206) 392-9338.

Helping Strays Without Killing

An effective method of controlling feral cat populations without killing has been developed by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW), a British organization. Cats are captured in box traps, spayed or neutered, marked, and returned to supervised sites where their long-term care can be assured. UFAW is making available a videotape detailing the method. Copies are available for \$27 postpaid (specify VHS or Beta) from: UFAW, 8 Hamilton Close, South Mimms, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3QD, England.

Poison Patrol

Defenders of Wildlife has started a "Poison Patrol" project, with the goal of forming a nationwide network of citizens who will report suspected in-cidents of wildlife poisoning. The toll-free number for reporting such occurences is (800) 858-7378 (a toll call is required from Alaska or Hawaii: (806) 743-3091). For more information about the project, contact Defenders at 1244 19th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 659-9510.

The Big Picture

"Animal Rights: An Overview" is a 16-page illustrated brochure covering all the major animalrelated issues - as well as animal rights philosophy and practice.
An ideal tool for educating newcomers to the movement, the brochure is produced by the The Animals' Voice (a magazine focussing on issues and actions in California), and is available free of charge. Write to: The Animals' Voice, P.O. Box 4305, Chico, CA 95927.

Get Involved

Berkshire County Activists for Animals is a grassroots group using public outreach, education, and protest to advance the cause of animal rights. Contact them at: P.O. Box 379, Pittsfield, MA 01202. Vermonters are needed to support EndTrap, a new state organization whose goal is to achieve a legislative ban on the leghold trap in Vermont. Write to EndTrap at: 1 Thomas Rd., Shelburne, VT 05482; or call: (802) 425-3661.

Cinnamon Trust

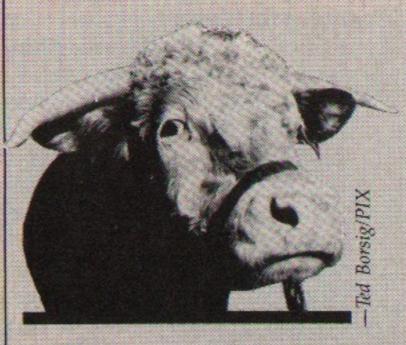
Cinnamon Trust is a British organization formed to assist senior citizens in caring for companion animals. The group is also working to establish sanctuaries to care for the animals when their human friends die, maintaining intact "families" of animals accustomed to living together. For more information, contact Cinnamon Trust at: 68 Carn Brea Lane, Pool, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 3DS England.

Animal Rights Workshop

The Learning Alliance, a wideranging community education project, is offering a day-long workshop on animal rights issues on Saturday, December 5 in New York City. Featured guests include: Cleveland Amory of the Fund for Animals; Syndee Brinkman of the National Alliance for Animal Legislation; Allan Bullington of the Animal Rights Information Service; Javier Burgos of SUPRESS (Students United Protesting Research on Sentient Subjects); George Cave of Trans-Species Unlimited; Luke Dommer of the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting; and Jolene Marion of the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Fees are based on a sliding scale so that all may participate. For further information, call: (212) 473-3689.

Disinformation Dept.

The Wisconsin Agri-Business Council (WABC) is planning to distribute a booklet to high school students to counter "the serious threat animal rightists pose to the veal and beef industry" as part of the group's statewide public relations cam-



paign, according to The Vealer magazine. Part of the money for the campaign was granted by the Wisconsin Beef Council through the national beef promotion program. The program charges producers a \$1 per head checkoff on all cattle sales, with funds going for advertising, public relations and promotion of meat-eating. Other animalexploiting organizations backing the campaign include the Wisconsin Pork Producers, Veal Growers, Fur Breeders, Holstein Association, and the American Fox Association. For a copy of the booklet, write or call the WABC at: 1400 E. Washington Ave. #185, Madison, WI 53703; (608) 255-7976.

IDA's "Stamp of Concern"

NETWORK NOTES



Billions and billions of animals killed.

McBambi?

This winter, McDonald's restaurants will be riding on the coattails of the re-release on videocassette of several successful Walt Disney movies with animal themes-including Bambi, Never Cry Wolf, and Lady and the Tramp. A promotional tie-in of McDonald's and other advertisers with the flicks is expected to generate \$18 million in promo money for Disney to launch a three-wave advertising blitz for the videos (no actual McDonald's commercials will appear on the videos). McDonald's is also teaming up with Sears department stores to produce a line of children's clothing called "McKids". Sears is a target of an ongoing boycott called by Trans-Species Unlimited to protest the store's selling of fur coats.

Stamp Out Vivisection

Stamps to stick on businessreply fundraising appeals from medical charities and universities conducting experiments on animals are available from In Defense of Animals (IDA). The stamps let the institutions and organizations know about their potential donors' concerns, and provide both an opportunity for response and an incentive for change. The stamps are available for \$2 a sheet from IDA, 21 Tamal Vista Blvd., Corte Madera, CA 94925; (415) 924-4454.

To Whom It May Concern: I am concerned that the money solicited by your organization may

be used to mutilate and abuse animals.

Until I can be sure this is not the case or you have implemented the I.D.A. plan to phase out animal abuse, I must refrain from contributing to your organization.

The American Medical Student Association (AMSA) has responded to the concerns of its members about animals used in medical training and education. The AMSA House of Delegates recently adopted a resolution supporting students' rights to full disclosure of information about procurement and treatment of lab animals. The resolution condemns the practice of faculty intimidation of students who express opposition to performing vivisection, and supports the development of alternatives to lab animal use. It further calls for a directory of alternative educational materials to be produced, and urges that animal labs be optional for students who object.

Watch What You Eat

Americans for Safe Food (coordinated by the Center for Science in the Public Interest) is a consumer and environmental advocacy group concerned about the contamination of food with drugs, pesticides, preservatives, and bacteria. The group offers detailed information on common contaminants of animal- and plant-based foods. They can be reached at: 1501 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 332-9110.

The Compassion for Animals

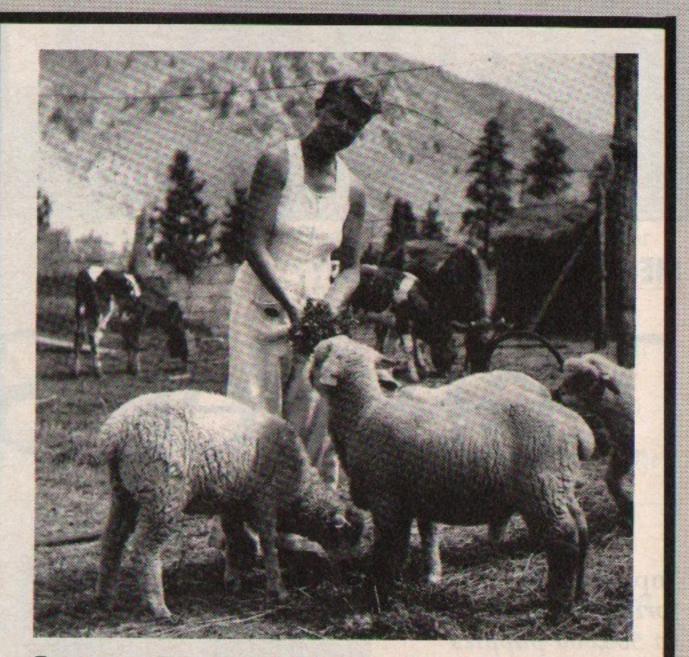
Reaching Out

Foundation (CfAF) has launched an "Outreach Card Campaign", designed to bring animal rights concerns to middle Americans. The campaign is based on the idea of geometric, as opposed to arithmetic, progression-each supporter generates several more supporters, who themselves generate still more supporters, and so on. Organized initially to provide momentum to effort to pass the national anti-pound seizure bill (The Pet Protection Act), the technique is one that CfAF hopes groups will use to help generate support for other pro-animal campaigns. CfAF is also holding training workshops for individuals wishing to take part in an animal rights speakers' bureau in the Los Angeles area. For information on these programs, contact CfAF at: P.O. Box 5312, Beverly Hills, CA 90210; (213) 204-6600.

Stay of Execution

California's first authorized hunt of mountain lions in 16 years was halted on September 28 (at least temporarily) on the order of Judge Lucy Kelly McCabe of the San Francisco Superior Court. The order for the delay came in response to a lawsuit filed by the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation, charging state officials with failing to heed the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act by allowing a hunting season on mountain lions without first conducting an environmental impact assessment Legislative efforts to halt the hunt failed in the state Assembly's Committee on

Water, Parks and Wildlife. The National Rifle Association (NRA) lobbied heavily to intimidate members of the Assembly into voting against a bill which would have prohibited the use of dogs in hunting mountain lions. Despite the fact that the bill would've banned only the use of dogs, not guns, NRA representatives claimed that the bill was "antigun", and said that its defeat was as important to pro-gun forces as a defeat of gun control legislation. A yet-to-be-determined number of lion hunting permits have been secured by lion defenders in an effort to reduce the numbers killed should the hunt occur.



Constance Barton and friends, circa 1955.

Constance M. Barton March 20, 1898—June 28, 1987

onstance M. Barton, a lifelong animal rights activist, recently passed away at her home in Everett, Wash. at the age of 89. Born in England, she became, at age 16, a member of the Theosophical Order of Service and a vegetarian. She came to Everett in 1953 and founded a group called the Animals' Crusaders. Constance was also one of the founders of the Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) in Lynnwood, and vigorously supported many other local and national animal and environmental protection organizations. She cared for numerous stray and abandoned animals over the years, often enduring considerable financial hardship to keep her animal rescue work going. The animals of the state of Washington continue to benefit as a result of Constance Barton's commitment. Contributions in her memory will allow the efforts she supported to continue. Readers may write to the Animals' Crusaders, Beryl Lord, treasurer, 5010 S. 2nd Ave., Everett, WA 98203.

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MERCHANDISING MISERY:

The Pet Shop Scam

Top: the vast majority of the 350,000 to 500,000 puppies sold in U.S. pet shops this year were bred in commercial kennels called "puppy mills"; right: pet shop owners can literally get away with murder because the pet industry is loosely regulated.



BY JACK ROSENBERGER

ike millions of other Americans, Karen Pacowta wanted a dog for companionship. When she walked in the Animal Kingdom pet shop in Hamden, Connecticut, a black and white Shih Tzu puppy caught her eye. "I fell in love with the dog when I saw him," she says. "It didn't matter to me that his eyes looked funny." While waiting to buy the Shih Tzu, for which she paid \$300, she wandered into the store's back room where she saw "a German Shepherd stuffed into a cage meant for a poodle." The dog was whimpering, and obviously in pain. "When I saw the dog, one of the employees, who was also in the back room, literally started shaking. 'The least you know, the better,' he said to me. 'Don't tell the boss or I'll get fired.'

Pacowta didn't tell his boss; instead,

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she called the Canine Control Division of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. According to Pacowta, when officer Maureen Albertson investigated, store employees told her that there weren't any dogs in the back room. Albertson went into the back room anyway, and found the German Shepherd still confined in the cage. "Oh, that dog," an employee said, "it's being wormed." Albertson pulled the dog out of the cage and inspected him. One of his legs was broken. When Albertson demanded that the dog be taken to a veterinarian, there was great reluctance on the store's part. Finally, an employee gave in, put the German Shepherd in a car, and drove away. Albertson got in her car and followed the employee who, it turned out, didn't take the dog to a veterinarian but to a sister store-Animal Kingdom II in nearby East Haven. Albertson went into the store and demanded to know what was happening. She was told that a veterinarian was supposed to show up, and one finally didseveral hours later.

Meanwhile, Karen Pacowta was having her own problems. The Shih Tzu, whom she named Anthony, was walking into the walls of her apartment. She took him to a veterinarian, and the dog was diagnosed as having a large corneal ulcer in his left eye. What Pacowta had thought was simply a bump on the dog's forehead turned out to be an abcess. Both conditions, Pacowta believes, were present at the time the dog was sold to her.

Pacowta had told various law enforcement officers about the German Shepherd, but "no one would even listen." She even called the district attorney's office, but learned that animal cruelty is a low priority. "If it hadn't been for the animal rights peopleparticularly the Animal Rights Front [ARF, of New Haven, Conn.], I probably would have given up." But Pacowta didn't, and with ARF's guidance and support, she finally convinced the district attorney to prosecute the case. Both the store manager and supervisor were arrested, charged with cruelty to animals. But the fate of the German Shepherd is still unknown.

Unfortunately, incidents like the one Karen Pacowta encountered happen seven days a week. ARF claims that the Animal Kingdom stores have been neglecting and abusing animals for 12 years. "Roach infestation", "bird droppings on floor and other exposed surfaces", "pups too large for cages", "birds badly overcrowded", "dead rabbit observed in store", "dead fish

on floor" and "loose birds in store" are just some of the conditions noted in inspection reports filed by Canine Control officers and in consumer complaints filed with the Canine Control Division of the state.

Few industry regulations

et shop owners can literally get away with murder, say many humane organization officials, because the pet industry is loosely regulated. The ordinances or laws a pet shop is supposed to comply with, the frequency of inspection, the degree of law enforcement-even the definition of a pet shop-varies greatly from county to county and from state to state. A good example of this is the case of a Maryland man who owned two pet stores, each in a different county. He gave up one store because county law enforcers prosecuted him vigorously for violations of regulations. In the other county, he has encountered no problems. States Robert



-Vicky Young/Los Angeles SPCA

Baker, an investigator with The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), "If the stores were operated by different owners, PIJAC [the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council] would say that one was a bad guy and one was a good guy. But that's not the case-they were owned by the same guy. One county took action against him because things were so bad, and the other county said there was nothing wrong with his store. In fact, it was discovered that the owner was shipping sick animals from the store in the prosecuting county to the store in the other county. That county was informed of this, but they still haven't done anything about it."

Whether or not animals at a particular store are treated well-given clean food and water daily, kept clean and uncrowded, and-if sick-given proper medical treatment from qualified personnel-depends on how well the owner balances his concern for profit with a concern for the animals' well-being. "In some stores, the animals are regarded as shelf merchandise," says Gail Eisenitz, a staff writers for HSUS. "There's no consideration whatsoever that they're living creatures."

Former employees of Ernest Tomas (a veterinarian who owned a Docktor Pet Center store in Kansas City) say that if a gerbil or hamster was ill or not presentable enough to be sold, Tomas would direct employees to kill the animal by putting him or her down the garbage disposal alive. Or, "If a bird had broken wings or a

Continued on next page

Left: no food or water has been provided for this kitten; below: guinea pigs crowded in a pet shop window.



Continued from previous page

broken foot and didn't look good so
we could sell it, it would go down the
garbage disposal", too. One time, an
ex-employee says, "I saw Tomas take a
puppy dying of parvo, put it in a
plastic bag and take it to the trash
compactor. The puppy was still alive."
According to another former
employee, Tomas would claim his
practices were "a matter of economics.
He'd tell us we had to think like good

managers, cut costs wherever possible, and that this was the most economical way [to get rid of animals]."

A trend perceived by many humane organizations is that more and more pet shops, particularly franchises, are first and foremost concerned with profit. "In the old days, the owner was educated, had a concern for animals, and made enough profit to keep the store operating," says officer Corrine Whetstone of the American

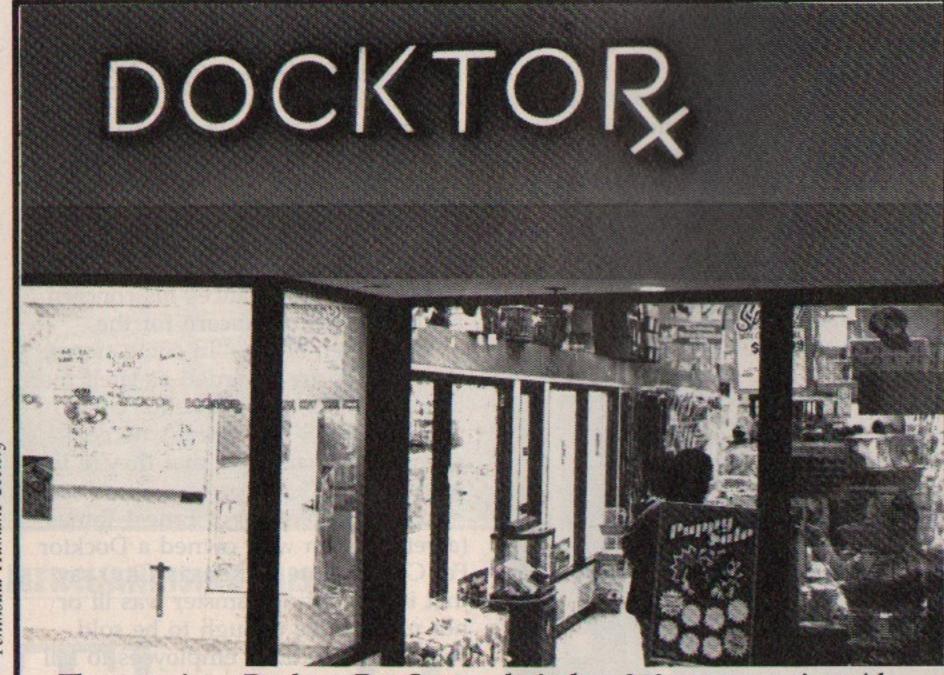
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) in Los Angeles. "You won't see as many problems with that kind of operation as you do now with the big chains. Many of the people who get into a chain pet shop think, 'I have X amount of money; I can either buy a McDonald's or a franchise pet shop.' These people are more concerned with sales, high volume—move it in, move it out. And we're seeing a lot more violations."

"Almost every incident of cruelty we see is by a franchisee," says Eisenitz of HSUS. And the most notorious franchiser is Docktor Pet Center Inc., which has 250 stores nationwide. "You call humane societies and mention the name Docktor, and the person on the other end of the phone cringes," says Eisenitz. "I'd call the humane society in Florida and they would be involved in getting a case involving Docktor prosecuted down there, and they would give me the names of two other humane societies in other parts of the country that were doing the same thing with Docktor, and those would give me the names of two others in another part of the country. It was just

incredible." One part of the country where Docktor has had particular trouble is the San Francisco area. In March of 1987, a 1984 civil suit brought against Docktor Pet Center Inc. and franchisee Randy Ralls was settled for \$150,000. Likewise, in 1981 Docktor paid a \$10,000 settlement, and in 1973 it paid \$34,000 and its franchisees paid \$17,000. The allegations in the most recent suit-similar to the ones in the previous two-were that: Docktor Pet Center Inc. and Randy Ralls failed to provide humane care and treatment of animals; sold sick and injured animals to the public; misrepresented animals' actual condition at the time of the sale; failed to isolate sick animals from healthy ones; did not maintain facilities in a sanitary condition; and allowed unqualified personnel to practice veterinary medicine. Over a hundred declarations were taken from customers, veterinarians, former employees, and an undercover humane society officer who worked in one of Ralls' five stores for approximately 20 days. Testimony of former employees included the following statements:

1)"In all of my time of employment by Randy Ralls, the emphasis was on sales and not on care or treatment of animals."

2)"Randy Ralls tried to discourage the treatment of sick animals by veterinarians. He encouraged employees to treat the animals



The notorious Docktor Pet Center chain has 250 stores nationwide, and plans to have a total of 450 by 1995.

Investigating Pet Shops

n formulating new pet shop legislative proposals for the state of Connecticut, the Fund for Animals' Julie Lewin discovered that by using the state Freedom of Information Act, it was possible to obtain access to the files of the state veterinarian and determine where pet shop puppies were coming from. She discovered that 22 Midwestern kennels had shipped about 2500 puppies to Connecticut during the first half of 1987. Next, she requested from the regional office of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) copies of the regulations for the Animal Welfare Act and an index of all federally licensed kennels (listed by state). Using the kennels' registration numbers, obtained from the list, she wrote for copies of recent inspection reports. Not surprisingly, the records indicated that nearly all the kennels exporting to Connecticut had been cited for serious deficiencies, and some had even been prosecuted. The documentation was then provided to legislators and to the media.

Activists in other states can begin their own investigations using similar methods. To start, contact officials in your state capital to find out where records are kept and how they can be obtained. Then, send for the federal inspection reports by writing: Coordinator, Freedom of Information Act, Legislative and Public Affairs Staff, USDA/APHIS, Federal Building, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

For more information about investigating pet shops, contact Julie Lewin at 203/246-4706.

themselves for economic reasons."

3)"Birds were put down by striking their heads on the sides of tables. Hamsters would be killed by placing them in bags and then striking the bags against the wall."

4)"A number of dogs died of starvation. Store personnel seemed to have neither the time nor the inclination to take the trouble to force-feed them to try to keep them alive."

5)"Sometime in September or December 1983, I saw Randy Ralls throw three or four sick kittens out of his truck window. We had received some sick kittens, and I was too tired to take them to the Peninsula Humane Society. We were driving by the empty lots north of Tanforan in Randy's pickup, and he said something to the effect of 'no problem' and he threw the sick kittens one at a time out of the window into the empty lot. He said, 'Someone will find them and care for them.'"

Docktor Pet Center Inc. downplays the civil suits. The company has never admitted to any wrongdoing. And as for the allegations quoted above, Les Charm, Docktor's president, simply

Parakeets, generally hatched in captivity, may be sold for a dollar or two in pet shops and department stores like F.W. Woolworth's.

says, "Disgruntled employees talk a lot." Neither Charm nor Scott Freeman, director of franchises, will admit to believing a word of the allegations despite the fact that people consistently tell the same tale.
Whatever happened to Randy Ralls? A
district attorney associated with the
case says that he's disappeared, but

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The Age of Aquariums

Reeping fish in home aquariums is America's second favorite hobby—just behind photography. It is estimated that five to ten percent of the U.S. population keeps from 350 to 500 million of these quiet, nondestructive, and often beautiful animals as "pets"—with an average of 20 to 25 in each tank. This pastime was given a boost in popularity a few years ago when a scientific study concluded that watching a tank of fish significantly reduces stress, and lowers heart rate and blood pressure.

