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# the ANIMALS' AGENDA

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# The ANIMALS' AGENDA

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1988 VOLUME VIII NO. 1

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**PAGE TWO**

# **The Price of Progress**

Social change always costs, and usually costs dearly. Though much of the price must be paid in blood, sweat, and tears, there are costs that can be measured in dollars and cents, too. It's an awkward subject for an editorial page, but The ANIMALS' AGENDA finds it necessary at this time to share with readers information concerning its financial state, so that you can understand why it is essential for subscribers to begin providing greater financial sustenance to this important enterprise.

The subscription price of The ANIMALS' AGENDA simply does not cover overhead. And unlike commercial magazines, The ANIMALS' AGENDA isn't in business to sell advertising—though ad sales do bring in much-needed funds. Donations over and above the price of the magazine—large and small—have always helped to make up the considerable difference between publishing costs and subscription revenues. Adding additional strain to that situation, the size of the magazine increased by 30 percent in 1987—raising printing and mailing costs, but allowing for longer and stronger feature articles, more news and news analyses, and the addition or extension of magazine sections and columns. This expansion in size required the addition of several new employees last year, making the payroll one of our biggest expenses—even though all employees receive the same modest wage.

In addition to our staff writers, we must regularly commission articles from outside writers—many of them experts in medicine, biology, zoology, agriculture, or the earth sciences. Some of them are able to donate their articles to us, but others—those who freelance to support their activism—must receive some compensation for their work. It is often necessary to pay for artwork, too, and photographs. We are able to pay so little, compared to commercial magazines, that price negotiations tend to be an embarrassing ordeal.

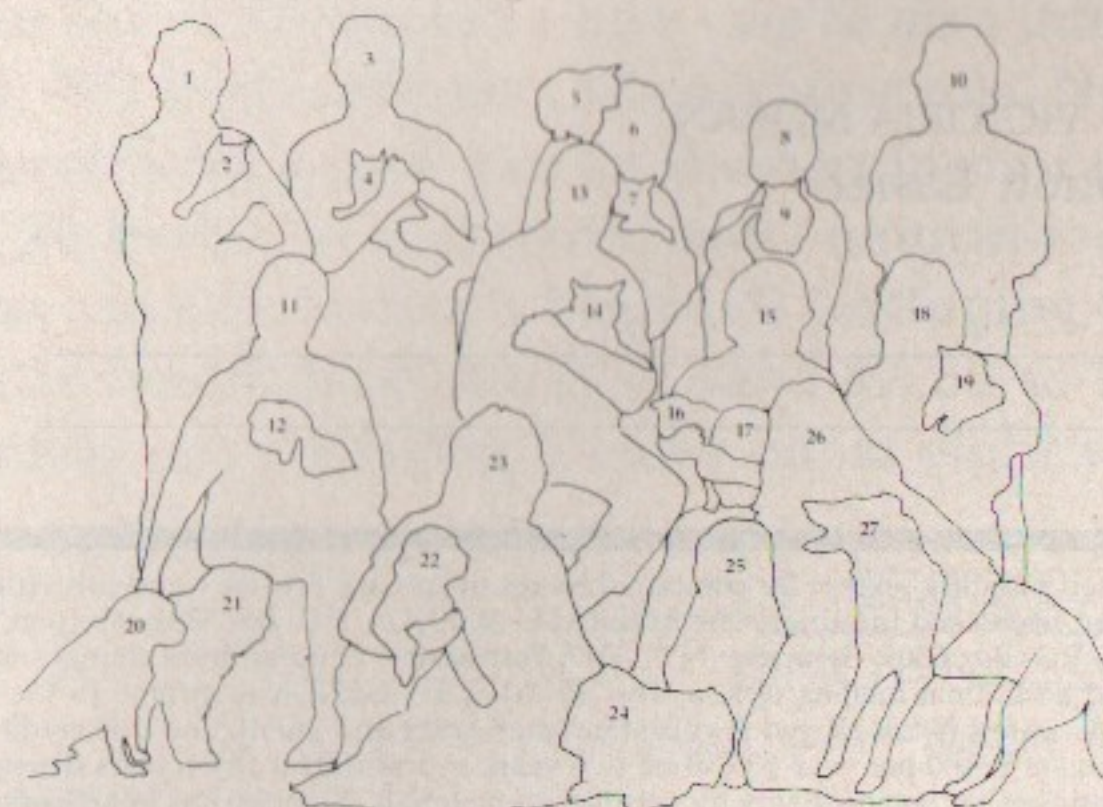
We're not asking for sympathy, but we do need your help. And so we ask each of you to spend a few minutes thinking about what The ANIMALS' AGENDA means to you and to the animals. And if you share our belief that The ANIMALS' AGENDA must continue its work, please find a way to help. Your monetary support, whatever amount it might be, could help put The ANIMALS' AGENDA on a more prosperous path in 1988.

Donations of any amount are tax-deductible, and will be warmly welcomed. For those who can afford a sizable contribution, becoming a Sustainer is one of the best ways to help. Sustainers pledge \$250, \$500, \$1,000, or more per year, to be paid—if they wish—in quarterly installments. A Sustainer coupon is on page 17 in this issue, and invitations to subscribers to join the Sustainer program will be mailed early in January.

The ANIMALS' AGENDA is *your* magazine, and now's the time to make a commitment to ensure its future.

## **Organizational notes**

We would like to officially welcome Ed Duvin, creator of *Animalines*, to our Board of Directors, and thank two retiring boardmembers, Ronnie Bamberger and Lori Gruen, for their past service.