To the fish, however, there are few benefits to living in a glass tank. Because a significant number of households undertaking the aquarium hobby for the first time do not realize the time involved in maintenance tasks (changing and testing the water, cleaning the filter systems, etc.), many eventually tire of their duties, and the captive fish suffer heavy fatality rates. A high percentage of fish die within the first 12 months of acquisition. But since there is a low level of interaction between fish and humans, and little awareness of the sentience of fish, there is seldom an outcry over their suffering.

The welfare of fish is given little attention among animal defenders, but one issue addressed by The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is the amount of aquarium space. Overstocking a tank can cause fish discomfort and may result in death. It happens when too many fish are put into a tank, but it can also occur gradually as fish mature and grow—although the growth of fish is limited to a great extent by tank size. The HSUS has been working specifically on the sale of miniature desk-top aquariums. As a rule of thumb, an inch-long tropical fish requires a minimum of 12 square inches of water surface area to breathe comfortably (a two-inch fish

needs at least 24 square inches of surface area, and so on). A miniature aquarium with a six inch diameter should hold no more than two fish if each is only an inch long. But the goldfish shown in advertisements for desk-top tanks could grow to be eight inches long if given adequate space.

Primarily environmental considerations have led to a continuing debate over the use of cyanide as a method of capturing fish in the Philippines—mainly because the poison is implicated in the destruction of coral reefs. When poured into the sea, cyanide stuns the fish, most of whom revive if they are collected quickly and placed in clean water. That cyanide exposure results in long-term damage to the fish is suspected, but not proven.

America imports more "pet" fish than it produces, but 90 percent of all U.S. "domestic" fish are hatched in Florida, where tropical fish farming is the fastest growing agricultural business. Freshwater fish may be shipped by the hatcheries directly to pet shops, packaged in waterfilled plastic bags given a burst of pure oxygen. Some shippers sedate the fish (to enhance survival rates) by adding to the water chemicals like benzocaine and carbon dioxide, which slow down respiration, defecation, and movement.

These freshwater fish generally fare better than the more prized saltwater reef specimens. Captive breeding of saltwater fish is yet to be perfected, and the saltwater varieties must be captured in native seas. Because they must endure more handling and stress, their mortality rates are higher than farm-raised fish. For every five saltwater fish shipped, one arrives at the destination dead or hopelessly ill.

-Kim Bartlett and Guy Hodge of HSUS

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The ANIMALS' AGENDA



-Thor Janson ulian Dove (not his real name) is an American who has been working out of Central America for about ten years. At 33, Julian considers himself fairly successful. He drives a new BMW and his wrist is conspicuously circled by a solid gold Rolex watch. He owns a residence near San Pedro Sula, Honduras, as well as a townhouse in New York City. Julian makes his living by obtaining and selling exotic animal species kidnapped from the rainforests of Guatemela, Panama, Honduras, and probably many other countries. The larger portion of his trade consists of colorful macaws and parrots, cuddly mammals (such as kinkajous and ocelots), and boa constrictors. These animals make the long and often perilous journey to pet stores in the United States, where they will be sold to consumers who wish to enjoy a bit of the tropics in their own homes. A magnificent scarlet macaw perched in the living room makes a wonderful conversation piece and adds an exotic decorator touch that many Americans are willing to shell out upwards of \$5,000 to obtain. But the darkest side to the story is that for each creature who ends up living out his or her natural life in captivity far from home, dozens die trying to evade hunters and even more expire in transit.

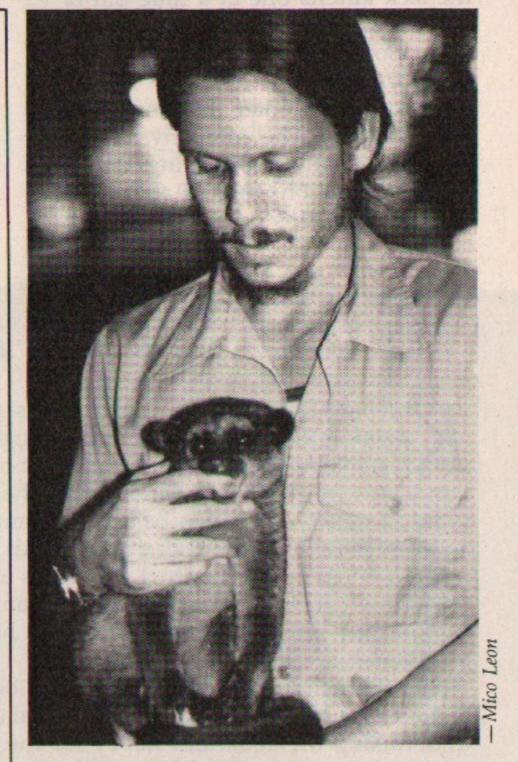


Pets from Paradise

The Trade in Exotics

BY THOR JANSON

I met Julian in a classy Guatemala City bar in 1977. He was friendly enough, even when I let him know that I worked as a conservation biologist. He explained to me in no uncertain terms that he felt he was actually doing the animals a favor. "The rainforests are being wiped out," he said. "In a few years all these animals would be killed anyway, so why not provide them with safe homes in the States?" Clean-shaven and dressed in an immaculate sports jacket, Julian looks more like a yuppie than an "Indiana Jones". The fact is, he spends as little time as possible in the jungle; his collecting is done for him by local campesinos who earn five or ten dollars for each snake or parrot delivered. This is standard procedure for animal dealers. The process is simple: fly out to a remote jungle settlement; show the natives photos of the animals desired, and offer a reward for each one brought in alive; wait a week or two comfortably back in the city; and, finally, fly back in to pay the bounties. The fact that the natives have no knowledge of humane trapping procedures, causing many more animals to be killed than live-captured, doesn't worry Julian. After all, he never told anyone to kill anything-he's just trying to "save" as many animals as possible from imminent destruction



Far left: white-faced or capuchin monkeys are sold illegally to pet dealers and zoos; above, top: margay cats, presently extinct throughout much of their natural range, are usually captured for sale to the fur industry; above: this kinkajou, held by Thor Janson, was rescued from traffickers and was eventually returned to the wild; far right, top: Guatemalan police agents seized 202 baby parrots from dealers who were trying to smuggle them into Mexico; far right, bottom: as many as three-fourths of the baby parrots removed from nests die before they can be exported.

(and make a buck at the same time, in the best spirit of capitalism).

ealing in wild animals used to be a piece of cake in Latin America. All one had to do was walk into the local government office in charge of wildlife and, for a small under-thetable donation, legal permits would be issued for the export of the desired animal. Things have been getting a little sticky of late, however, with the creation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) which regulates the traffic in endangered and threatened species, and an increasing interest by agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) in halting operations of the international wildlife "mafia". But the animal dealers are not dumb, and as long as there is a market for exotic species, the trade will continue. The dealers are very flexible, and if one country "goes straight" and no longer permits export of certain endangered species, they can just shift their operations to another nearby nation that is still open to trade. Julian used to live in Guatemala, but in 1980 he had a little run-in with the police, who-at

the request of USF&WS-put him in jail for his involvement in the many illegal shipments of macaws into the U.S. After several weeks though, he mysteriously disappeared, only to surface a few months later-operating out of Honduras.

How big is the international trade in endangered species? Very big. In 1986, information came into my hands about a huge operation involving hundreds of thousands of caiman alligator skins that, according to the informant, were being exported from Guatemala to a country in Europe. This piece of information was a bit hard to believe at first, because biologists knew that there were no more than several thousand caimans in the entire country. After several months of investigation and intrigue, it was revealed that the skins were indeed not Guatemalan, but came from the Columbian Amazon. They ended up being sold to the Italian shoe and purse industry. Officials of the Guatemalan government had extended export permits for more than 450,000 caiman skins during 1985 and 1986-in effect, legalizing an illegal trade. Further investigation by several international

agencies, including CITES, has indicated that the caiman operation is just the tip of the iceberg. It seems that the big drug dealers of South America have now entered the wildlife trade as an off-season business, while they're waiting for the coca and marijuana crops to mature.

In buying an exotic animal, one becomes part of a system that is responsible for the deaths of millions of animals each year. At the present rate of destruction, most of the world's rainforests will be gone by the end of the century-and the international traffic in wild species is an important aspect of the devastation. It would be wise, therefore, for anyone interested in the preservation of life on earth to resist the temptation to buy a brightly colored bird or even an exotic ornamental plant.

Thor Janson is with Defensores de la Naturaleza, a Guatemalan foundation concerned with preservation of natural habitat. The group can be reached at 7 Ave.-13 Calle Z.9, ed. La Cupula, Guatemala, Central America (telephone 32-50-64). Defensores' international membership fee is \$10.00 per year.

The Bird Business

or every parrot or macaw you see in a pet shop, another four died either during capture in the wild, in transit, or in U.S. quarantine facilities. For the more delicate species, only one bird out of eleven survives the arduous journey from his or her native environment to the display window of a pet shop. In other words, supplying the annual estimated worldwide trade of 7.5 million birds requires the capture of 30 million birds.

The majority are caught before they are old enough to fly. Parrots, for instance, make their nests in the hollow cavity of a tree. The most prevalent method used to catch the nestlings is to simply chop down the tree and hope that some of the young survive the fall. Another is to climb the tree, hack open the nest, and pull out the stillliving birds. John L. Turner, an expert on the exotic bird trade, says that as many as three-fourths of the baby parrots removed from nests die before they can be exported.

Methods used to capture mature birds are equally inhumane. Catchers will shoot a bird, hoping to merely "wing" it. Others set out leg snares or coat the limbs of trees with a sticky paste; in both cases the victim has to wait until the catcher arrives, which is never soon enough-some birds panic and die of stress, others are killed by predators.

The survivors are gathered together and crated. Hundreds of birds are sometimes crammed into a crate designed to hold only a few dozen. Under such conditions, fighting naturally ensues and birds may kill or maim one another. During transit the birds don't receive individual attention or care, and too often an entire shipment receives

Continued on next page





The ANIMALS' AGENDA

DECEMBER 1987

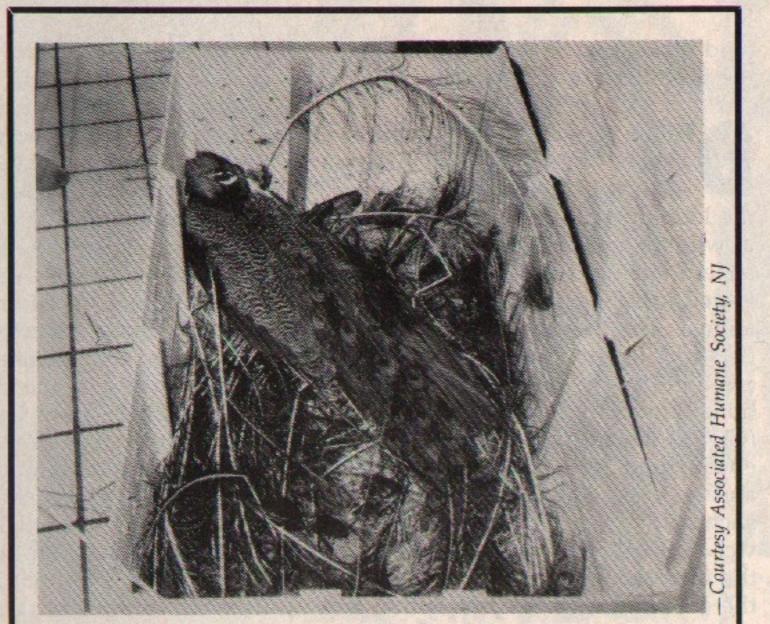
Continued from previous page

no food or water. Birds who arrive in the U.S. (legally) are placed in quarantine for 30 days. In 1984, of the 913,653 birds imported, 44,948 were dead on arrival and 112,773 died in quarantine.

Between 50,000 and 100,000 birds illegally enter the U.S. every year. Some are smuggled across the Mexican border—wrapped in pantyhose and hidden in spare tires, stowed in phony gas tanks, or stuffed behind or beneath the seats of cars and trucks. Others enter the U.S. via "transshipping": dealers in countries where the export of commercial wildlife is prohibited smuggle the birds to countries where, with the proper documents, export is legal.

The U.S. has prohibited the capture and sale of its indigenous birds since 1916, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been working vigorously to stop native birds—particularly falcons—from being smuggled out of the country. Many nations, including over half of those in Latin America, restrict or prohibit the export of their native birds. The bird trade continues, however, because it's lucrative. An Amazon parrot worth \$20 in Mexico could sell for upwards of \$2,500 in the U.S. and a cockatoo worth \$30 in Australia could sell for \$10,000. Friends of Animals, like other animal rights groups, objects to the bird trade on the grounds that "no exotic bird from the wild adjusts well to captivity or makes a good pet".

In 1984, the state of New York passed the country's first wild bird protection law, which bans the importation and sale of live wild birds for commercial purposes. Similar legislation is being proposed in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and other states. The Pet Industry Advisory Council (PIJAC) strongly opposed the New York bill, and has successfully blocked wild bird protection bills in Illinois, Massachusetts, and Maryland.



This peacock was shipped by a dealer in Ohio to a buyer in New Jersey in 90-degree heat—in a wooden container with tiny air holes. The bird's beautiful feathers were broken and bent so that he would fit into the box. When the consignee failed to pick up the bird, the airline called the Associated Humane Societies of New Jersey for help. Records indicate that the peacock went for more than 17 hours without food or water. But, because the Animal Welfare Act does not cover birds (or rodents, reptiles, or farm animals), there were no violations of federal law.

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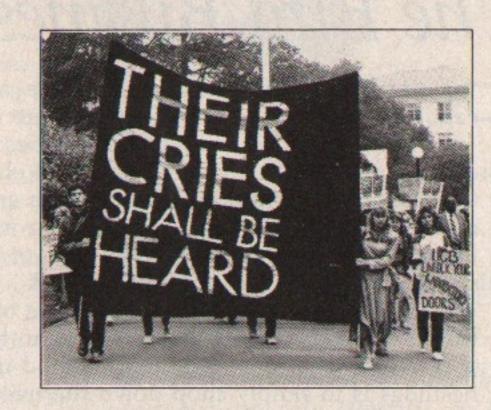
Direct action is one of the most effective tools we have for stopping animal torture and mutilation. And direct action depends on YOU. Last April 24, thousands demonstrated and hundreds were arrested in nonviolent direct action for the animals. Next year can be bigger and better!

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Pet Shops

Continued from page 15

Charm and Freeman say that Ralls is alive and well and operating a Docktor franchise in Detroit.

Dog and cat breeders

Sick puppies are a nationwide problem for pet shops. One reason is that puppies are shipped by the breeders at a young age-around eight weekswhen their immune systems are weak. That, plus the stress of separation from their mothers and travelling to an environment where sanitary conditions may or may not prevail, is more than some puppies can handle. "It makes no difference whether it is Hyannis or Cleveland or Portland, Oregon. We've all faced the issue, in successive waves, and we've lost as many in some stores as 18 or 20 dogs in one fell swoop," Docktor chairman Eugene Kohn has said.

Another reason for the sick puppies are the kennels, or "puppy mills", which supply the vast majority of the 350,000 to 500,000 puppies sold in pet shops in 1987. During the summer of 1981, Baker of HSUS posed as a businessman involved in commercial dog breeding. He went to the Midwest and visited about 300 puppy mills. Baker estimates that 80 percent of the places he saw had serious deficiencies such as inadequate housing, overcrowding, lack of proper sanitation, and insufficient food, water, and veterinary care. He routinely saw dogs living in chicken coops and rabbit hutches with little protection from bitter-cold winds and snow or baking sun. He also encountered dogs housed inside rusty barrels, old washing machines, and junked cars. "Many of the female dogs used for breeding are forced to spend their entire lives in cages half the size of a bathtub," he said. Females were bred so that they would churn out as many litters as possible in the least amount of time-and when a female "peaked", she was killed. Baker recently inspected 25 puppy mills at random, and found conditions just as terrible as those he recorded in 1981. "In fact, one place was even worse than any place I'd ever seen," he says. On the whole, breeders are concerned with quantity and not quality, breeding dogs who may pass on genetic defects or other undesirable traits.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the federal agency which is supposed to inspect the 5,000 licensed puppy mills for compliance with the Animal Welfare Act (a law that sets minimum standards for housing and care), lacks enthusiasm for the task. It closed *one* puppy mill last year. During the last two years, USDA—with the full support of President Reagan—has asked Congress for

The whole idea of buying and selling living beings like merchandise is offensive to animal rights proponents.

"zero budgeting" for the enforcement of the Act. Fortunately, Congress did not grant the request. If USDA's ploy had been successful, the agency would have been relieved of responsibility for inspecting puppy mills, laboratories, zoos, and other places which commonly mistreat animals.

Cats, who have recently emerged as America's most popular companion animals, may soon be bred like dogs. "In 1981 I saw only one cattery," Baker states, "but every time I go out into the field, I hear about another broker expanding his puppy mill by raising cats—or one who has gotten out of dogs and is totally into raising cats."

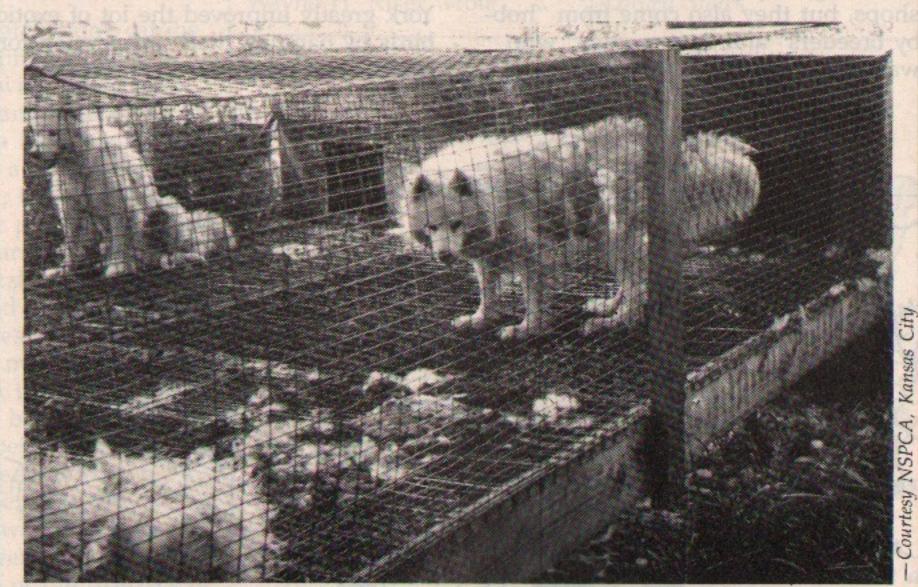
Good homes not guaranteed

would "like to see pet shops get would "like to see pet shops get out of the business of selling animals." The whole idea of buying and selling living beings like merchandise is offensive to animal rights proponents. That people often make spurof-the-moment decisions to buy pet shop animals is another cause for concern. "A lot of people leave the house that morning with no intention of buying an animal," says Baker. "They Continued on next page

The Kansas Connection

There are about 5,000 puppy mills in the United States, and almost half of them are in Kansas. House Bill 2220, pending before the Kansas legislature, would regulate these breeding establishments. HSUS is requesting that letters be sent to the governor of Kansas, Mike Hayden, urging him to support the bill. Address letters to: The Honorable Mike Hayden, Governor, Capitol Building, Topeka, KS 66612.

Letters are also needed to members of Congress, asking them to cosponsor *H.J.Res.287*, a resolution that would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to examine the effectiveness of the Animal Welfare Act in protecting animals in puppy mills. Write to your Congressperson at the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.



In a typical puppy mill, a female is bred so that she churns out as many litters as possible. When she "peaks", she is killed.

The ANIMALS' AGENDA DECEMBER 1987 DECEMBER 1987 The ANIMALS' AGENDA

see a cute little puppy in the store, and they go ahead and buy him without any consideration for what they're going to do with the animal when they're at work, or how he will react to their children, or other things like that." Stephen Torre, director of law enforcement with the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA), agrees. He states, "The pet industry is in the market to sell animals and make money. But it's an animal shelter's interest to find the very best homes for

their animals. We put people through a rather extensive questionnaire and interview process trying to find the very best homes and, at times, turn people down if we feel there's an element that's not quite right."

Another reason Baker and his

Another reason Baker and his colleagues want pet shops to quit selling animals is that there's a surplus of homeless and unwanted companion animals. The MSPCA estimates that upwards of 13.5 million cats and dogs are killed at shelters and pounds in the U.S. every year. Friends of Animals, a national animal rights group, sets the total at 18 million. Though most of the dogs dropped off at shelters are of questionable lineage, a large number are "purebred" animals-cocker spaniels, Dobermans, Labrador retrievers, even poodles. The Humane Society of Santa Clara Valley in California conducted a one-month survey which yielded some surprises: "Of all stray dogs received that month, 28 percent were purebred. Of all dogs received that month, 22 percent were purebred." Many of the purebred dogs that end up abandoned in pounds were originally purchased at pet shops, but they also come from "hobby breeders" and "pet owners" who want their animal to have a litter.



Puppies are usually shipped to pet shops at about eight weeks of age.

Industry change unlikely

here's little incentive for the pet industry to voluntarily change its practices as long as profits continue to rise. Docktor Pet Center stores did \$25 million worth of business in 1986, and opened an additional 25 franchises; it plans to have a total of 450 retail outlets by 1995. "The best we can hope for is that a minimum standard of humane care will be maintained, and that the states will take a strict stand on veterinary care and consumer protection laws," says Baker of HSUS. During the last two years, several states have done this. New York greatly improved the lot of exotic birds by banning their importation for commercial purposes. Connecticut



became the first state to require pet shops to euthanize by injection any unwanted or unsold warm-blooded animals, and it will soon be the first state to require that every out-of-state puppy and kitten be accompanied by USDA's import health certificate (Form 18-1), which identifies the kennel of birth. And in response to the problems created by puppy mills in Massachusetts, that state's Division of Animal Health has required that all dogs and cats imported from outside the state be held in isolation for a minimum of five days before being offered for sale. Perhaps other states will follow suit and begin passing laws to better regulate the pet industry. But the real solution lies in persuading the public not to purchase animals. For as long as there's a market for pets, there will be a profit-oriented industry ready to supply them.

Jack Rosenberger is a freelance writer living in New York City.

Consumer Pressure Needed

As long as business is good, pet dealers will have little inducement to change their practices. Animal advocates can create some incentive by refusing to patronize stores that sell "pets". Food, toys, and supplies can be purchased at the many stores that cater to the needs of companion animals but are not involved in marketing them.

Some department stores, such as Woolworth's, are in the pet business—often selling small animals like parakeets, canaries, hamsters, and gerbils. Since the revenue from the pet department may represent a minor portion of their overall profit, those stores may be especially susceptible to consumer pressure in the form of a boycott.

If you choose to boycott stores that sell animals, be sure to let them know why you're taking that action. Since Woolworth's is a national chain, letters to the corporate headquarters (asking that they get out of the pet business) would be particularly useful. Write to: Fred Hennig, President, The F.W. Woolworth Company, 233 Broadway, New York, NY 10279.

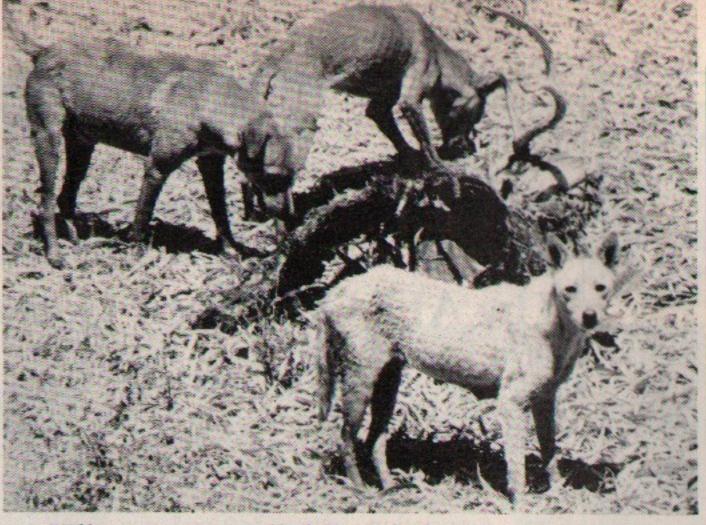
That is the best dog / in the world? Most veterinarians and those dog experts who don't have a bias for any particular breed will respond without hesitation, "It's the mongrel or mixed breed." If we were to take all the various breeds of dog and let them loose on an island with a plentiful supply of food, and return a hundred years later, we would probably have the best dog imaginable. That dog would probably resemble the Pariah dog so common in the villages of Southeast

The Pariah dogs are "super mutts". They have never been subjected to selective breeding in order to create local breeds with various unique traits—as happened in Europe where most "purebred" dogs originate, and in other areas where dogs have been bred for specific purposes, such as for herding or guarding sheep, for draft work and hunting.

The Pariah dog, thanks to

minimal genetic interference by humans, has been subjected to the most rigorous selection and survival pressures of nature-such that only the fittest survive. As a consequence, the average Pariah dog is a highly intelligent, agile and beautifully proportioned animal, resistant to many endemic parasites and other diseases, and well able to fend for him- or herself without food or shelter provided by humans. The Australian Dingo is a somewhat larger type of Pariah dog who has become feral (i.e., gone wild). The African Basenji is one example of a local type of Pariah dog who has been subjected to selective breeding to "fix" and exaggerate certain traits, such as the curled tail and wrinkled forehead.

The Pariah dogs that I studied in India are essentially a regional variety of what one might call "the natural dog". This prototype dog of dogs is best regarded



Village strays, called Pariah dogs, scavenge the remains of a deer killed by a tiger in southwest India.

The Natural Dog

BY MICHAEL FOX

Scientist Loren Eisley

hypothesized that the Pariah

dog is probably a prototype

of the original ancestral dog.

By comparison, the relative-

ly sickly and often deformed

seem like bonzais, the inten

purebred dogs of the

tionally dwarfed and

Western industrial world

distorted Asian trees. In-

orthopedic problems. In an

American Animal Hospital

Association, veterinarian

Wayne H. Riser wrote:

article published by the

deed, they often have

serious structural or

as an "all-breed" rather than as a pure or mixed breed However, the more the various pure breeds are mixed together by crossbreeding, the more the offspring come to resemble the Pariah. In every animal shelter from Detroit to Delhi, we can find dogs who are almost identical, yet they are not of any particular purebred lineage. Often demeaned as mongrels and bastard dogs, they are regional replicas of "nature's own" dog.

he natural dog can be identified by the ▲ following characteristics: medium build (35 to 55 pounds); a long, slightly upcurled tail and long, straight legs; head, body, and limbs beautifully proportioned and aligned; ears erect or semierect; muzzle of moderate length; and oval or almondshaped eyes. The coat is short and may vary in color from black to white and piebald to brindle, the most common being light fawn or a darker reddish-brown. With proper care, these dogs enjoy life well into their mid and late teens, and are virtually free of the diseases of hereditary origin which are so prevalent in pure breeds.

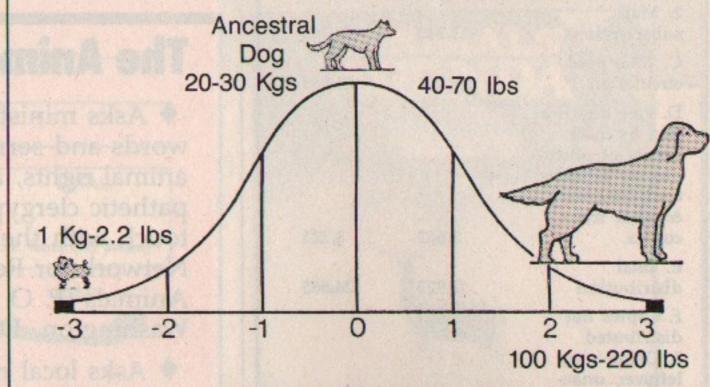
"Dogs who have the same skeletal proportions, slow maturity rate, and comparable muscle mass and development as the ancestral dog have few orthopedic diseases. . . . The incidence of orthopedic abnormalities increases as the dog's characteristics vary from ancestral type."

Dr. Wayne Riser has

Dr. Wayne Riser has pointed out that selective breeding to make dogs abnormally large or small results in disturbances in body metabolism and heat regulation. Toy breeds (like the poodle), because of their light body mass relative to surface area, are very susceptible to cold and to hypoglycemia, and tend toward hyperactivity. Giant breeds (like the St. Bernard), with large body mass in proportion to surface area, tend toward hypoactivity, often pant continuously, have poor exercise tolerance, and are susceptible to heat stroke.

My advice to anyone who is looking for a good dog and can't travel to Southeast Asia to adopt a Pariah dog, is to visit the local animal shelter—it can be almost guaranteed that at least one "natural dog" will be waiting to be adopted into a good home.

Dr. Fox is Scientific Director for The Humane Society of the United States.



The bell-shaped curve illustrates that the susceptibility and severity of orthopedic diseases in dogs increase as size and shape either increases or decreases from the ancestral size. Changes greater than three standard deviations in either direction are capable of being lethal.

-American Animal Hospital Association, 1985

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ANIMAL NEWSLINE

LAB RAID AT UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

The ALF Gets Their Goats

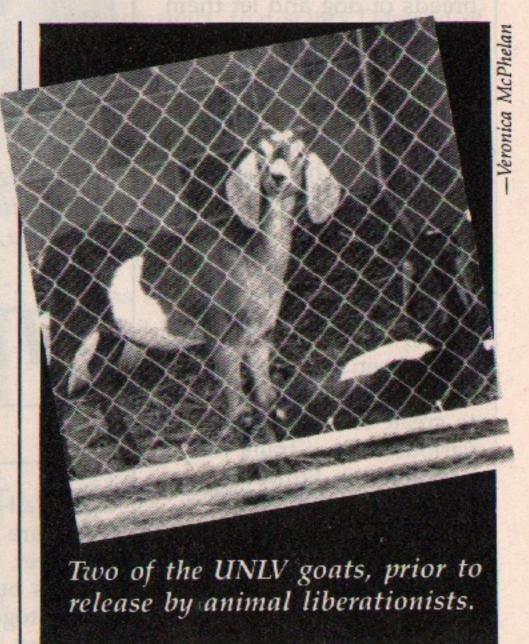
On Thursday, August 13, animal liberationists freed three goats from the biology department of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas (UNLV). The goats, donated to the university by the Nevada Dairy Goat Association, were destined for dehydration experiments to be conducted by UNLV biology professor Mohamed Yousef. Responsibility for the raid was claimed by the Animal Liberation Front (ALF). Sometime before dawn, the goats were taken from their pens and were apparently lifted over a wall behind the university's life sciences building. Researcher Yousef was attending a symposium on bioethics in Montreal at the time of the break-in. Acting as a spokesperson for the liberators, Veronica McPhelan of the Nevada-based group People Against Vivisection Experiments (PAVE) reports that the ALF has placed the goats in safe, permanent homes.

Yousef had planned to dehydrate the goats in order to study how their bodies store water over long periods of time. He told reporters that the purpose of the research was to study the effectiveness of using goats as a major food source for people in arid regions of the world, since the goats store water efficiently and are able to eat plants that humans cannot. Yousef also announced that he had hoped to be able to "transfer" the goats' ability to store water to other animal species. It remains to be seen whether or not Yousef will obtain replacement goats in order to

The Animal Activist

- Asks ministers for regular words and sermons on animal rights, and puts sympathetic clergypeople in touch with the International Network for Religion and Animals (P. O. Box 33061, Washington, D.C. 20033-0061)
- Asks local newsstands and libraries to carry The ANIMALS' AGENDA
- ♦ Keeps the names and addresses of legislators handy, and writes to them regularly about animal issues

-Carla Bennett



continue with the dehydration project. In response to a column by Janie

Greenspun of The Las Vegas Sun which criticized the research, Yousef lashed out in a Sun editorial. Referring to the raid, Yousef asserted, "Attempt to justify those actions to the seven million children under five years of age who died this year because of malnutrition induced by lack of animal protein!" Responded Murry Cohen, M.D. (director of the Medical Research Modernization Committee), . . . complete proteins [in the form of eggs and dairy products] are ingested by most vegetarians. Even in vegans-who refrain from eating all animal productsessential amino acids can be assured by exercising appropriate care to eat a balanced diet. . . It is not a 'sensible approach' to raise animals on arid lands because of the expense, the waste of plant products, the resultant pollution from nitrogenous wastes, and the likely possibility that hungry persons will not have access to the meat which is produced anyway."

A world free of hunger and food-related illness need not, and cannot, be brought about by reliance on animal agriculture. More equitable systems of food distribution combined with ecologically sound plant agricultural projects hold the greatest promise for feeding the world's hungry. -Leslie Pardue

ANIMALS



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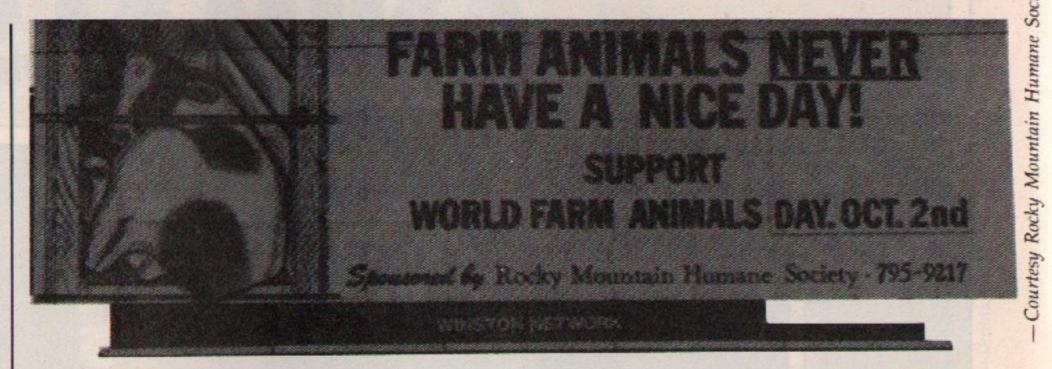
World Farm Animals Day-1987

Thousands of activists in seven countries and approximately fifty U.S. locales participated in World Farm Animals Day events this year. The annual observances, which began in 1983, have been coordinated by the Farm Animal Reform Movement (FARM). FARM president Alex Hershaft says that the events are intended to memorialize the suffering and death of the billions of animals who are abused and slaughtered for food and to call public attention to the grave threat posed by intensive animal agriculture to public health, world food supplies, agricultural resources, and environmental quality.

The October 2 date of the observance marks the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the world's preeminent farm animal protector. Because several other related observances fall in the same period, many groups combine observances of World Farm Animals Day with events commemorating World Vegetarian Day (October 1), World Animals Day (October 4), the Feast of St. Francis (October 4), and the World Week of Prayer for Animals (October 4-11). It is not possible to mention all of the events that took place this year; however, the sampling that follows illustrates the diversity of approaches that was seen in events held on or about October 2.

On the West Coast, approximately 50 people demonstrated at a McDonald's restaurant on the legendary street corner of Hollywoood and Vine in Hollywood. Several dozen people participated in a Peace March for Farm Animals in California's San Fernando Valley. In San Francisco, activists from the Animal Rights Connection provided free vegetarian burgers and hot dogs, as well as animal rights literature, to passersby at a heavily patronized McDonalds.

In the central U.S., the group Awareness of Wildlife and Animal Rights Education (AWARE) led a motorcade of more than 25 banner-draped cars from downtown Chicago to the gate of the infamous Union Stockyard, where hundreds of millions of animals perished under wretched conditions (described by Upton Sinclair in his 1906 book The Jungle). People for Animal Rights invited the citizens of Columbus, Ohio to a vegetarian picnic honoring Gandhi's 118th birthday. Cincinnati activists gave lectures on the ethical and health aspects of vegetarianism and set up displays on famous vegetarians in local public libraries. Approximately 55 activists



participated in a motor "funeral" procession in Denver, Colo., co-sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Humane Society (RMHS) and FARM. The motorcade's destination was the Livestock Exchange Building, where activists held a memorial service for farm animals. In addition, RMHS erected the nation's first billboard. promoting the rights of farm animals at Denver's busiest intersection (information about RMHS' innovative advertising efforts may be obtained by contacting the group at P.O. Box 1250, Littleton, CO 80120; (303) 795-9217).

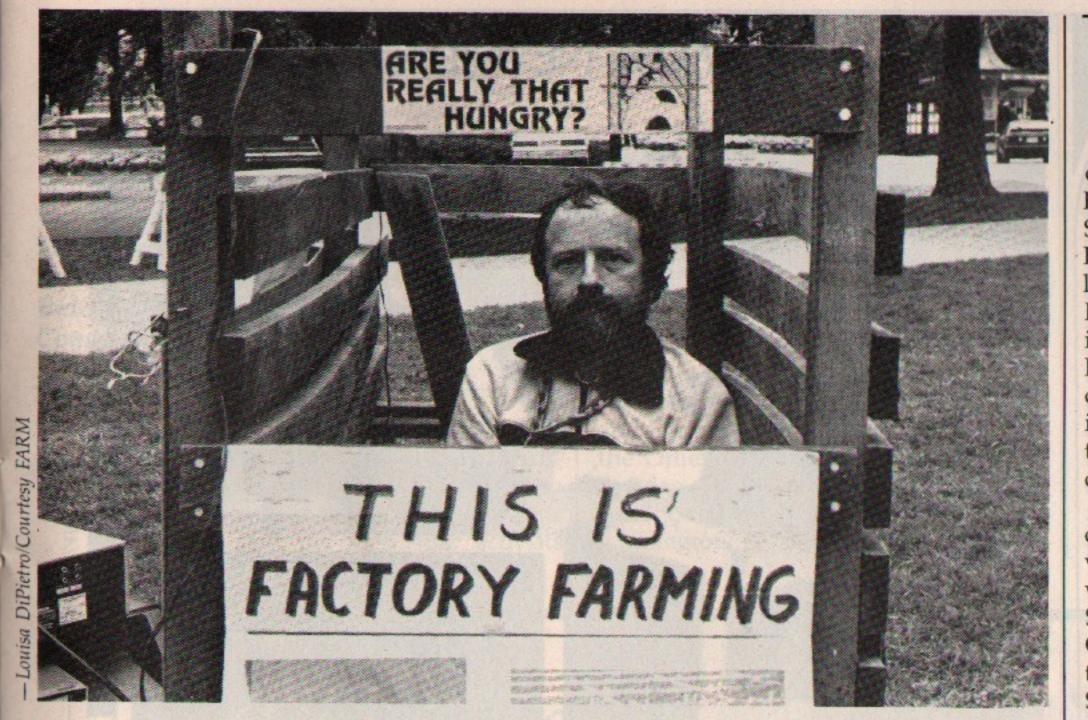
Actions in the Southwest included the placement of large newspaper display ads and the staffing of information tables at public locations by members of the Arizona chapter of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). Animal Connection, a Texas group, held a 24-hour vigil at Owens Sausage Packing Plant in Dallas. The Houston Animal Rights Team, in conjunction with FARM, held a memorial service at a Houston slaughterhouse.

In the South, Miami activists demonstrated at Penn Dutch Meats, one of Florida's largest retailers of milk-fed veal. In commemoration of World Week of Prayer for Animals, 80 North Carolina activists took part in a candlelight march followed by speeches in Durham. An Indian vegetarian dinner accompanied by Indian dancing was held in Raliegh, N.C, in honor of Gandhi and Saint Francis. Ceremonial blessings of animals were performed by clergy in Greenville, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem, N.C.

Sixty people attended the second annual Celebration of Life in Nashville, Tenn., which featured a meatless dinner and a talk by British vegetarian columnist Dr. Tessa Nelson-Humphreys. However, the event was overshadowed by a confrontation between vegetarians and Governor Ned McWhorter. McWhorter, a cattle raiser and a member of the Cattlemen's Association, refused a request from the East Tennessee Vegetarian Society (ETVS) to sign proclamations acknowledging World

Above: The Rocky Mountain Humane Society placed this billboard ad in downtown Denver in recognition of World Farm Animals Day. Right: FARM president Alex Hershaft had himself chained by the neck in a veal crate in order to demonstrate the confinement suffered by veal calves in factory farms.

Farm Animals Day, World Vegetarian Day, and World Week of Prayer for Animals in Tennessee. The portly governor explained, "I don't think it's my prerogative to instruct



the public on what to eat." Last year, former Governor Lamar Alexander received extensive political backlash from the meat industry after signing a proclamation recognizing World Vegetarian Day. ETVS spokesperson Lige Weill is asking ac-

tivists to write McWhorter (c/o State Capitol, Nashville, TN 37219) and ask him to change his policy on signing vegetarian and pro-animal proclamations.

Events on the East Coast included a 24hour fast by FARM president Hershaft, chained in a veal crate in front of the White House. The Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society, Philadelphia Vegetarians, and Farm Sanctuary (based in Delaware) jointly sponsored a series of events entitled "Eat Right for Life", which included a Vegetarian Awareness Day at the University of Pennsylvania. A veal crate and a battery cage (used for laying hens) were displayed in order to illustrate the confinement of factory farming systems, and vegetarian cookbooks and food were distributed.

In England, five organizations formed a coalition to sponsor an unusual observance combining World Farm Animals Day with the Great British Meatout. During September, activists from Animal Aid, Compassion in World Farming, Enough, the Vegan Society and the Vegetarian Society leafletted and obtained signatures on pledge cards, with signers promising to abstain from eating meat on October 2. Observances were also held in Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Canada, and Australia.

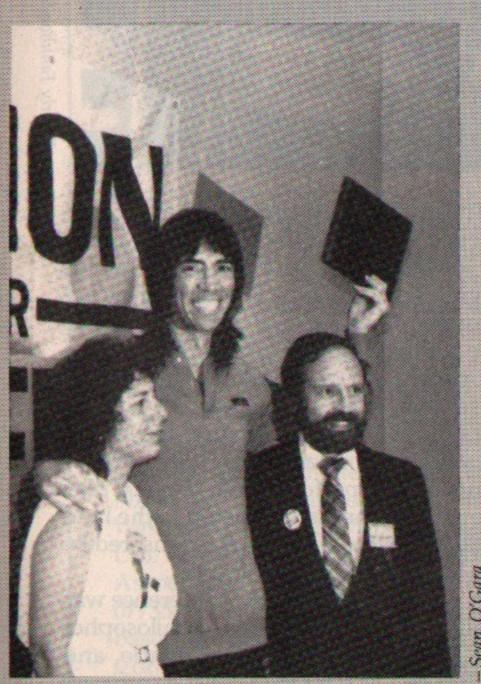
— Dana Forbes

Dana Forbes works with the Houston Animal Rights Team in Texas.

Action for Life

Nearly 200 animal advocates met in Cambridge, Mass. over the Labor Day weekend (September 4-7, 1987) at the seventh annual Action for Life conference, jointly sponsored by the Farm Animal Reform Movement (FARM) and the Cambridge Committee for Responsible Research (CCRR). Individual activists and group representatives shared experiences, reported on their progress, learned new promotional techniques and planned projects for the coming year. The consensus among veteran conference participants was that the program, including five briefings, eighteen training workshops, ten "rap sessions", and fifteen planning meetings, was the best and most professional ever.

This year's Mahatma Gandhi Award for "outstanding contribution to the promotion of animal rights and vegetarianism" went to Tom Scholz of the rock group Boston. Scholz has been supporting and promoting several animal rights organizations listed on the jacket of the group's best-selling album *Third Stage*. Past recipients of the award include philosopher



Left to right: FARM's Melinda Marks, Boston's Tom Scholz, and Alex Hershaft.

Tom Regan, Cleveland Amory of the Fund for Animals, Congressmember Tom Lantos (D-CA), philosopher Peter Singer, actress Gretchen Wyler, and farm workers' leader Cesar Chavez. Other conference highlights included the keynote and closing addresses by John Kullberg, president of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; an address by Amory; and reports on animal rights activities and issues abroad.

The conference program began on Friday afternoon with orientation for newcomers and a series of briefings on the various aspects of animal abuse by FARM's Alex Hershaft, CCRR's Gul Agha, and others. The next two days provided intensive training workshops in such areas as organizing, research and investigation, outreach, communications, fundraising, conflict resolution, argumentation and persuasion, public speaking, legislative and electoral action, and strategic planning, "Rap sessions" provided opportunities for airing concerns about such issues as euthanasia, direct action, and sharing of resources among

groups, to name a few. On Monday, the last day of the conference, participants gathered to discuss the objectives and priorities of several of the organizations represented and to plan campaigns dealing with electoral action, humane education, and other issues. A number of organizations displayed literature and other materials in the exhibit hall, and over 20 videotapes were screened for attendees over a two-day period. Folk singers, musicians, comedians, and dancers provided entertainment in the evenings.

This year marked the first time that the Action for Life conference has been held in New England. The first conference, held in Allentown, Penn. in 1981, lent needed momentum to the fledgling animal rights movement in the U.S. Although the annual conference has been traditionally sponsored by FARM, this year CCRR took care of local arrangements and financing. Additional funding was provided by the International Fund for Animal Welfare and Friends of Animals.

The ANIMALS' AGENDA DECEMBER 1987 DECEMBER 1987 DECEMBER 1987 2

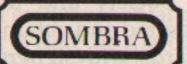


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ANIMAL NEWSLINE



A Rising Tide

The fourth biennial national conference of the Animal Rights Coalition (ARC) was held September 25-27, 1987 at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. Entitled "A Rising Tide: Change for Animals", the conference concentrated on the ethical basis the animal rights movement shares with other social change movements. A distinguished and energetic group of speakers also discussed the process of change in individuals, society, and the world.

Paul Watson, founder of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, and Constantina Salamone, editor of the New York City feminist newspaper Majority Report, were the conference's keynote speakers. Watson delivered an address entitled "The Future of the Planet", suggesting that everyone perform what he calls "planetary duty": working at least part-time throughout their lives towards saving the planet, the animals, and the human species. Salamone presented an enlightening slideshow that drew parallels between the abuse of animals and the abuse of women, children, and members of ethnic and racial minorities. The ARC conferences have distinguished themselves by forthrightly challenging the animal rights movement to embrace feminist perspectives, which affirm the value of each individual and seek to create systems for sustenance rather than destruction of life. Other issues discussed at the conference included the need for greater support of grassroots efforts on behalf of animals, and an analysis of organizational structures which are prone to excesses in bureaucracy.

The quality of entertainment at the conference surpassed the usual fare. Country Joe McDonald performed some of his original songs relating to animals, the environment, peace, and women's rights. The Culture and Animals Foundation sponsored a performance by Rachel Rosenthal, who premiered the concert version of her critically-acclaimed theatrical performance *The Others*. Actress Laura Clark performed a one-act play about a woman's relationship to the land entitled *Planting in the Dust*, sponsored by the Land Stewardship Project.

A highlight of the ARC conference was a talk by Michael Allen Fox, a philosopher at Queens University in Ontario and author of *The Case for Animal Experimentation*. The ARC conference was Fox's first symposium since his radical change in view—from a staunch defender of the use of animals in research to his present view that animal experimentation is not ethical-

ANIMAL NEWSLINE

Top, L-R: Conference participants Marly Cornell, Syndee Brinkman, Michael Allen Fox, Country Joe McDonald, Les Ichinose, and Alberto Perez. Below: Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

> ly justifiable. In the final workshop on Sunday, Dr. George Cave of Trans-Species Unlimited issued a challenge to activists to unite in their grassroots efforts. He articulated the view that activists

should curb the tendency to make heroes out of movement leaders, as the contributions of every animal advocate are important in the common struggle.

In conjunction with the conference, two workshops were held at ARC's office in Minneapolis. Kicking off the conference on Thursday evening, activist Sue Anderson led a workshop called "Individuals and Groups: Can One Survive Without the Other?". And on Monday evening, Syndee Brinkman of The National Alliance for Animal Legislation in Washington, D.C. presented a three-hour

legislative workshop designed to improve lobbying skills and effectiveness.

The predominant theme of the ARC conference seemed to be the need to encompass the nurturing principles that will lead to an increased respect for animals and nature, and the recovery of a very damaged earth. It is not enough to recognize the similarities between social change movements: we must see ourselves as part of the larger effort to change the systems and institutions that allow the powerful to thrive at the expense of the powerless.

Teach a Teacher

The following suggestions for holiday gifts for teachers come from Lauri Buchna, a third-grade teacher and a member of the Peoria-based group Citizens for Animal Rights.

I have, over the last 16 Christmases, accumulated from my students enough bubble bath and hankies to meet the hygiene needs of every person in Missoula, Montana. This holiday season, parents should consider giving their children's teachers gifts that will benefit students and animals alike.

Most elementary school teachers would appreciate receiving stickers to use as "rewards" on their students' papers (I probably go through about 897,000 per year). If the stickers convey an animal rights message along with an appealing picture, so much the better. Many animal protection groups provide stickers suitable for young children at a nominal cost.

Other animal-oriented gifts might include a subscription to Children and Animals magazine, a "People and Animals Curriculum Guide", or a "Kids and Critters Curriculum Guide"-all available from the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education (NAAHE, P.O. Box 362, East Haddam, CT 06423). The Center for Environmental Education (624 9th St. NW, Washington, DC 20001) has produced an interesting curriculum guide complete with a coloring book section on marine mammals. Elsa Wild Animal Appeal (P.O. Box 675, Elmhurst, IL 60126) has excellent Wildlife Learning Kits, as well as a newsletter for children. Groups with humane-minded coloring books include NAAHE, Greenpeace (1611 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20070), the Humane Society of the U.S. (2100 L St. NW, Washington, DC 20037), and the Associated Humane Societies (P.O. Box AF, Keyport, NJ 07735). A humane education packet and curriculum based on the teachings of Judaism is available from Concern for Helping Animals in Israel (P.O. Box 3341, Alexandria, VA 22302).

A book for the class would make a nice gift, as would one donated to the school library in honor of the teacher. Films and videos with animal protection



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themes are easy to rent or buy. Focus on Animals (P.O. Box 150, Trumbull, CT 06611) makes such films and videos available; the group also publishes a free newsletter for teachers—readers may send them names of teachers who would like to recieve it. Individual or library subscriptions to The ANIMALS' AGENDA would keep teachers informed about animal rights and provide source material for students' papers. Bulletin boards and other classroom displays with animal themes might stimulate classroom discussion of animal issues. Any of these gifts would be a welcome change from the annual barrage of toiletries, and just may help turn your child's teacher into a humane educator.

-Lauri Buchna Citizens for Animal Rights P.O. Box 5131 Peoria, IL 61601

ANIMAL NEWSLINE

CEASE Sets Advertising Trap for Furriers

For the past few winters, CEASE (Coalition to End Animal Suffering and Exploitation) members have held regular pickets outside downtown Boston fur salons. Braving Beantown's ice-cold winter chill, protesters have used signs, leaflets, chants, and "bloodstained" furs to expose the suffering stitched into every fur coat. This year's fur season, however, marks a new stage in CEASE's anti-fur campaign: magazine and billboard advertising.

"It's hard to counter a glossy magazine ad with a crude picket sign," explains CEASE president Troy Soos. "We felt that advertising in the same mainstream media that the fur companies use would allow our message to be presented on equal footing with theirs."

"The pickets are important because they make us visible to the public as activists," adds CEASE member Louise Dell'Amico, "and downtown shoppers have become familiar with our presence.

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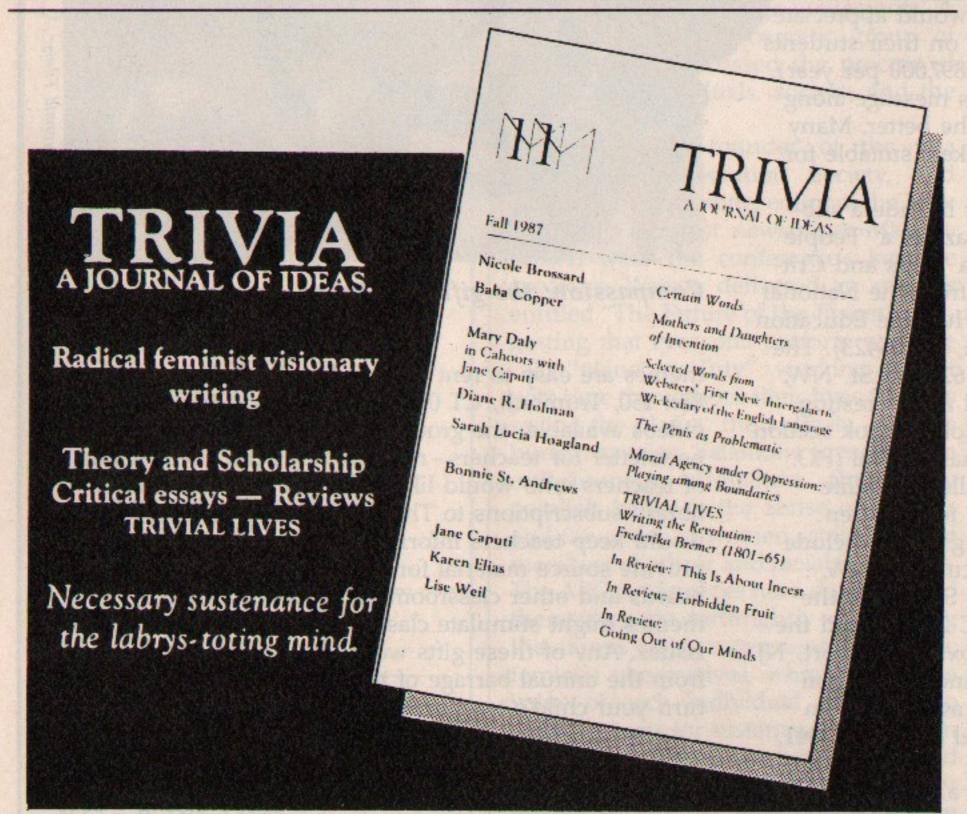
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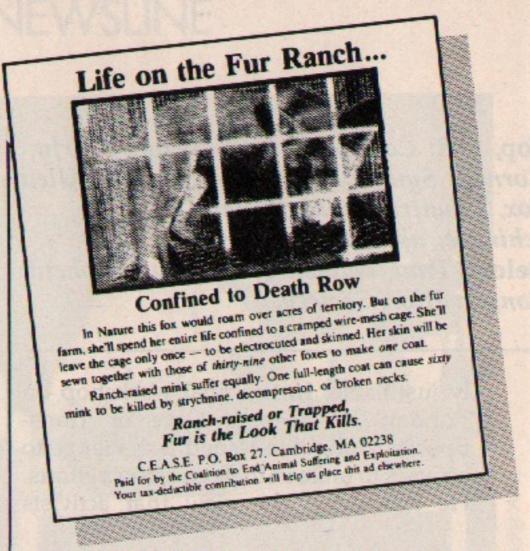


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One of CEASE's display ads on fur ranching.

But there is real satisfaction in knowing that the ads are reaching thousands of people in combination with the pickets."

Ten anti-fur billboard advertisements, prepared by CEASE artist Richard Salvucci, will be viewed by tens of thousands of Boston-area travelers at the height of the holiday shopping season (from mid-November to mid-December). In addition, ads that focus on the suffering of animals raised on fur ranches are being carried by Boston magazine, New England Monthly, and the regional edition of Time. The high-exposure ad campaign takes aim at the fur industry's own propaganda by targetting the traditional association of fur with glamor and status.

"Fur coats are worn for vanity," says Soos. "When they become symbols of cruelty to animals, instead of status symbols, people won't want to be seen wearing them. Even if the 'cruelty to animals' issue isn't sufficient reason for those people not to purchase fur, their fear of being viewed as callous or insensitive could deter them. So, we're out to change the image of fur."

Part of that change must come in the public's perception (fostered by the furriers) of fur ranches as safe, comfortable places for wild animals to spend their lives. Fur-bearing animals raised on ranches suffer confinement and boredom in small wire-mesh cages, denied the relative freedom even the victim of a leghold trap would enjoy in the wild prior to capture. Animals on fur ranches are killed by such means as electrocution, poisoning, and neck-breaking. "The conditions and practices are largely unknown to the general public, so our display ads address the issue of ranch-raised animals directly," says Soos.

CEASE has been educating the public on the fur issue-as well as vivisection and pet overpopulation-for years on Boston subways through its successful "Pledge-An-Ad" campaign. In addition to conducting regular fur store pickets, the group has also succeeded in disrupting fur sales at a glitzy Saks Fifth Avenue department store in a much-publicized protest, and was able to get the Greenpeace/Lynx anti-fur TV commercial screened at a movie theater for three months. But after noticing an increase in fur wearing and advertising last year, the group began planning an anti-fur media blitz in the spring, and established a restricted anti-fur fund to pay for the advertising.

Hundreds of private donations, together with generous grants from the Compassion for Animals Foundation and the Ahimsa Foundation, brought nearly \$20,000 into the campaign coffers. Because grants were awarded early in the fundraising effort, they provided a psychological boost by making the campaign goals seem more attainable. And since the artwork and production were donated, all of the money went into ad

space and printing.

After surveying the circulation and readership demographics of several local and national magazines, the group opted for running their advertisements in publications that run fur ads and attract upscale readers-the very people most likely to buy furs. The decision to put the powerful anti-fur message on billboardsa medium usually reserved for mindnumbing commercial advertisementswas made with the intention of reaching large numbers of people. Says Salvucci, "For years we thought how great it would be if we could put ads in magazines the furriers themselves use, or see an image of a fur coat leaving behind a trail of blood on a giant billboard . . . seeing these ads getting the kind of exposure they're receiving is like a dream come true."

For Dell'Amico, it's also an indication that the animal rights movement can take on the fur industry and win. "Some people feel that the anti-fur campaign is futile because there's an increasing number of people wearing fur coats. But the fur industry has had decades to sell the false image of fur, and for us it's only the beginning. This is an exciting time for us. We're going to make the tide turn."

-Mark Sommer

Mark Sommer is a free lance writer working with CEASE in Boston.

CEASE would like to share its experience and materials with others interested in launching pro-animal advertising campaigns. Contact the group at: P.O. Box 27, Cambridge, MA 02238; (617) 628-9030.

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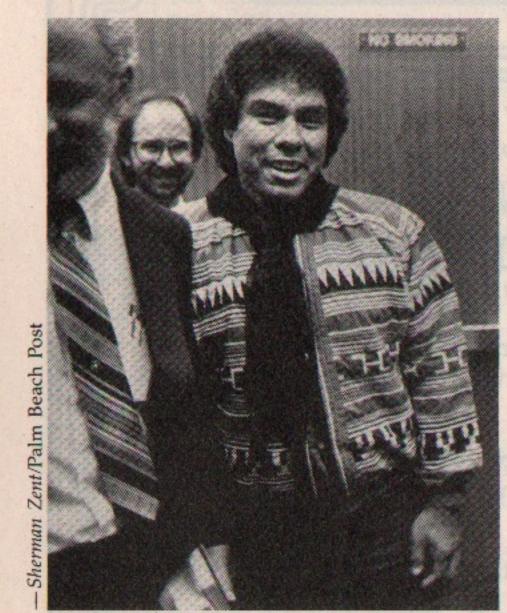
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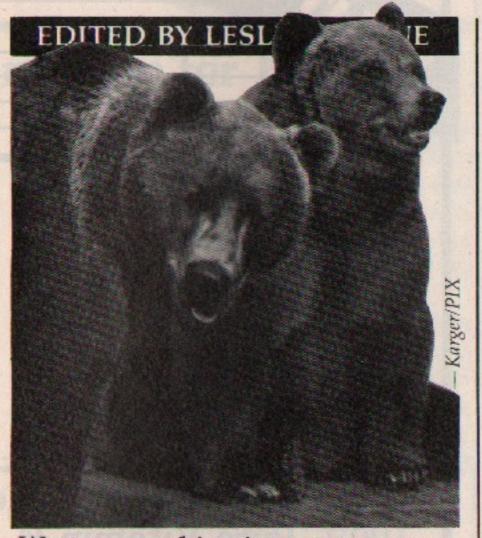
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A fire at a veal processing company in California caused \$7,000 in damage on September 1. An unidentified woman contacted news agencies and claimed responsibility for the fire at the San Jose Veal Company in Santa Clara on behalf of the Animal Rights Militia. The caller said that the action was taken to protest the manner in which veal calves are raised and slaughtered.



Western ranching interests want to remove protections for grizzlies.

The Wildlife Waystation, a private

nonprofit 20-acre compound which houses some 1,000 exotic animals, is being investigated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for at least 19 housekeeping, safety, and sanitation deficiencies, according to a recent report in The San Francisco Chronicle. The Waystation has a four-year record of violations, according to Michael McCann, a compliance officer with the USDA's Los Angeles office. Deficiencies noted by USDA inspectors have included broken and torn cage structures, water pans covered with algae, and unsanitary food preparation facilities. A pile of animal bones, skulls and hooves was discovered during one inspection, and McCann reports that violations have increased rather than decreased over time. Joyce George, a state humane officer and president of the Humane Society of Ventura: County, was quoted in The Chronicle as saying that the Waystation "does not show sensitivity to the physical and emotional needs of the animals. The place is in obvious disrepair, and it is difficult to believe that government regulations are being met." Other deficiencies mentioned in the article include lack of a water system, inadequate shelter for animals in summer heat, no drainage or fire prevention systems, and lack of adequate fencing and caging to ensure that animals cannot escape. The animals, many of them former "pets", include lions, tigers, cougars, bears, wolves, primates and birds. The Waystation receives \$10,000 per year under a contract with the state Department of Fish and Game, and was also given \$300,000 last year by the agency to make various improvements to the facility.

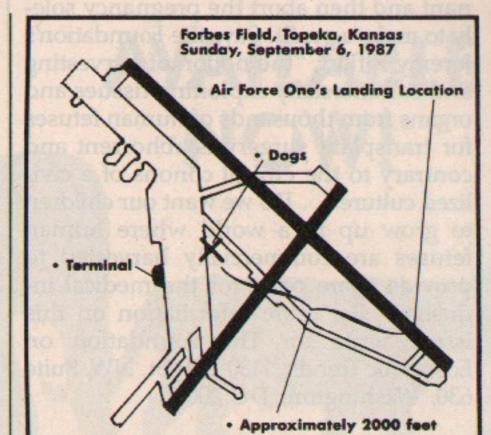
■ The reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act is still under consideration in Congress; House and Senate subcommittees have held hearings on the reauthorization, and the bills are now in the markup stage, where the final versions are written. Numerous proposed amendments are still being considered. Amendments backed by animal advocacy groups include provisions to make violators pay for efforts to restore wildlife; increase funding for enforcement; take steps to protect overseas wildlife; establish a monitoring system for "candidate" species waiting for placement onto the endangered species list; and extend greater protection to endangered plants. Amendments opposed by the humane community include: a provision to weaken protection for grizzly bears and grey wolves, allowing them to be trapped and hunted; and provisions designed to weaken regulations requiring the use of the turtle excluder device by shrimpers. The device is designed to keep sea turtles from getting caught in shrimpers' nets. Readers are urged to contact their Senators and Representatives and urge passage of the strongest possible protections for animals in the Act's reauthorization.

Hundreds gathered on the Mall in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, September 12 for the first International Vegetarian Festival, co-sponsored by the Ahimsa Foundation and Ark II. Participants say that the event, originally scheduled for two days but cut short by rain, was a great success. Vendors served delicious international foods completely free of meat, eggs, and dairy products, while musicians donated their time entertaining the crowd. Cooking demonstrations were offered by Louise Hagler, author of Tofu Cookery, and Debra Wasserman of Baltimore Vegetarians. George Eisman, nutritionist and author of The Most Noble Diet, discussed the health aspects of vegetarianism. Other speakers described the links between meat consumption, environmental degradation, and world hunger. The festival was covered in all of the D.C. newspapers and on local television stations. Plans are now underway for a spring festival, and organizers are considering taking the festival "on the road". For information on how to organize a festival in your area, contact: Vegetarian Events, c/o Ark II, P.O. Box 11049, Washington, DC 20008.

NEWS SHORTS

by officers of the Metropolitan Topeka Airport Authority (MTAA) at Forbes Field in Topeka, Kan. on June 6 in order to prevent President Reagan and his wife Nancy from viewing the dogs mating, reports The Nation magazine. The two dogs, one black and one grey, were mating in the tall grass off to the side of a taxiway, at least 2,000 feet from the runway on which Air Force One was scheduled to land that day. An anonymous witness saw two MTAA officers approach the dogs; the witness told The Topeka Capital-Journal that "I could see the officers from the knees up. I saw the uniformed officer, with the full force of a large man, strike these dogs [with nightsticks or hammers] about five or six times." The officers returned over an hour later, shot the two dogs, loaded them into the back of a truck, and then incinerated the bodies. MTAA deputy director Marvin Hancock stated that the Secret Service, in an apparent effort to preserve the decorum of the Presidential arrival, had ordered airport security personnel "to get them [the dogs] out of there." Attempts to separate the copulating dogs had failed, said Hancock; "Since we had Air Force One on final [approach], we had to dispose of the animals," he said. Appearances, rather than safety, seemed to be the operational priority among airport security and Secret | The resulting injuries and deaths will be Service agents that day, as the dogs posed no danger whatsoever to the President or anyone else. A local resident, Emily Maack of Topeka, told reporters that she suspected the slaughtered dogs may have been her two farm dogs, Speck and Lady, who had been missing for several weeks. In his article in the October 3 issue of The Nation, Alexander Cockburn examines the incident in depth as an example of "instilled veneration to authority". Reflects Cockburn, " . . . we would do well to ponder the implications of the saga, for it spells out in homely syntax the social and spiritual consequences of the imperial presidency and of the Rambo

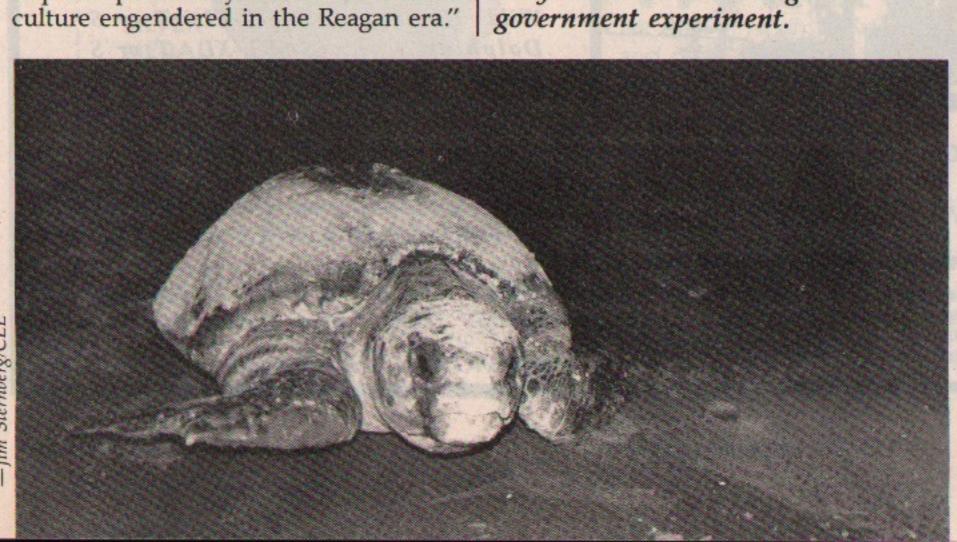
Two dogs were bludgeoned and shot



The scene of the crime.

■ The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is seeking a permit to place 48 loggerhead sea turtles (a threatened species) in cages near an offshore oil platform that is to be blown up, reports The Washington Post. The stated purpose of the experiment is to study the effects of underwater blasts on sea turtles when explosives are used to dismantle offshore oil platforms. The plan is to place the loggerhead turtles about 500 yards from the platform, with Red-ear turtles (not an endangered species) placed closer, strapped with their bellies toward the explosion. compiled and studied afterwards. The permit request is presently under consideration by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Readers are urged to write to the NMFS and express opposition to the use of any animals, endangered or not, in such an experiment. Send letters to: Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20235.

Threatened loggerhead sea turtles may be killed in a misguided



■ The right of California counties to pass ordinances banning the use of steeljaw leghold traps has been officially upheld in a legal opinion issued by California Attorney General John Van de Camp. Van de Camp's decision validated the passage last year of a leghold trap ban in Santa Cruz County, much to the dismay of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G). Officials from CDF&G had presented testimony in opposition to the ban when local public hearings were held on the issue, and the agency requested an opinion from the Attorney General following the ordinance's passage. Van de Camp concluded that county leghold trap bans do not conflict with state wildlife regulations - as long as the bans are passed for reasons of public health and safety as opposed to wildlife protection. The decision has set an important precedent which may be useful in other counties where such ordinances may come under consideration. Meanwhile, however, a judge in Massachusetts has ruled that so-called "soft catch" (padded) traps can be used by trappers in the state, despite the Massachusetts ban on leghold traps. Fur industry publications hailed the Massachusetts ruling as a victory.

Two faulty rabies vaccines are causing public health officials to issue warnings to people with companion dogs and cats, urging them to check their vaccination records and have the animals revaccinated if necessary. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a stop-sale order on the vaccines-Endurall-K and Rabguard-TC, manufactured by Norden Laboratories of Lincoln, Neb.-from August 14 to August 26 in order for the products to be relabeled. The old labels had indicated that injections could be administered either intramuscularly (into the muscle) or subcutaneously (under the skin). As it turns out, however, the subcutaneous method of injection (considered to be less painful to the animal) has proven to be ineffective with these two particular vaccines, leaving the animals unprotected. Norden is offering compensation in the form of free replacement vaccine and syringes to veterinarians, and vets are putting the word out to their clients to have their dogs and cats re-vaccinated if either of the two vaccines was administered subcutaneously to their animals.

More SHORTS on next page

NEWS SHORTS

■ The Foundation on Economic Trends has petitioned the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to stop funding the National Disease Research Interchange (NDRI), a Philadelphia-based nonprofit organization which distributes tissue and organs from human fetuses for scientific research. According to the Foundation, NIH's funding of NDRI may violate a 1985 Federal law prohibiting support or funding of efforts to "harvest" human fetal parts while the fetuses are still alive. Some 25 state laws also prohibit research and experimentation on living human fetuses. Another petition filed by the Foundation asks Federal officials to prevent the sale of human fetal tissue by Hana Biologics, a San Francisco biotechnology company. The petitions were filed in order to urge Federal agencies to establish appropriate regulations of biotechnology companies interested in entering the lucrative fetal parts business. Scientists foresee the use of tissue from human fetuses for transplants into those suffering from a variety of disorders and diseases, leading some to speculate that women might deliberately become preg-

nant and then abort the pregnancy solely to make a profit. Says the Foundation's Jeremy Rifkin, "the notion of harvesting and commercially exploiting tissues and organs from thousands of human fetuses for transplant surgery is abhorrent and contrary to the ethical conons of a civilized culture. . . Do we want our children to grow up in a world where human fetuses are commercially harvested to provide spare parts for the medical industry?" For more information on this issue, write to: The Foundation on Economic Trends, 1130 17th St. NW, Suite 630, Washington, DC 20036.

■ East Carolina State University (ECSU) has announced a one-year moratorium on its "dog labs", laboratory sessions required in physiology and pharmacology courses at many institutions. The moratorium was announced in response to a request from the North Carolina Network for Animals. The group compiled statistics showing that ECSU was using 30 to 50 times the number of dogs as were being used by two prestigious nearby schools-the Uni-

versity of North Carolina and Duke University. A videotape of a dog lab at ECSU was provided-apparently by an insider at the lab-to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and may have also played a part in getting university officials to announce the moratorium. The tape shows an inadequately anesthetized neutered male dog strapped to an operating table. The instructor tells the students to disregard the dog's cries, and jokes continuously while cutting into the semi-conscious animal. Across the nation, opposition to dog labs on ethical and scientific grounds is growing. Sharon A. Allen, a medical student at the University of New Mexico, describes her experience with dog labs: "I derived very little educational benefit from these labs. I was sickened by the violations inflicted upon the dogs . . . I felt trapped in a system run by people who are still little boys pulling the wings off flies and watching what happens next." Copies of the videotape, entitled "Dog Lab", are available for \$35 to buy or a \$45 refundable deposit to rent. Contact: PETA, P.O. Box 42516, Washington, DC 20015; (202) 726-0156.

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DECEMBER 1987

The Media Connection (II)

Furrier Voices

BY PATRICE GREANVILLE



"Harrowe's frothings against the industry's tormentors usually fall hilariously short of the mark."



our trade periodicals share the dubious distinction of speaking for the fur industry and its satellite, the trapper community: Fur Age Weekly (FAW), The Trapper and Predator Caller (TPC), Fur-Fish-Game (F-F-G), and the less wellknown U.S. Fur Rancher. Limited in circulation and audience breadth, they nonetheless serve well the purposes for which they were created: dissemination of vital industry information among furriers, trappers and traders; morale boosting (deeply appreciated now that animal rights activists are making life difficult for the industries); and the usual strategic and commercial coordination offered by all tradebooks. As far as the animal rights activist is concerned, two publications deserve special mention: Fur Age Weekly, which summarizes industry developments week after week, and The Trapper and Predator Caller, a veritable lode of specialized information.

Invective, news, and hilarity in one package

Age Weekly, which has been chronicling the fur industry's fortunes since 1922, has little trouble speaking fluent "furrierspeak"—a variant of Newspeak especially adapted to fit the self-delusional needs of trappers and furriers. (A recent headline, "Tests Show Mink Among Best Cared For Of Animals", might have made Orwell proud.)

Staffed by a band of old-timers and true believers, FAW—usually not thicker than eight or sixteen pages—is no slick, glossy-stock publication. Its austere newsprint look, however, should not mislead anyone about its value. The publication offers the animal rights activist a very rich informational menu, including the latest fur auction prices, a calendar of upcoming industry events, buyouts, personnel problems (acute, as the older generation dies out), international news, hard-to-find statistics, and plenty of inside dope on the industry's machinations to defeat the pestiferous "antis" (us).

The paper is considerably enlivened by the unwitting comic contributions of its chief editor, Bob Harrowe, a curmudgeon-like figure noted for his intemperate editorial broadsides. Spewing vitriol in almost every issue, Harrowe's frothings against the industry's tormentors—particularly Cleveland Amory, Bob Barker, the ALF, and HBO's enlightened cartoon, "Seabert"—usually fall hilariously short of the mark.

Since early this year, Harrowe seems extraordinarily exercised by Barker's actions. Apparently, the last straw came when Barker, who, as a prominent animal rights activist already fully qualified as a villain in Harrowe's eyes, refused to host the latest Miss USA Beauty Pageant until furs were removed from the program. Barker's move triggered a torrent of apoplectic editorials demanding his head, but, unfortunately for the furriers, the letter-writing campaign aimed at securing retribution through CBS hit a humiliating snag when the network chose to reply via form letters. Still, if the fixation continues, Barker may soon topple Cleveland Amory as the paper's reigning bete noire.

An excerpt from one of Harrowe's inimitable columns, ruminating about the threat represented by animals to civilization, follows:

Los Angeles County Animal Control officers set traps and inspected a rural area where a pack of coyotes attacked a man and bit him on the arm before fleeing. And how about the bear that attacked a young boy in Brooklyn's Prospect Park—and ate part of the body while he was still alive. The boy died...Are you surprised that these, and many other similar incidents happen everywhere? Not at all. We must realize that these are WILD animals. And, wild animals must be contained—and controlled—before they overrun civilization . . . and do what comes natural to them—KILL. (Aug. 3, 1987)

FAW should be high on the list of any activist wishing to keep tabs on the fur industry. (Subscription details about these periodicals can be found at the end of the article.)

THE HUMORLESS TRIO: The Trapper, Fur-Fish-Game, U.S. Fur Rancher

The Age Weekly can occasionally supply moments of unintended humor, this trio is all boring dedication to the business at hand: trapping, hunting, and fur ranching. The heavyweight and main villain here is The Trapper and Predator Caller, founded in 1975 by Charles ("Chuck") Spearman, and with headquarters in genuine back country: Sutton, Neb. With hundreds of ads on all sorts of diabolical anti-animal products—notably traps, snares, scent lures (a wide array of animal urine is listed), baits, and small weapons—The Trapper is a rather gangly (10-1/2 x 14), odd-looking publication resembling nothing so much as an old, outsized Sears, Roebuck catalog.

Still, The Trapper offers animal rights activists

ANIMAL INTELLIGENCER

crucial information not readily available elsewhere. Most features explain in proud detail how to make, handle, set and maintain a wide array of traps intended for all sorts of creatures—from the famed "Victor Coilspring" (a best-selling leghold trap), to the conibear trap, ingenious snares, baits, "dead falls" (where the animal gets caught by tripping a log which crushes him), and other artifacts. The magazine also dispenses much useful information on animal habits, including those relating to the trappers themselves, which we regard as essential knowledge for those intent on disrupting traplines.

The other two publications, Fur-Fish-Game and U.S. Fur Rancher might be regarded as optional. F-F-G, published since 1925, ostensibly believes that there's success in satisfying the needs of all three wildlife-exploiting communities: hunters, trappers, and those who fish. With a circulation of 190,000, F-F-G's main claim to distinction is a regular column on conservation, apparently run to justify hunter claims of enlightened environmentalism. In addition, F-F-G runs a column entitled "Trappers Alert!", supplied by the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America. Otherwise its features are indistinguishable from those in regular hunting magazines. For its part, U.S. Fur Rancher, established in 1922, concentrates on matters directly of interest to "fur farmers". It should be essential reading for activists interested in this angle of the industry (the number of "ranched" victims now exceeds "wild-caught" animals by an ample margin).

Media Muscle

DECEMBER 1987

Tith the trade journals at the center, the furriers' media web radiates outwardly through other powerful channels.

First, the industry far outspends the animal

defense community in the crucial area of advertising and promotion. Fur ads saturate papers and airwaves with impunity, while pro-animal messages shine for their absence.

This acute imbalance in the power of the purse is further compounded by the problem of media access. Profiteering from animal pain is all right in our society, but exposing the scam isn't. Fred the Furrier never has to worry about whether his slimy ads will be accepted or not. But, as Friends of Animals bitterly learned a couple of months ago, animal defense money may not be good enough when buying media space. Last October, fearing "controversy", the three leading television networks turned down flat a costly commercial prepared by FoA to hit the fur trade where it

would be hurt the most: in the consumer jugular. The rejection forced FoA to revamp its media strategy. (The ads were accepted by a local independent TV station and four cable channels.)

The second factor, even more crucial in terms of the social legitimation of furs, is contributed by the fur industry's "groupie" publications. "Groupies"-in my view-are the scores of mass consumer magazines and papers dedicated to catering to the rich and would-be rich, the much sought-after "upscale" audiences. Actively promoting and condoning snobbishness, voyeurism (of the rich and famous), self-involvement and conspicuous consumption-these publications (and TV shows such as "Dynasty") reinforce the climate of selfishness and moral stupor in which furwearing thrives. Fashion and "lifestyle" magazines are by definition charter members of this decadent pack, but it is through the respectable "society" and "style" columns of the nation's major newspapers, and through the multitude of fur ads they accept, that furs receive the final stamp of social approval. In any given year the groupies represent tens of millions of dollars worth of free publicity. The New York Times and its Sunday magazine lead this category, but any serious groupie list must also include The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, and the glossy-stock, jazzy-layouts-brigade: Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, Town & Country, Vanity Fair, Elle, Cosmopolitan, GQ, M, Interview, Esquire, New York Magazine-well, you name it. Moreover, many periodicals peddling similarly rotten values now come from abroad, especially from Italy and France. With this kind of clout, is it any wonder the fur industry is thriving?

tions reinforce the climate of selfishness and moral stupor in which furwearing thrives . . . "

'Groupie' publica-



"Barker's move triggered a torrent of apoplectic editorials . . . "



MAIN PUBLICATIONS: Fur Age Weekly (127 W. 30 St., New York, NY 10001; Tel. [212] 239-4983. Weekly; Circ.: 5,000. Subscription: \$39 a year; \$45 Canada) * Fur Parade/American Furrier (38 E. 29th St., New York, NY 10001; Tel. [212] 689-8638. Quarterly; Circ.: 3,700. Free to industry members) * The Trapper and Predator Caller (Box 550, Sutton, NE 68979; Tels. [402] 773-5454/773-4343. Monthly; Circ.: 30,000. Subscription: \$12 a year) * Fur-Fish-Game (2878 E. Main St., Columbus, OH 43209; Tel. [614] 231-9585. Monthly; Circ.: 190,000) * U.S. Fur Rancher (5100 Edina Industrial Blvd., Edina, MN 55435; Tel. [612] 835-5888. Monthly; Circ.: 3,095. Subscription: \$6.00 a year) * Women's Wear Daily (7 E. 12th St., New York, NY 10003; Tel. [212] 741-4052. Daily; Circ.: 66,183. Subscription: \$48 a year). *The National Trappers Association Newsletter can be obtained by writing to Box 3667, Bloomington, IL 61702.

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THE KILLING SEASON

Pelting Time at a Mink Ranch

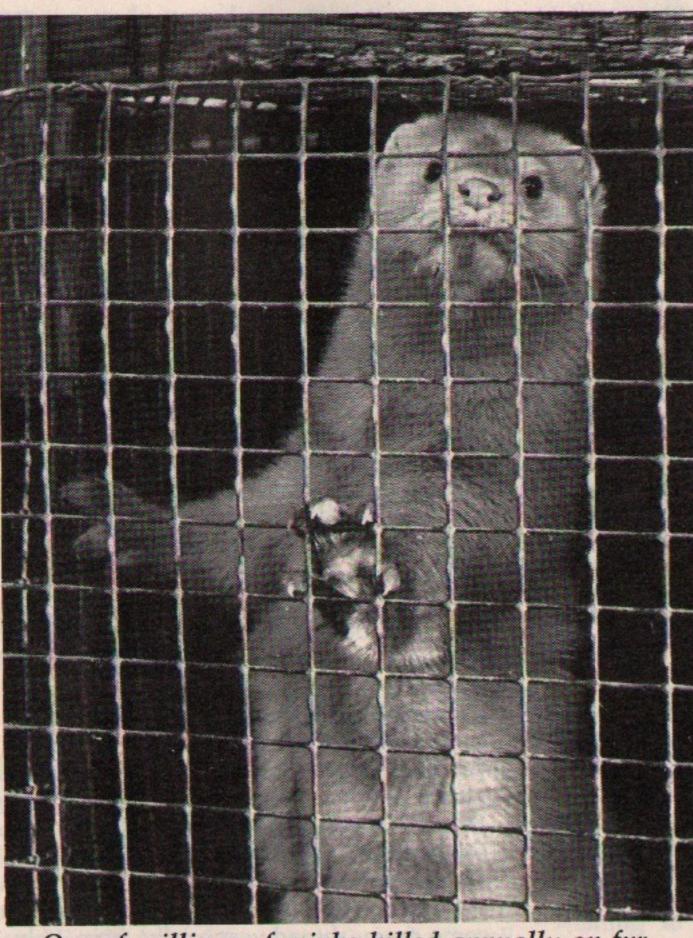
BY TOM H. DAVIS

The pelting season is a time of death at mink ranches. The grisly business usually occurs in December, when the mink's fur is at its softest, most luxurious, and most valuable. As a temporary worker at a mink ranch in Washington state, I witnessed the killing season and found the operation revolting to my eyes, nose, ears, and conscience. At the root of this horror is greed. According to United States Department of Agriculture statistics, in 1985 the 1,024 mink farms in the U.S. produced 4,170,000 pelts-selling for over \$126

inks are sleek, elegant animals. But when the killing started, they went into a frenzy. They seemed to know their minutes were numbered, and as the killer moved down the row of cramped cages, they became violent and aggressive. The killer carefully and skillfully grabbed each small animal by the neck, and pulled him or her out of the cage. The man then inserted a neckbreaker (a device commonly used at mink farms) into the mink's mouth, risking bites from the agile, panicked animals. Sometimes their razor sharp teeth penetrated the killer's heavy leather gloves, or sunk into his arm.

The killing device is quite simple and effective. It consists of two attached metal bars. One bar is inserted into the mink's mouth, and the other bar is placed on the back of the neck. The killer pulls the two bars together, using a lot of muscle power, and the mink's neck is broken-usually immediately.

The "best" mink are saved for breeding purposes, but



One of millions of minks killed annually on fur

generally two-thirds to three-fourths of the population of the farm are killed every year.

After the designated number of mink were "terminated", the factory-like preparation of the pelts began. A helper hauled a wheelbarrow full of dead mink into the skinning room. There, up to four skinners used sharp knives and strong hands to skin the bodies. The carcasses were tossed into a barrel, which was taken outside when full to await transport to a rendering plant.

The skins were then moved to the "fleshing" area. The tails were split and scraped of fat. The pelts were then placed on poles, and loaded into the fleshing machine. The device used a powerful vacuum and a rapidly turning rotor to suck off the fat and gristle from the skins. The fat was saved in a barrel for the eventual manufacture of mink oil. The machine was noisy, fast, and messy. By the end of a day's work, the flesher had mink fat splattered in his eyes, face, hair, and beard. His apron was saturated

with mink oil, and his body had the characteristic odor of mink.

Despite the effectiveness of the fleshing machine, only about 90 to 95 percent of the fat and stringy gristle was removed from the skins. So the pelts, still on the poles, were placed on a rack and manually scraped until the remaining bits of fat and tissue were removed.

The pelts were taken to the second floor of the farm building, where five women performed the final touches. A load of furry pelts was placed in a dryer along with some ground corn cob, called cob grit. This drying process removed any particles of fat still remaining on the skin. The pelts were then placed on drying boards, and glycerin was rubbed in to keep the fur soft. Finally, the pelts were hung to dry for a few days, after which they were sorted and boxed. The pelts were later sold at an auction in Seattle in lots of 50 to 300 skins of similar breed, sex, size, quality, and color.

I worked at the mink ranch because I needed money. But the experience made me aware of the cruelties involved in fur farming-both in the killing and raising of animals. Some people may soothe their consciences with "ranch bred" fur coats instead of those made of trapped wild animals, but there's nothing humane about killing-and nothing but blood behind the false glamour of the fur industry.

Tom Davis is an animal rights activist living in Kirkland, Washington.

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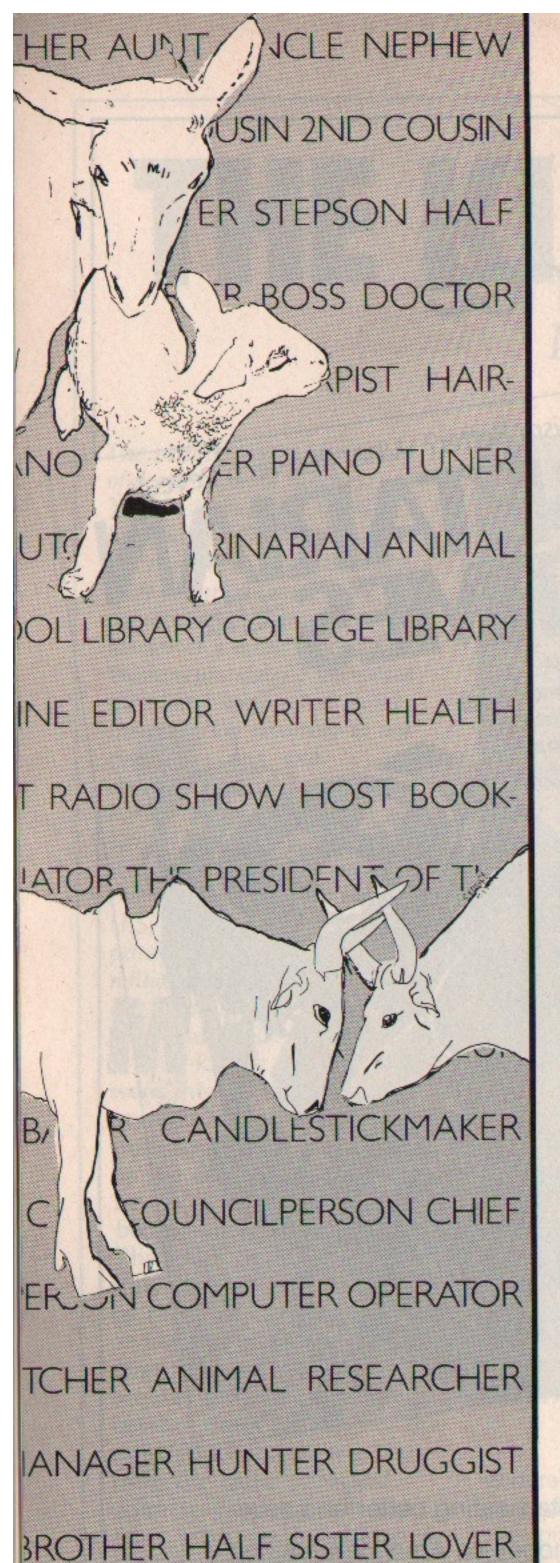
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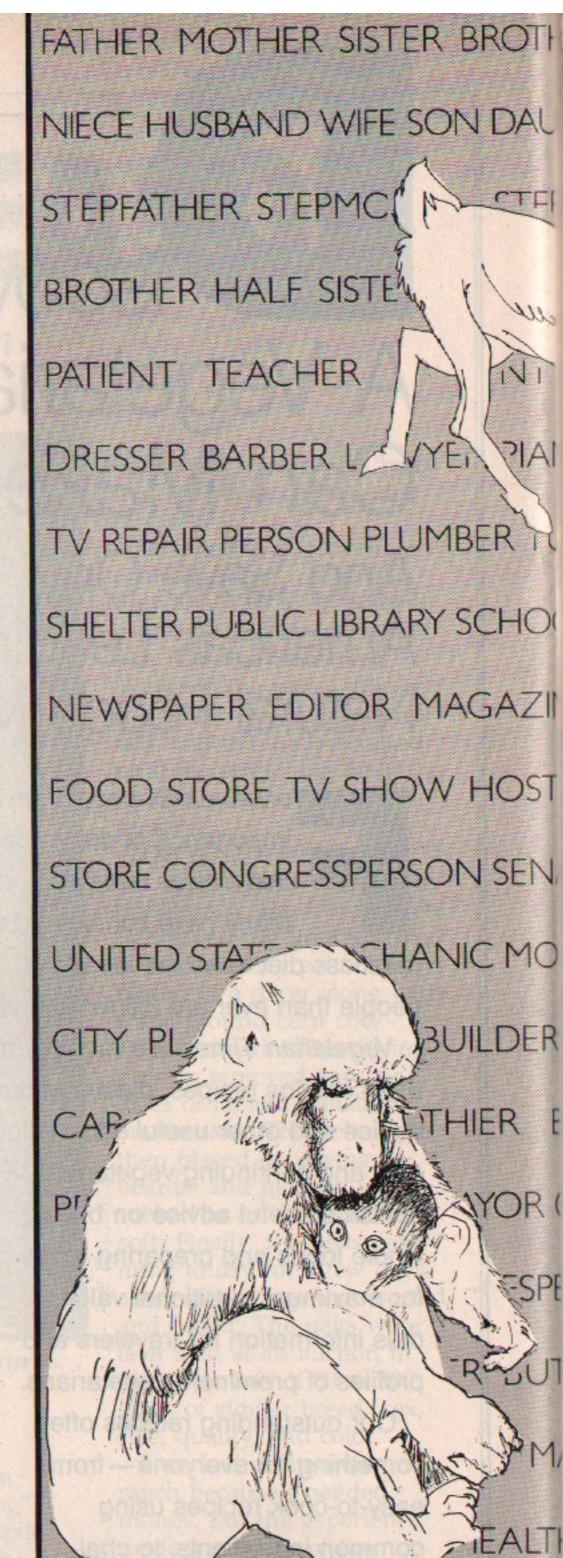
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THE PRESIDENT OF THE PR

COMMENT

The "Divine Right" of Humans:

An Idea Whose Time Has Gone

BY KIM BARTLETT

Once upon a time, there was a great king who ruled over many people. He commanded armies, whose terrible weapons gave him control over his subjects. Those who did not submit to his power were punished or killed. He demanded tributes from those he governed and, because they lacked the power

to defend themselves and their possessions, they surrendered to him much of what they had.

But, despite his undisputed sovereignty, he was uneasy. He had begun to feel guilty about his tyranny. He knew his subjects hated and feared him—they had not chosen him as a leader, and he had shown little concern for their welfare.

What the king needed was a way of legitimizing his despotism to his people, and justifying it to himself. He had won his throne through the use of force, but weren't the characteristics that allowed him to attain a position of superiority over others born in him-instilled, perhaps, by a supernatural power that had chosen him over the rest? Wouldn't it follow, then, that he had been granted the "right" to exploit his domain? Because desires so strongly influence thoughts, the more he pondered this new idea, the more plausible it seemed.

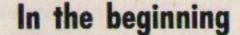
Soon the king's new status was proclaimed to the people, and the "divine right of kings"—as a doctrine—was born.

The medieval European belief that temporal rulers received their authority directly from God can be traced back to the fourth century when Constantine became the first Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity. In earlier times, powerful rulers (such as the Pharoahs of Egypt) might declare that they themselves were divine—and not just divinely annointed, but there was no place in the new religion for temporal deities. As amazing as it seems today, for about 1400 years—until the

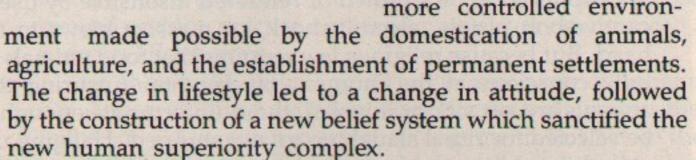
eighteenth century—the doctrine of the divine right of kings enthralled the Western world. And though there was nothing in the Jewish or Christian scriptures that sanctioned the idea, the theologians of Europe defended and promoted it.

As a history lesson, the story of the divine right of kings

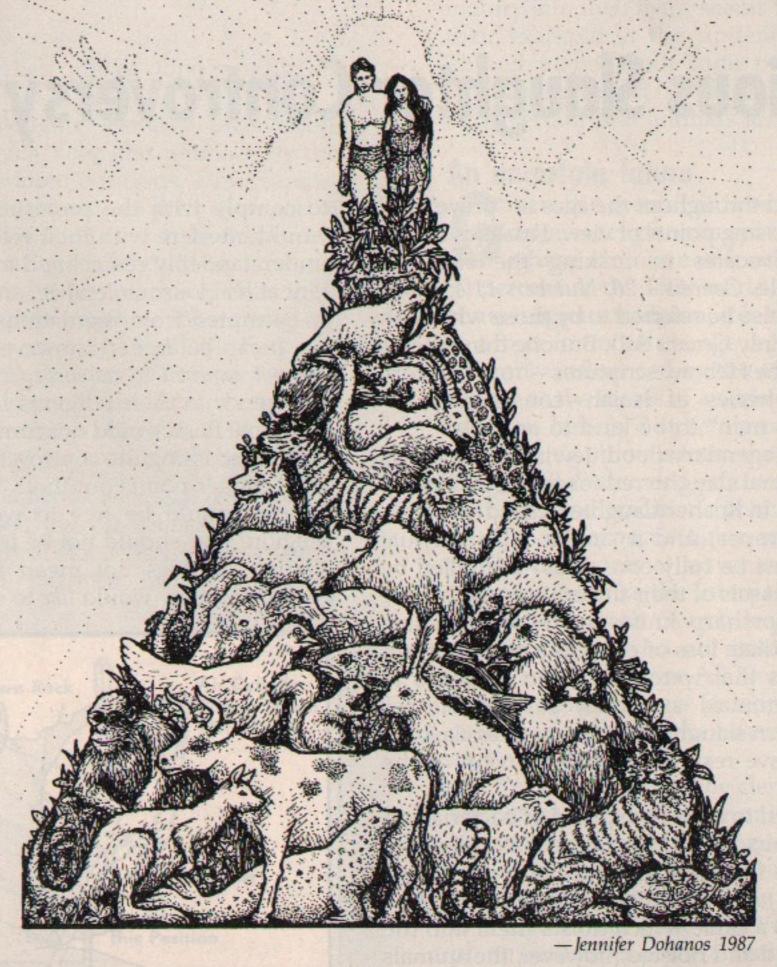
would be out of place in an article about animal rights. But as an analogy to how religion was used to validate the tyranny of humans over nonhumans, it has relevance to the struggle for animal liberation. For the king in the story could serve as a symbol for the human species, and his exploited subjects the animals.



arly humans, like modern aboriginals, had great reverence for other creatures, as their art shows. Even today, Bushmen of the Kalahari Desert pray to the soul of any animal they kill. Animals were, in fact, the earliest gods. The so-called "primitive" mind perceived the earth as sacred and full of wonder. Much like Adam and Eve's metaphorical departure from the Garden of Eden, the psychological separation of Homo sapiens from the rest of the life community began about ten thousand years ago when our ancestors abandoned their place in the natural order in favor of the more controlled environ-



It is true, however, that the earliest scriptures on which the major religions are based did not grant humans any kind of license to kill or persecute nonhumans. The oldest surviving religious documents are the Vedas of India. Inscribed five thousand years ago, they advocated vegetarianism and the Continued on next page



DECEMBER 1987 The ANIMALS' AGENDA

COMMENT

Continued from previous page

principle of ahimsa. Usually translated as "harmlessness", ahimsa was the original declaration of reverence for life, and is still a fundamental precept of Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism. In the Bhagavad Gita, one of the Vedic books, it is written: "We bow to all beings with great reverence in the thought that God enters into them through fractioning Himself as living creatures." The spiritual journey of the Buddha actually began when he witnessed the ritual slaughter of a bird: "For now I know by what within me stirs, that I shall teach compassion unto men, and be a speechless world's interpreter."

In the original Hebrew scriptures, the Sixth Commandment to the Israelites read "No killing", period. The word "dominion", usually misunderstood as meaning domination, actually connotes guardianship or stewardship. According to the Talmud (the Jewish book of law), relieving the suffering of an animal was a sacred duty, and hunting for sport was—

and is still-forbidden to Jews. Maimonides, the great Jewish philosopher and physician of the Middle Ages, pointed out that Judaism forbids causing pain to any animal.

Though meat-eating is permitted in Islam, a relatively young religion despite roots that go all the way back to Old Testament patriarch Abraham, the Prophet Mohammed had much to say about compassion to animals. In the Koran he wrote, "There is not an animal on earth, nor a bird that flies on its wings, but they are communities like you."

In the New Testament, Jesus and the Apostles are portrayed as meat-eaters. But according to Steven Rosen, author of *Food for the Spirit*, all of the references to meat in the Gospels can be more accurately translated from the original Greek as "food" or "nourishment". Furthermore, some Christian scholars believe that the "missing years" of Jesus may have been spent in monastic seclusion in an Essene community (the Essenes were vegetarian).

Legacy of Noah:

The Religious Slaughter Controversy

BY KIM BARTLETT

"disprove" many opposing points of view. Passages can be cited by animal advocates in making the case for vegetarianism (for example, Genesis 1:28, Numbers 11:4, Isaiah 1:11 and 11:6), and it can also be referred to by those who wish to defend meat-eating (mainly Genesis 9:1). But one thing seems to be clear: the writers of the Hebrew scriptures—from the story of creation to the prophecies of Isaiah—consistently admonished the "righteous man" to be kind to animals.

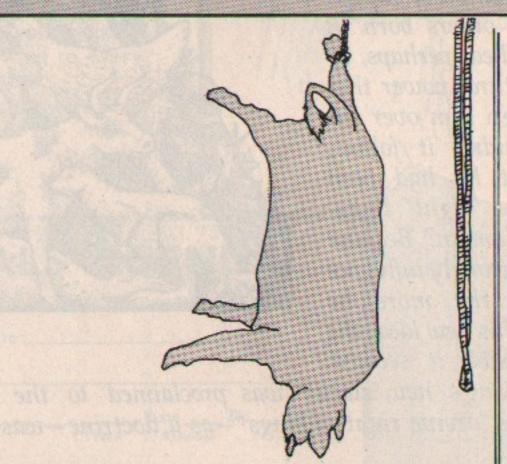
Since the time of the legendary flood, Jewish dietary laws have required that an animal slaughtered for food be killed by the most painless method. In Kosher slaughter (called *shechitah*, meaning permitted or proper) and a similar Islamic ritual (halal), animals—who must be fully conscious—are killed by having the major blood vessels of their throats severed by one rapid motion with a razorsharp knife, a procedure which should result in an immediate loss of consciousness. But unfortunately, the very laws that were laid down long ago to minimize the pain of animals are today responsible for egregious suffering. Modern slaughterhouse practices clashing with the ancient rules have resulted in a perversion of the humane intent.

A Federal law designed to limit the spread of bacteria and other pathogens in abattoirs requires meat-packing plants to keep the bodies of animals from touching the floor—they must be raised from the ground *prior to* slaughter, commonly by having a hind leg shackled to a cable which hoists them into the air. Before they are shackled and hoisted, however, the animals are supposed to be stunned or rendered insensible by use of captive-bolt pistols, electric shock, or massive blows to the head. But because religious law requires that food animals be fully conscious at the moment of slaughter (insuring that animals are not sick or injured), those unfortunate enough to be selected for ritual slaughter are not stunned. Hanging upside down from one foot, the heavy torsoes of the terrified animals begin to tear away from the leg joints. Prior to being killed, their hips or knee joints may rupture or dislocate.

Jewish and Islamic leaders have successfully argued (in the U.S., Canada, and ten European countries) that forcing them

to comply with the provisions of "humane slaughter" acts would interfere with their religious freedom. Lawmakers are understandably disinclined to enact statutes that so much as hint at religious intolerance, and so ritual slaughter is specifically exempted from regulations.

It can be argued, however, that since Jews and Moslems are not required to eat meat, forcing them to choose between adherence to their religious laws and their desire to partake of animal flesh would not compel them to violate any religious duty. Discussing the controversy in his book Animal Liberation, Peter Singer points out that: "Freedom of religion means that people should be free to worship according to their own religion, and should not be forced to violate the laws of their religion; it does not mean that they must be able to do everything they would like to do, although their religion does



Forbidden in most European countries and in Canada, shackling and hoisting prior to Kosher slaughter is practiced on a large scale in the U.S. Few slaughterhouses are willing to spend money for systems that would reduce levels of suffering.

COMMENT

E.F. Schumacher, a modern visionary, observed, "There have been no sages or holy men in our or anybody's history who were cruel to animals." St. Francis is recognized as the patron saint of animals, but he was only one of innumerable saints of every century who demonstrated a love for their fellow creatures. Twentieth century Catholic mystic Thomas Merton affirmed, "The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings, which are all part of one another and all involved in one another."

Moral regression

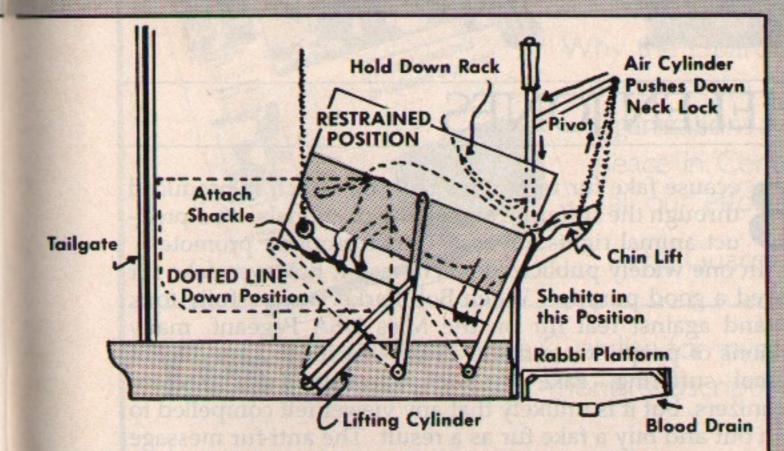
ragically, the ancient prohibitions against cruelty to animals are conveniently ignored by the practitioners of the world's five major religions. Throughout the Middle East, treatment of animals is abysmal. Even in Asia—where it is commonly believed that animals have immortal, transmigrating

not compel them to do it, and it can only be done by inflicting suffering on other beings."

One way of making ritual slaughter less cruel involves the use of restraining systems which keep the animals off the ground but in relatively comfortable positions. Unfortunately, the cost of installing the equipment, as well as a lack of organized pressure by Jewish and Islamic groups, has kept it out of all but the most "modern" slaughterhouses.

Within the Jewish community, there are many individuals struggling to bring current slaughter practices in line with the old prohibition against cruelty to animals. Most Jews, however, are simply unaware that a problem exists. Before any meaningful changes will be forthcoming, there must be greater awareness and stronger protests within the religions in which tradition has made animal slaughter an act of faith.

Jewish animal advocates who would like to work with others on the Kosher slaughter issue may contact: Jews for Animal Rights, 255 Humphrey Street, Marblehead, MA 01945; or Jewish Vegetarians of North America, P.O. Box 1463, Baltimore, MD 21203 (301) 752-VEGV.



This diagram illustrates one method of restraining animals for Kosher slaughter which keeps the animal off the ground, but in a relatively comfortable position. It was developed by Temple Grandin in 1977. Another method involves straddling the animal on a double-rail conveyor belt.

souls—the principle of *ahimsa* has had little effect and inconsistencies are glaringly obvious. In India, where the cow is sacred, sales of McDonald's hamburgers are brisk. Japan's Prime Minister Nakasone, a practicing Buddhist, stated in a speech before the United Nations in 1985, "We believe that all living things—humans, animals, trees, grasses—are essentially brothers and sisters." Yet Nakasone supports his country's many animal-abusing industries (including whaling).

In predominantly Christian societies, the views of Descartes, who believed that animals were mere machines, prevail—even though the very word "animal" comes from the Latin anima, meaning "soul". "Brutes are things in our regard and we are right in using them unsparingly," claims an official Roman Catholic text published in 1888. About his church's dispiriting history of sanctioning animal exploitation, Ambrose Agius (an English monk) wrote, "A curious situation has arisen in regard to the Saints and their attitude toward animals. The Catholic Church, which canonizes the Saints after a minute inquiry into their lives, seems to have ignored their advice and their example in the understanding and care of animals." Though he has made some puny statements to the effect that animals should not be "abused", Pope John Paul II has declared, "It is certain that animals are at the service of man."

An uncertain future

dismiss religions as spiritual anachronisms retarding the ethical evolution of humanity. But keeping in mind that 90 percent of the total world population claims allegiance to some religious tradition, it is clear that the potential of religion as a force for moral change is great. Even nonbelievers are considerably influenced by the attitudes of religious institutions, insofar as the mores of a society may have their roots in various religious beliefs. But before religion will begin playing a role in liberating animals from the yoke of human oppression, the clergy—of every creed—must repudiate their faiths' enshrined attitudes and traditions about human supremacy.

Can we expect religion to lead the way to animal liberation? Many animal advocates do, and are working with organizations like the International Network for Religion and Animals to reach church leaders. There are many compassionate clergy who are participating in this process. Tom Regan's film "We Are All Noah", which presents the case for animal rights from a Judeo-Christian perspective, has succeeded in softening the hearts of at least a few rabbis, priests, and ministers.

But it may be that the clergy will begin to take strong proanimal positions en masse only after their congregations have been moved. It is interesting to note that many of the specious arguments used by the churches to defend the institution of human slavery are used today from the pulpit to defend cruelty to animals. During the Civil War, the clergy of most faiths lined up on both sides of the slavery debate, quoting Biblical verses to justify their positions. Only after the general public had been swayed and the practice outlawed, was slavery denounced as a sin by all religions.

So should the animal rights movement write off religion? No. Those who feel called to work for animals within their faiths should be given every encouragement. But before they begin their "missions", they would do well to take a long hard look at where their religion has come from, where it has been, and where it stands today. A resolve based on naivete will meet with disappointment. Miracles may happen, but for the animals, ten thousand years is a long time to wait.

The writer is a Catholic in poor standing.



Is There a Real Problem in Promoting Fakes?

A FORUM ON SIMULATED FURS

EDITED BY KIM BARTLETT

In trying to hone consistent and practical approaches to specific issues, the animal rights movement often encounters grey areas in which there may be legitimate differences of opinion. Believing there to be considerable disagreement among animal advocates as to whether fake furs should be promoted as an alternative to coats made of real animal skin, The ANIMALS' AGENDA decided to commission a Forum on the subject. The responses we received are printed below in alphabetical order.



Patricia Forkan
Senior Vice President
of The Humane Society of the
United States, is chairing the
committee directing an international anti-fur campaign for the
World Society for the Protection
of Animals.



Helen Jones
President of the International Society for Animal Rights.

PATRICIA FORKAN

In the 1960s, many animal welfare organizations applauded the introduction of synthetic materials as replacements for real animal skins in the production of fur garments. It seemed that not only would many animals be saved from the suffering inherent in the production of fur coats, but also that the message of the cruelty involved had been heard. However, as time went on, many realized that wearing fake furs actually had the opposite effect. Garments were created that to the casual observer were indistinguishable from real animal skins.

As a result, The Humane Society of the United States no longer supports the use of synthetic or "fake" fur because we believe this practice condones and encourages the wearing of real furs. The best way to combat the cruelty and suffering behind every fur product is to refuse to wear "fur" of any kind. We should not glamorize a product that results from cruel and inhumane practices such as trapping and fur ranching.

HELEN JONES

B ecause fake fur represents real fur, which is produced through the suffering and killing of animals, it's a product animal rights advocates can't properly promote.

In one widely publicized recent event, however, fake fur served a good purpose. When Bob Barker successfully took a stand against real fur on the Miss USA Pageant, many millions of people were made aware that fur is a product of animal suffering. Fake fur was substituted by pageant organizers, but it is unlikely that any viewer felt compelled to rush out and buy a fake fur as a result. The anti-fur message was the one with impact.

More important than the question of whether or not the movement should promote fake fur is the fact that all of us should be doing more to oppose the wearing of fur. When we make consumers too uncomfortable to buy or wear fur, the fur market will begin to dry up. Fake fur is best overlooked and ignored while we get on with the job. When real fur is no longer worn, fake fur will probably disappear, too.

FORUM



Jane Lidsky
Coordinator of
Boston's CEASE
(Coalition to End Animal Suffering and Exploitation).

that fake furs are an alternative for those seeking to "make compassion the fashion". But to encourage the idea that wearing animal fur is desirable and acceptable, whether fake or real, is dangerous.



Esther Mechler
Director of Focus on
Animals, a humane education
program as well as a film and
video center.

JANE LIDSKY

The problem with wearing fake furs should be obvious: they perpetuate the *myth* that animal fur is beautiful and desirable on the backs of humans. In addition, the wearing of fake fur encourages the buying of real fur, because most consumers are not able to distinguish between a real dead animal coat and a "quality" fake fur. With a fur coat, the attraction is not the item's usefulness (warmth), but rather the image it supposedly conveys.

There is something to be said as justification for fake fur: that animal fur is beautiful; that art often copies nature; and

ESTHER MECHLER

Years ago, I felt that fake furs would provide an "interim solution" to the goal of eliminating fur-bearing people. But as some fake furs have become virtually indistinguishable from the real thing, and as furs have once again Continued on page 50



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on't you feel generous this time of year? I do. I want to cash in my savings account and do something decent for the world. That kind of Yuletide spirit would just put one more person on the poverty rolls. But I think it's important during the season of good will to think about our giving patterns.

If your mailbox is anything like mine, it's filled on many days with heartrending appeals about some animal abuse. And there are often heart-rending appeals about people in need, too-plus polite but definite requests from my church, a couple of alma maters, and sometimes a down-and-out relative or two. I've known people so overwhelmed by what seems like a world with its hand (paw?) out, that they throw away without reading any correspondence that contains a return envelope. This can, of course, mean missing an opportunity to help in a non-financial way-by writing a letter about the issue at hand, for example.

The fact of the matter is that animal rights is a liberation movement, and liberation doesn't come cheap. We can help by employing our skills and talents, giving of our time, and passing along information—but sharing financially is a way to help, too. How to do this systematically and prudently is something every activist should know.

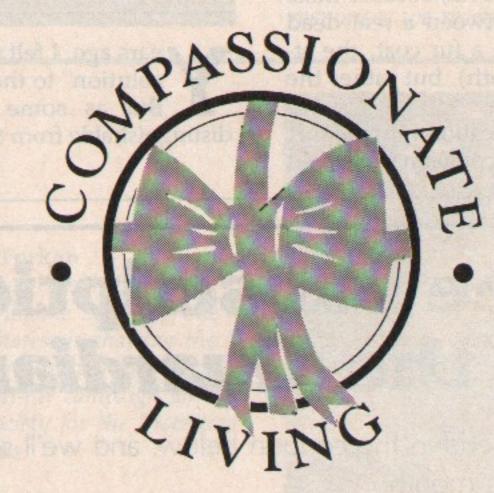
Knowing where to give can be a dilemma since so many issues face us in animal rights alone, and so many groups are doing valuable work. One activist I know confines her giving to a few groups she feels a particular affinity for, but she saves a bit for an "emergency fund" to use when an unexpected issue presents itself. Some choose one or two organizations each year to support, thereby keeping their contributions substantial enough to make a dent rather than being spread ineffectively thin.

One creative person I know has an "issue of the month" approach, saving all the requests received that month and choosing the one that seems to need his help the most. Other people routinely divide their giving between a local or grassroots group and larger organizations. If you can find a good local group, it can be extremely gratifying to see the dollars working in your own community on projects in which you can be personally involved.

As sometimes happens with other causes, bogus "humane organizations" may put out appeals for funds. It occurs rarely, but potential contributors should be sure their money is to be used for

In This Giving Season

BY VICTORIA MORAN



legitimate purposes. Some people get a Better Business Bureau brochure called "Give, But Give Wisely" as a guide. It offers suggestions and lists groups that have provided information on disbursement of funds. In using guides like this, it is important to remember that answering the Bureau's questionnaire is entirely voluntary, and a group's choosing not to do so does not mean that it is in any way dishonest. Any prospective giver does have a right to ask questions, however, and a reputable organization should be willing to answer them.

For animal liberationists, there is another side to the coin: we don't and won't contribute to a lot of causes our neighbors do. Every year when the appeal comes from the Firefighters' Benefit Circus, I feel a little bad about not buying tickets even though I could never

sanction a circus-regardless of the beneficiary. I just take the opportunity to write a letter telling them I'd gladly assist their project if their fundraising were of a different sort. Something similar happens when the United Way campaign drive hits my office. The first year I refused to participate because of the animal research it supports, the office lost its "100 Percent Giver" plaque for the first time ever. I was not, as you might imagine, terribly popular for a time. I have learned since that donations to multi-issue funds such as that can be earmarked to go only for certain causes, but I prefer to choose my own charities-plaque or not.

Holiday gifts can help animals, too

Te can also use our financial resources to help animals by our spending habits. Economic boycott is a powerful tool for change, and every time we choose cruelty-free foods or commodities, we are making a statement. During this holiday season, we can shop compassionately for gifts as well. A gift of cruelty-free cosmetics (those not tested on animals and containing no animal products) with a catalog and informational literature included is a subtle way to spread the word. Gift certificates can be ordered from many mailorder concerns. Books make nice gifts, too-if not one specifically about animal rights, then one that might awaken a person to the splendor of other species.

Stationery, calendars, cookbooks, and t-shirts are offered by many animal advocacy organizations. And a subscription to The ANIMALS' AGENDA is a super gift—to a friend, a library, or that doctor or veterinarian whose waiting room could use something more stimulating than antique copies of *U.S. News and World Report*.

Another idea is to make a donation to a worthy cause in the name of a relative or friend. Twenty years ago, a girl I knew sent me a Christmas card saying that instead of an ordinary present that year, she had arranged for an olive tree to be planted in Israel in my name. As to what presents were under the tree on December 25, 1967, I haven't a clue. But the thought that my tree may be alive and growing olives beats the nightgown or sweater in anybody's box.

Readers may write to Ms. Moran in care of The ANIMALS' AGENDA. Questions of general interest may be answered in future columns.



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The ANIMALS' AGENDA DECEMBER 1987

Cat-owned

The Cat Who Came for Christmas

By Cleveland Amory Little, Brown & Co., 1987 \$15.95 cloth, 248 pages.

Tith a subject matter as grim as animal exploitation in all its appalling forms, many of the books we review in these pages are not exactly of the cheerful variety. That's why The Cat Who Came for Christmas is such a welcome arrival. Written to celebrate a moving victory over adversity, in this case the rescue by the author of a poor, bedraggled feline from the fatal hazards of alleyway life in New York City (Polar Bear, so named because of his gleaming white coat), and the warm relationship that ensued, this volume chronicles the adventures and often hilarious adjustments made by the pair during their first year together. (After ten years the relationship is none the worse for the wear, I'm happy to report.)

The book, however, achieves much more than that. Writing as a pro to satisfy the general public, Amory has covered in this volume a multitude of topics—from cat history to celebrity chronicling (for which he is admirably suited); and from important events in the animal rights struggle to the sort of hilarious domestic skirmishes anyone who has shared quarters with a cat can recognize.

Now, it should be said up front. Amory—who succumbed so easily to Polar Bear's charms—is no wimp. As a recent-vintage ailurophile myself, I can attest to the fact that cats are hard to resist. Anyone who has spent time with a cat, watching his or her playful antics, mysterious aloofness, outbursts of wildness, amazing agility (Baryshnikov looks leaden by comparison), and tremendous capacity for affection, will testify that cats are nothing short of wondrous—the closest thing to pint-sized tigers in our midst.

Fully aware that a lot of animal abuse stems from nothing more evil than a lack of imagination, Amory misses no chance to educate his audience. Thus his fussing over Polar Bear as they prepare for a transcontinental flight is not only hilarious; it's also a gentle lesson in animal rights thoughtfulness (down to the warning about checking whether the



Polar Bear and social mentor Amory

hotel windows are screened before letting the animal out of the carrier). And his musing about Polar Bear's mysterious past affords him an occasion to elaborate on the hardships of a stray's life:

Beside the fact that he had been thrown at and hit with things and had been severely cut, what else, I kept wondering, had been done to him? I found myself thinking of a film I had seen made by the Pasadena Humane Society, and I have always remembered one scene—shot at cat's-eye level. It was of the cat at night trying to cross a California freeway. He was looking for any possible way to get across all those lanes—in the midst of all the screaming noise, the blinding headlights, the whizzing cars, and the monster trucks. . .

The film made you wish that we all, at one time in our life, would have to get down—really lie down—to the eye level of a small animal and have to look at the world from that perspective, to see how huge everything is and how terrifying. (p. 36)

The crowning glory of this book, of course, is Amory's Thurberian wit. Amory knows that life's ironies and contradictions are rife with humor, and that few things are as hilarious as the gap between a man's subjective opinion of himself and his circumstances and reality. As a narrator, therefore, he's liable to turn up as the brave hypochondriac for whom life's minor wrinkles are battles to survive; or, just as often, the well-bred, but woefully inept, "mature" bachelor for whom getting the cat out from behind a washing machine is always a major operation. At other times, all these subtle incarnations blend with yet another streak, that of the "regular chap" with an amiable case of Bostonian chauvinism, as the following passage on his arrival at his hotel in Beverly Hills illustrates:

After the desk amenities were concluded, Wayne, my Bostonian bellman friend, came forward to take the luggage and, on the way to the room, to discuss with me the future fortunes, or lack of same, of the Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots. Wayne, like me, is a lifetime sufferer. (p. 117)

Who can resist a storyteller like that? The Cat Who Came for Christmas is easily one of the best introductions to the joys and responsibilities of animal companionship ever published. Our movement's curmudgeon-in-residence has done it again.

-P. Greanville

Heroes in White

Who Goes First? The Story of Self-Experimentation in Medicine

By Lawrence K. Altman, M.D. Random House, 1986; 431 pages; \$22.50 cloth.

Tho Goes First? is a fascinating chronicle about the little-known efforts of doctors who throughout history have tested risky, sometimes life-threatening new techniques and medicines on themselves to find cures for human diseases.

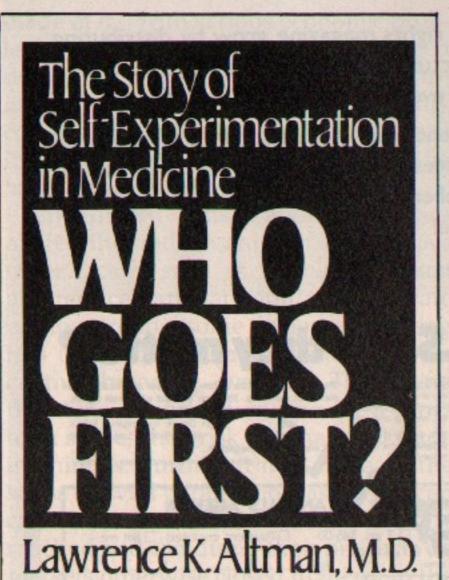
Dr. Lawrence Altman, senior medical correspondent for *The New York Times*, spent 30 years researching the material for

this book, which is packed with eyeopening facts and incisive information dispelling conclusively the myth that research on animals has led to all the major breakthroughs in medicine.

Altman neither condemns nor condones animal research. But he is a strong advocate of the Golden Rule of medical research: the first human subject should be doctors themselves. This code of ethics encourages scientists to design experiments that they are prepared to test on themselves. Altman also cautions us that "animals are not human." Accordingly, society and the medical community must ultimately "recognize [that] the right animal . . . to advance our knowlege of human diseases must be human."

Altman's many amazing accounts of self-experimentation include the story of Dr. Werner Forssmann, German pioneer of the invaluable diagnostic techniques of heart catheterization which made heart surgery possible. Inserting a urethral catheter attached to a hollow needle into a vein near his elbow, Forssmann proceeded to thread the tube into his heart; then he had himself X-rayed.

Equally astonishing are Altman's stories of doctors self-experimenting with substances such as curare, the poison which helped to develop techniques of anesthesia; digitalis and nitroglycerine, drugs which relieve angina and other heart conditions; and antabuse, a drug used in treating alcoholism. Altman also



tells us about scientists who tested vaccines—including those for rabies, cholera, typhus, malaria, and polio—and induced such dietary deficiencies as pellagra in themselves.

Explaining why so many doctors are willing to risk their lives "to go first," Altman explains that there are practical and ethical reasons, including the fact that people learn best from first-hand experience. In addition, Altman comments accurately, that "scientists take pride in being independent thinkers and intellectual revolutionaries."

From the discovery of morphine as a painkiller to the development and perfecting of anesthesia, Who Goes First? offers a catalog of compelling material to counter the tired, overworked argument: "had it not been for experiments on animals . . . "

- Renate Strauss

Ms. Strauss is a Seattle-based freelance writer associated with Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS).

THE REPORT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF T

Animal Contraband

The Animal Smugglers

By John Nichol Facts on File Publications, 1987; 198 pages; \$23.95 cloth.

Thile there have been noteworthy animal protection initiatives in many South American, Asian, and African countries, people living in so-called Third World nations are first concerned with making a living. That's an important message communicated in *The Animal Smugglers*, written by John Nichol, a Briton who has crossed the globe to piece together this infuriating account of the scattered and predominantly underground international trade in animals.

Based on a series of documentary films that Nichol produced, *The Animal Smugglers* is not a text detailing every facet of the trade in live animals and animal products, but a collection of short takes about the dealings and methods of the legal and illegal wildlife traders. A former animal catcher (for a zoo) versed in several Asian dialects, Nichol was able to penetrate animal-dealing circles (composed of individuals wary of those who might undermine their livelihood) better than the most determined investigator could

DECEMBER 1987

ever have done. His ability to enter that underworld distinguishes his book from others covering this sprawling subject. Unfortunately, many of Nichol's com-

ments demonstrate that he is still philosophically true to his past occupation. Having problems only with waste in the trade, frivolous animal demand (both of which he defines liberally), and the destruction of habitat-all very legitimate concerns-he neglects to critique the mentality behind using animals for showcase and show-off. He states his position clearly enough: "As to keeping animals in captivity, I feel that is a need that is very basic within us." Given that, it is not surprising that he says he has "little tolerance" for those who would want to close down properly maintained zoos. Even worse, he actually demonstrates his satisfaction after capturing some animals—a practice for which he provides no justification or explanation. In general, his analyses of the Western institutions Continued on next page

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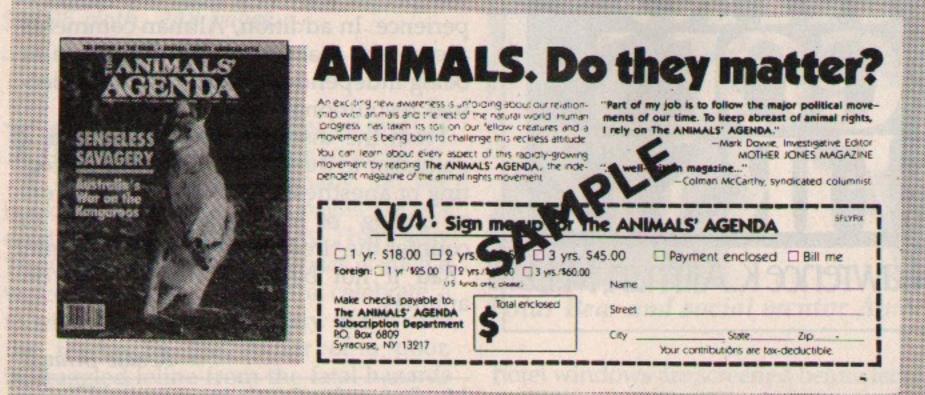
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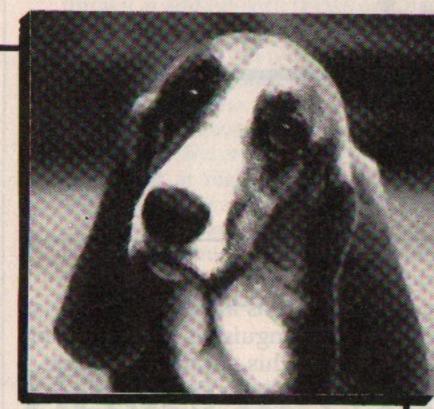
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Continued from previous page

(such as pet shops, zoos, and biomedical research industries) that drive some parts of the trade are somewhat superficial.

Though his philosophy is not one to be followed, his travels and tales of torture are. What's more, because so much exploitation actually does offend Nichol's sensibilities, his book is not lacking in substance. Best versed and most knowledgeable about the practices in Southeast Asia, Nichol says, "When you read of an animal being exploited in a particular way in Thailand, it should be borne in mind that the same sort of thing is happening in Tanzania and Sierra Leone and Brazil and Mexico." If that's true, then there's a whole lot of suffering going on.

He writes best about the extremely frivolous and cruel aspects of the tradeboth legal and illegal. Animal hides are big business internationally. Three million eels aren't slippery enough to escape trappers who skin them alive; reptile skins by the millions pass through customs gates, where officials are unable to distinguish between ranch-raised and wild-caught reptile skins; and the skins of big cats still find their way onto the backs of many Europeans, especially in West Germany. It's cruelty that's more than skin-deep.

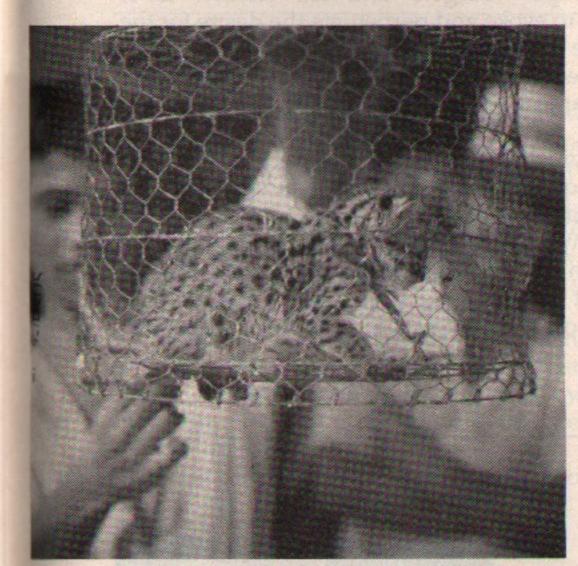
For other people, animal skins are not enough. Many thousands of animals become unwilling organ donors to those bent on following some currently unexplainable tradition or their personal desire for the "exotic" or unique. You can buy dolphin's eyes in Rio de Janeiro-one dealer commented on his ability to supply 500 within a week. Despite being able to obtain synthetic products of comparable quality, perfume connoisseurs still demand the glands of musk deer by the thousands. To satisfy Chinese medicinal demand, elephants are killed for their appendices, rhinos for their horns, and bears for their gall bladders.

There are more "conventional" uses of animals that are no less frivolous than those already mentioned. Even though the mass production of domestic animals for human consumption continues unabated, the demand for exotic foods increases. Here is an international "feast" that could turn the stomach of anyone with a taste of compassion: first coursefrogs' legs, which are cut off while the frogs are still alive; second course-[marine] turtle soup, commonly exported by some signatory nations of CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species; third and main course-monkey brains. Here is Nichol's account of proper decorum for the stillliving main course: "Each diner dips a

REVIEWS

bread stick or something similar into the soft, creamy brain tissue and munches it with suitably appreciative noises while the monkey blinks solemnly at them until the eyes close for the last time-and all the brain disappears down the throats of these sophisticated, civilized people." I'll spare you the dessert.

This is only a glance at Nichol's research, which he admits is a necessarily incomplete account of the trade. Nonetheless, it is enough to overwhelm most



An orphaned leopard-cute, but certain to face a quick end.

animal activists already concerned with the routine exploitation of animals by Western institutions - some of which are closely linked to and dependent upon animal trading. For those anxious to hear that the situa-

tion is improving, Nichol comments that the legal trade in live animals " . . . is no longer conducted on the scale of the 1960s, when airlines regularly carried more animal passengers than human." But other factors that might indicate the situation is improving are more ambiguous in their effects than an initial glance might suggest. For example, many countries have become signatories to CITES. But CITES, an international treaty designed to protect certain wild species, has proven to be only as strong as each signatory country's desire to honor it. The problem is that more and more countries, while publicly dedicated to the protection of these species, do not adhere to CITES conservation standards in practice. Nichol adds, "The public face of officialdom in every country either maintains that the problem is nonexistent or that it is very minor, and whenever someone is caught much is

made of it." With serious economic problems, many countries regard the detailed documents of conservationists as "meaningless". Nichols cites India as the only country which has legitimately enforced its laws and put a serious dent in the trade in endangered animals.

Undeniably, conservation laws have altered the trade in animals, but so have other factors such as shrinking habitat and reduced animal populations. Aware of those trends, some dealers are relying less on wild populations and more on captive breeding systems. This trend threatens to institutionalize, in a longterm sense, the brisk international trade in animals. Further, it may not ease the stress on wild populations, as traders can claim that wild animals are actually ranched and can dump their products on markets otherwise closed to them. In the U.S., the increased promotion of "game meats", and the tremendous demand for tropical birds (the bird trade into the U.S. is enormous-Nichol says we have gone "parrot mad") indicate that the desire for the exotic is increasing here as well.

Finally, Nichol is correct in pointing out that habitat destruction threatens animal populations most seriously. Nichol says . don't let anyone tell you that it [rainforest destruction] is being done by the poor starving peasant who is trying to eke out a meagre living in the face of starvation." Undeniably, large corporations are behind that process. To combat their economic and political influence, he maintains the only way to preserve wild areas is to commercialize them-a trend that many groups interested in protecting individual animals and species are already promoting.

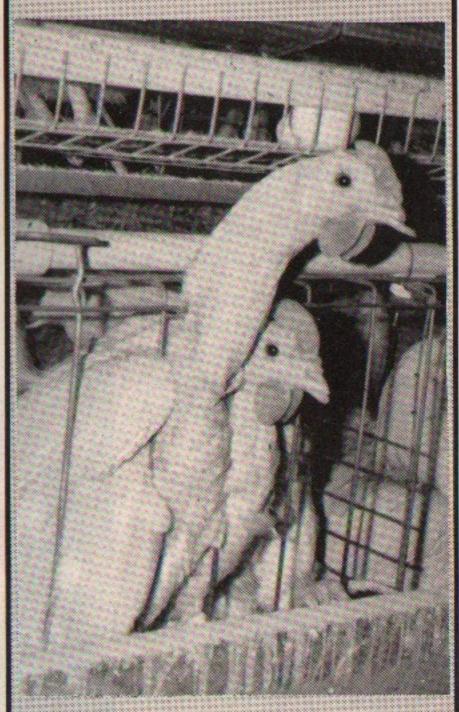
At the same time though, there are other things we can do. Besides strengthening CITES standards, we must convince signatories of CITES that it is in their national interest to protect species. In a more general sense, we must look unfavorably upon institutions and individuals who demand and use these products in the West. It must be made socially unacceptable to have a parrot in the house, reptile skins on the feet, or a frog leg in the mouth. Nichol's axiom, "As long as there is someone who wants something bad enough there will be someone else who is willing to meet that demand," must be taken seriously.

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-Victor H. Hugo

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FORUM

Continued from page 43

become popular beyond our wildest nightmares, it seems to me that the only way to go now is to cut the market altogether. As in the late Sixties, it must once again be bad to be seen in a fur coat. In the Sixties, half of the wholesale furriers in New York went out of business; this showed that it is possible for the market to "dry up". It can be done again, though it may be more difficult this time since the industry is now larger and the mood of the country more self-indulgent.

Doris Primack
Coordinator of
Animals in Politics.



DORIS PRIMACK

ment, the mere existence of a controversy on fake furs is puzzling. The argument seems to confuse the appearance of fur with its origin—or aesthetics with ethics. The crux of the matter, after all, is not the look of a product but where it comes from. Looking at the range of winter garments, there are real ethical arguments against using wool and down coats. Cruelty-free living is full of "fakes", from synthetic shoes and handbags to tempeh "burgers" and tofu "cheese"—all of which could be said to evoke and perpetuate the desire for the "real thing". Yet none of these come under attack because those sensitized to the cruelties underlying those "real things" cease to use them. The same should logically apply to non-animal "fur".

There is no denying the fact that animal fur is aesthetically appealing. If the qualities of fur can be simulated and obtained without spilling a single drop of blood, then it seems unreasonable to deny access to those products. The public is more receptive to an ethical message when it is less disruptive of the prevalent lifestyle, and it isn't fair to harm an industry which has no involvement with animal exploitation.



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FORUM



Susan Russell

Executive Vice President
of Friends of Animals.

SUSAN RUSSELL

riends of Animals believes that the wearing of fake furs, however well-intentioned, perpetuates the notion that the very "look" of wearing dead animal skins is a desirable thing—a fashion to be emulated. In fact, wearing fake skins may have a "rhinestone" effect; that is, like rhinestones which serve to raise the value of real diamonds, fake fur may make the real thing more coveted by the status seekers who are the most prominent buyers of fur.

Needless to say, our goal is to abolish the use of fur, and to do that we must create a public mindset which will see that furs are only beautiful on their original owners. To ultimately make fur a symbol of ignorance and cruelty, an unequivocal distinction must be made between those who shun furs and those who don't. Fake furs mar that distinction and muddy the waters.



Dana Stuchell
Co-founder and Vice
President of Trans-Species
Unlimited.

DANA STUCHELL

To doubt the majority of animal rights activists would like to bury all fur coats—real and fake alike. Yet any compromise which does not ultimately hurt the chances of an eventual acceptance of animal rights principles by society should be welcome. But does the promotion of fake furs help abolish the heinous fur industry?

Unfortunately, the history of anti-fur campaigns has proven that it is very difficult to persuade people to voluntarily give up real furs for fake ones. Too many women and men would rather have a stylish appearance than a clear conscience. For the most part, the fake fur industry has created an alternative for those who would love to have a fur coat but cannot afford one. Imitation being the highest form of flattery, even simulated furs reinforce the attitude that it is fashionable to wear the skin of a dead animal. If someone absolutely must have a coat that

looks like an animal skin, it is far better that he or she buys a fake rather than a real one, but far better that the person come to feel that wearing what looks like the skin of an animal is morally repugnant and unacceptable.



Christine Stevens
President of the
Animal Welfare Institute, and
Secretary of the Society for
Animal Protective Legislation.

CHRISTINE STEVENS

he new trend in fake furs deserves encouragement. Instead of seeking to replicate real fur, they announce themselves as unmistakably human-made. For example, something long and shaggy with a few big black splotches has the relation to real fur that a humorous sketch has to a photograph. At the same time, fake fur can make a warm winter coat which, in effect, makes a satirical allusion to old-fashioned coats made from the skins of creatures who have suffered hideously in steel traps. The wearing of frankly fake fur appears to be a sign that cheerful sophistication in fashion could lead away from boring barbarity: the flaunting of the skins of tortured animals as a form of conspicuous consumption.



Ethel Thurston
Chairs the U.S. office
of Beauty Without Cruelty, an
organization founded to assist
people in switching to compassionate clothing and cosmetics.

ETHEL THURSTON

Beauty Without Cruelty does not have an official position for or against fake furs, including the look-like-real ones. We are trying to maximize people's compassionate choices, and allow those who care about animals the freedom to look good—really good—in harmless ways. However, we do encourage those wearing fake furs to do what they can to publicize that they are fake, especially if they are worn onstage or in photographs where they might be mistaken for real animal skins. We are defenders of animals, not arbiters of taste.

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Continued from page 9

use of antibiotics—are very good arguments for vegetarianism. But fundamentally, I don't see an ethical argument for it.

One of my disagreements with the animal rights movement is using vegetarianism as a litmus test—saying that if you are not a vegetarian, then we won't have anything to do with you. I know that the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) group in Arizona no longer uses that as a litmus test. They encourage vegetarianism, but it is not a requirement. There needs to be a little more tolerance and a little less of a holier-than-thou attitude among ethical vegetarians.

Animal liberation philosophy, as presented by Peter Singer and Tom Regan, has been put solely in terms of ethics. Do you think there should be a greater emphasis on its social and political dimensions?

Yes, ethics is a real problematic thing. I want to get beyond good and evil. Good and evil only exist in relationship to human activities. A problem with being human is that so many of us are bound up in good and evil and that we try to abstract things. Aldo Leopold (an American ecologist and the author of A Sand County Almanac) said, "A thing is right when it tends to promote the diversity, the beauty, and the health of an ecosystem. It is wrong when it tends to do otherwise." I think human beings are the only factor that does otherwise. In a natural state, you are beyond good and evil. You just let being be.

Some Earth First!ers seem to believe that so-called primitive cultures can serve as a model for establishing our appropriate relationship with the rest of the natural world. What do you think of that idea?

I think that they can be a good role model. There is a danger, though, in the myth of the noble savage. I am a believer in the "overkill hypothesis"—that the Pleistocene megafauna was killed off primarily because of overhunting by primitive people 10,000 years ago. Primitive people can be out of balance with their environment too. The rhetoric and the rituals are very good, but sometimes the practices did not follow the philosophy.

We've got to look at ourselves as a species in biological time. We've been around as *Homo sapiens* for 300,000 years. We've been practicing agriculture for 10,000 years. We've been in an industrial world for a couple of hundred years. We've been in the atomic age for 40 years.



One of several Bald Mountain Road Blockades that took place in 1983 in southwest Oregon. That year, 44 Earth First!ers were arrested in actions intended to stop old growth timbering in the Kalmiopsis Forest.

And we've been in the computer age for about ten years. Yet we establish the standards of today as the norm, even though they represent a fraction of our time on earth. The hunter-gatherer tribal group represents the most sustainable, the most democratic, the happiest, and the healthiest social system human beings have ever had. Gary Snyder (a radical environmental author and poet) says that we've been in the back eddy of culture for 16,000 years. What we need to do is get out into the main flow again.

Do you think that Native Americans trying to make it in our culture according to their traditions should be exempt from criticism about their killing of wildlife?

No, I don't think anyone should be immune from criticism. For example, I'm opposed to trapping by anybody, because I think it is unnecessarily cruel. I see it as being part of the world economic system. If an Athapascan Indian in the interior of Alaska wants to trap for his own use, then let him use a dead fall instead of a steel trap manufactured in Pennsylvania. Let him use the fur for his own use instead of selling it to some New York furrier. If you want to be a subsistence hunter, then use the traditional tools.

What are some issues that animal liberationists and radical environmentalists can jointly work on?

DECEMBER 1987

There are many issues. Mountain lion hunting in California, the imprisonment of the last California condor, the destruction of grizzly bears by the National Park Service and the Forest Service in and around Yellowstone, the capturing of primates for laboratory research, whaling, marine mammal killing, and driftnet fishing are all issues we can jointly work on.

You don't have to totally agree with somebody's world view or ethics to cooperate with that person on certain campaigns. We need to do that more. We will always be coming from slightly different perspectives, but I'd like to see us try to get a little closer together. People dealing with ecosystem concerns tend to forget compassion for individual creatures, and having a connection with animal rights activists helps us see that more clearly.

What do you think of direct action by the Animal Liberation Front (ALF)?

I think it is very good. I would question, now and then, the priorities, in terms of targets, set by the ALF. For example, there are better targets than a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet. A fur store is a much better target. A lab experimenting on primates is a much better target. We have limited energy and a limited capacity for action. It becomes necessary to set priorities. You are taking a chance on going to jail. Freedom is a very valuable thing and you should spend that freedom in the most valuable way possible.

What do you think of the Green movement internationally?

I consider myself a Green, but I have a little trouble with the Green movement

as it has manifested itself. I see the Greens as sitting around, hammering out details and platforms, and then doing nothing to implement them. Greens have to become activists. By focusing on electoral politics, you are opening yourself up to being co-opted. Besides, with a system that denies proportional representation, we're not going to see Green members in our government.

What does ecotopia look like for Dave Foreman?

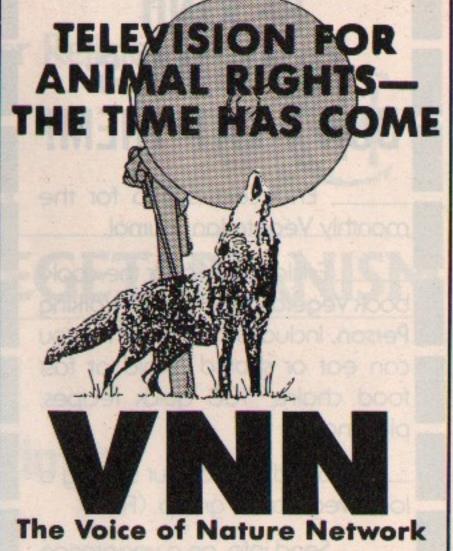
Ecotopia would be a planet with about 50 million people who are hunting and gathering for subsistence. But we aren't going to get there from here. There'll be no nice peaceful transition. I don't even know if human beings are going to be around much longer. An important statistic to remember is that 100,000 years ago there were ten million human beings and three million orangutans. Now there are five billion human beings and a few thousand orangutans. I'd like to get the balance switched back a little more.

I've decided that it is not my job to try to devise a sustainable society for the future. That is going to take generations. My job is to be a warrior, to protect threatened natural diversity where I can, and to articulate the philosophical basis for that warrior approach. I hope that other people such as the back-to-the-landers come up with good techniques on how to live. That approach is needed too. But it is not what I can do.

What are the priorities for Earth First! over the next few years?

That gets decided by local Earth First! groups. No board of directors sits down to set priorities. I can argue for general guidelines - that we've got to protect ecosystems and preserve natural diversity. But that translates into a lot of different issues-from protecting mountain lions, grizzlies, the Grand Canyon, and the Florida panther to developing visionary wilderness proposals to reintroducing the Mexican wolf into Arizona. In a volunteer group, you don't tell people what to work on-they pick something to work on. Also, there is no way to visualize how Earth First! will change over the next five years, or how the actions of the potentially repressive state might affect us. It is part of my philosophy that you do things by the seat of your pants. You trust the wind and go with it.

To receive a subscription to the Earth First! Journal, send \$15 to Earth First! Journal, P.O. Box 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703.



Many people concerned about the fate of animals and nature have long asked themselves why television—the most powerful communications medium of our time—hasn't been used more aggressively to educate the public about human abuses of the natural world.

Now—at last—an organization has been created to do just that. It's called The Voice of Nature Network (VNN), and it intends to begin putting animal rights and environmental issues before mass TV audiences.

Initially, VNN plans to produce and distribute:

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Additionally, we will work to insure the widest possible audience for animal rights films and materials already on hand, and provide technical support to animal organizations intending to use television in their own campaigns.

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LETTERS

BORN LOSER







Continued from page 4

those who are completely involved in the humanitarian aspect of the work and those who are not, but bring other skills-and to some extent, perhaps, other perspectives regarding animals that are closer to the norm of society. An organization doesn't have to be overly influenced by these norms, but I suggest that it is wise to fully understand them in order to determine how to influence public and political opinion.

> - Fred Beairsto Fredericton, N.B., Canada

Editor's Note: Your point is well taken, but selecting a good board isn't necessarily an either/or proposition. Animal rights activists come from many different backgrounds and possess a wide variety of professional skills. Indeed, directors of charitable organizations should be selected not only because of their commitment to the cause, but also with consideration given to the skills and talents they will bring to the board. Involvement in a progressive movement does not preclude business expertise, but "business acumen" should never be sought at the expense of a demonstrated dedication to the principles espoused by the

Magazine Means A Lot

I extend my most sincere appreciation for this great magazine. You assigned me to your subscription list free of charge when I wrote and conveyed that I was indigent but would like to receive it. The ANIMALS' AGENDA keeps me abreast of some of the most crucial issues plaguing our world and our society. It has opened my eyes to the hidden abuse of animals. I don't eat flesh of any kindno eggs or fish-and I don't even like wearing leather or using soap or other animal by-products. I am really appalled at how monkeys, chickens, rabbits, cows, and other animals are treated in laboratories and farms across the land. Personally, I don't believe in or condone experimentation on animals for any reason whatsoever!

I saw the notice on page four of the October issue asking readers to return unneeded copies of the June 1987 issue. I hate to part with mine, but if you are in a bind, I want to help. Therefore, I am sending it to you. The issues I have received this year have provided some of the most enjoyable, profound, and provocative reading that I believe is in circulation.

> -Clarence N. Chance Folsom Prison, California

Reducing Roadkills

Compliments on the excellent article "Roadkills: Reducing the Death Toll" in the October issue. The killing of wildlife on our roadways is somewhat like the weather: everyone complains about it, but no one does anything about it. The organization I work with is trying to do something about it.

Through our "wildlife crossings" project, we are attempting to make concern for wild animals an integral part of highway planning and engineering. Our first effort was with the toad tunnel in England. This year we are installing a salamander tunnel in Amherst, Mass.

Our work will be difficult. If your readers would like to help, we would welcome their inquiries.

- Dr. Duane R. Pierson, Executive Director Fauna & Flora Preservation Society P.O. Box 1108 Boston, MA 02130

The ANIMALS' AGENDA welcomes letters from readers, but brief succinctly-worded messages are more likely to get published. Please try to restrict letters to 250 words (one double-spaced, typed page). We reserve the right to edit all letters. Address them to LETTERS, The ANIMALS' AGENDA, P.O. Box 5234, Westport, CT 06881.

DECEMBER 1987

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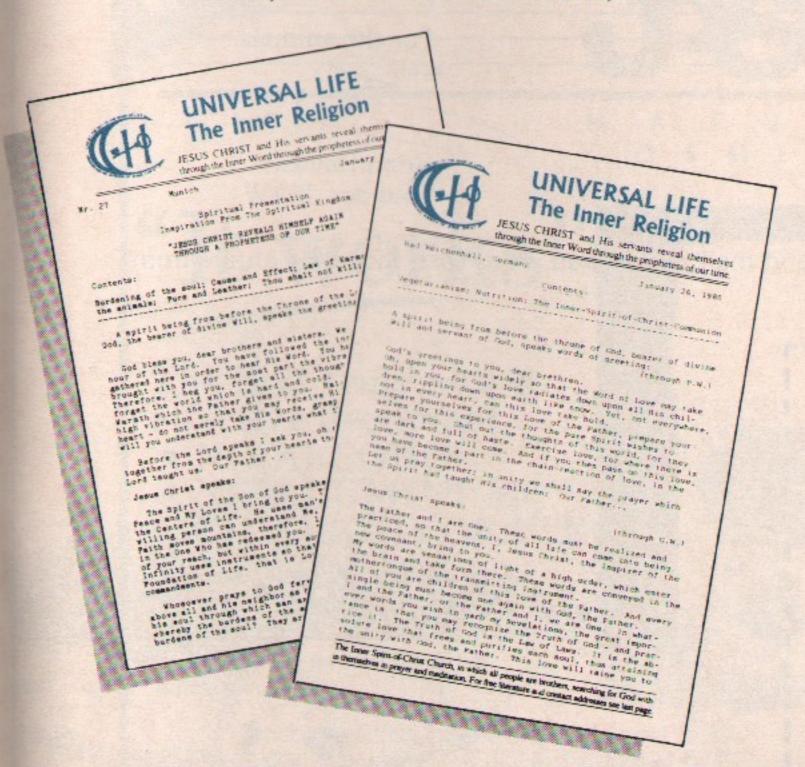
(From revelation given January 25, 1980)

ankind wears furs and leather! Don't you know that everything, including the fear of the animal, is vibration? You eat meat and for this reason you kill the animal. You hunt and you kill for your own gain. Have you ever thought how much these animals suffer, what feelings of fear these animals bear within themselves? I say to you, all these sensations of the animal enter into their organs, their skin, their fur and even into the meat. This meat is then consumed by man, with pleasure. In this prepared food vibrates the fear of the animal. It is a low vibration. How can man and the soul come into high vibration when man kills for his own pleasure? This vibration of fear remains in the leather and in the furs. No matter how many times the leather is tanned, the fear remains and transfers to the wearer."

(From revelation given January 26, 1980)

here are some among you now who are thinking, Jesus of Nazareth also ate meat. But I say to you, I was no meat-eater. When I was invited somewhere as a guest, I accepted a small portion of meat, yielding to the custom of hospitality. And when I saw that I could reach the minds of those sitting at the table with me, I then tried to teach them that meat as food is not a necessity for man.

"I say to you; vegetarianism alone will not bring you to the unification with God, but only a life of absolute fulfillment of God's Law. Whoever, as a vegetarian, only looks to his body and gives only his body a great deal of attention, will not attain the "I-AM", the absolute unification with My Father."



For free copies of full transcripts of both revelations (ask for #27 and #33) please write to:

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The ANIMALS' AGENDA

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Dear Friend of the Seals,

Each March, 250,000 harp seals enter Canada's Gulf of St. Lawrence to bear young on a vast floating ice field just west of the Magdalen Islands and north of the picturesque Atlantic Province of Prince Edward Island.

Known as whitecoats, newborn harp seals shed their snowy pelts and turn gray within three weeks. It is during this time that the vulnerable youngsters are easy prey for seal hunters. Over the past 250 years, hundreds of thousands of the pups were killed each year for their fur.

There is no doubt in my mind that the baby harp seal is one of the loveliest creatures on earth. Those big dark and inquisitive eyes captivate you. Across the nurseries, cries of baby seals ring out as their furry bodies wriggle along the ice.

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Brian Davies Founder, IFAW

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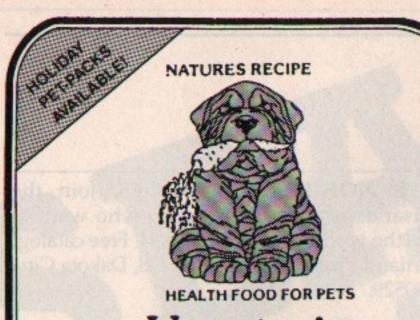
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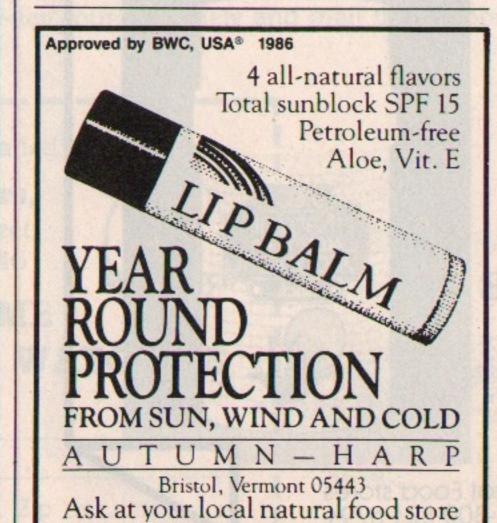
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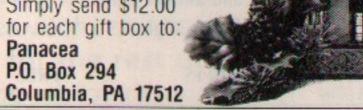
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-Henry Salt

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· Whale Adoption Project · Volume 2, No. 1 Xnow all persons that is Official Protector of the Humphack Whale called said whale a usual summer resident of lwagen Bank, Cape Cod. Massachusetts, USA WHALING CAN ENDand that no person shall interfere with said USA KEY TO VICTORY Whale's right of way or pursuit of happiness under pain of said Protector's severe displeasure end all commercial ing the months following The final victory in this current battle for whales lies with President Ronald Reagan. It is up to President Reagan to use the power at his diaposal . . . and inside reports confirm this is at they intend to just what he is doing. Allocations have already been out for Japan, and Noeway is reportedly feeling the pressure, too. (Whale Adoption Project) strong and consistent. The whale-killing nations are putting a strong international diplomatic protest, a protest involving foreign trade and absurd threats concerning national defense The International Fund for Animal Welfare, through its Whale Adoption Project, is urging all its members to write to President Reagan urging him to maintain a strong stand against the Japanese, Norwegians and Russians. A postcard l been provided with this newsletter, and it is most impor-that you use it to send the President some words of end

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Grade-school student, S. Lyndeborough, NH, Vegetarian, Animal Protectionist, Anti-hunter Magazine: The ANIMALS' AGENDA

"We've always had cats and dogs, and we've loved them very much.

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