*Happy New Year  
from the  
Animals of Agenda!*

- 1) Doug, 2) Sylvester, 3) Wayne,  
4) Ashanti, 5) Brigita, 6) Kim,  
7) Voltaire, 8) Deborah, 9) Binky,  
10) Steve, 11) Leslie, 12) Nicole,  
13) Patrice, 14) Junior, 15) Louise,  
16) Yahoo, 17) Jupiter, 18) Debbie,  
19) Mama, 20) Sophie, 21) Dudley,  
22) Paki, 23) Trudy, 24) Mickey,  
25) Hank, 26) Jean, 27) Zooky

## **LETTERS**

### **Pit Bull Tragedy**

The October 1987 *Comment* ("Jaws V—The Culture of Pit Bulls") did not accurately state the position of Lifeforce. This organization was formed in 1980 to address issues which involve the inter-relationship of human, animal, and environmental problems. The increasing number of severe and often fatal attacks on people and animals by pit bulls makes the pit bull tragedy a major concern.

It was two years ago when Lifeforce issued the first press release ever on "Banning Pit Bulls". What seemed to be an unusual action for an organization known to protect the rights of animals was necessary because of an increase in savage attacks on people and other animals. Lifeforce urged politicians to protect both human and pet populations by enacting tight controls on existing "owners" and by prohibiting future sales of pit bulls. Media coverage helped expose the life-threatening problem. On June 23, 1987, the Vancouver City Council enacted amendments to their bylaws which will attempt to reduce attacks by any vicious dog. Other cities are following suit. But the regulations do little more than what supporters of dogfights recommend: to leash and muzzle the dogs when the animals are off the "owner's" property, and to adequately control them on the property.

Pit bulls have been bred for the sole

purpose of fighting and killing—"gameness". They have a great tolerance for pain, and do not respond to displays of submissive behavior by other animals (which would normally end a fight). Even if they are not trained to fight, they are a potential threat. By contrast, predatory traits in most breeds of dog have been reduced through selective breeding.

Humane organizations are faced with a moral dilemma caused by unscrupulous dogfighters and breeders. We have to ask ourselves, "Does the pit bull, a human creation, have a place in our society?" And we must answer, "No!" We must ban the breeding and training of vicious animals in order to protect people, other companion animals, and the pit bulls themselves who are treated as objects—as killing machines. Animal rights organizations will tarnish the image of all other breeds if they take the position that a pit bull is no different than a poodle.

—Peter Hamilton  
Lifeforce

Box 3117, Main Post Office  
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 3X6

I would like to know what makes people blame pit bulls for their ferocity. I don't believe they are "by nature aggressive". "Owners" are responsible for their temperament.

How can animal rights groups suggest that these animals "be phased out of ex-



### **More letters on Page 52**

istence"? I thought they were supposed to help animals, not rid the world of certain breeds. Any animal who is treated with neglect and cruelty will become aggressive. What about dobermans and German shepherds? These dogs are just as dangerous if treated poorly.

I would like to suggest that people look to the abusers and not the abused when enacting laws against pit bulls. Abusers of pit bulls should not be allowed to "own" animals, and breeders should not be allowed to breed dogs for aggression.

—Donna Martin  
Victoria, BC, Canada

### **A Controversy Over "Crustacean Cruelty"**

Opening the November 1987 issue and finding your "more humane" recipe for killing and cooking lobsters and crabs ("Crustacean Cruelty") was a shocking and disturbing as it would be to open an issue of *Ms. Magazine* and find the following advisory on "date rape":

"We oppose all forms of forced sexual intercourse, i.e., rape, and do not want to give the impression that we approve of such activity under any circumstances. However, as long as men are continuing to rape women, we think it is important to recommend some guidelines that would make the experience less painful and humiliating for the victim, especially in the case of date rape. First: Get her drunk. Studies show that women who are raped after consuming 5.4 ounces of alcohol do not suffer the same degree of panic, fear, pain, discomfort, and humiliation that sober women do. Naturally, the amount of alcohol needed to achieve the desired degree of grogginess will vary from woman to woman, and will depend somewhat on the speed with which it is consumed. However, most experienced men know when she's drunk enough. We urge readers to photocopy these instructions and leave them in college locker rooms, in men's rooms everywhere—especially in singles bars—in liquor stores, and anywhere else they might serve their purpose."

Parodies aside, we just don't buy your rationale for printing step-by-step instruc-

Continued on page 52



Neil Swanson



# Wyoming's Predator Defender

An Interview  
With Dick Randall

BY WAYNE PACELLE

To provide us with some context, can you tell us when the Federal government first developed and implemented a systematic predator control policy?

In 1909, Congress earmarked part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) annual appropriation "for experiment and demonstration in destroying noxious animals." But it wasn't until 1931 that the Congress enacted what's known as the Predator and Rodent Control Act that authorized the Secretary of the Interior to eradicate or bring under control a whole host of animals including wolves, coyotes, bobcats, prairie dogs, gophers, ground squirrels, jack rabbits, and other animals believed injurious to agriculture, forestry, and animal husbandry.

What specifically prompted the enactment of the 1931 act?

That was back in the days when the West was being won—about the time we succeeded in exterminating the gray wolf in the lower 48. And of course, the feeling then—and even today, somewhat—is that some predators should not have been put on Earth to start with.

What agencies of the Federal government implement wildlife management policies?

Since 1915, it has been the USFWS in the Department of the Interior. Beginning last year, as a result of lobbying by the livestock industry and ranchers, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), which is a branch of the USDA, started administering the programs. This is a dangerous development because the USDA is, by its association with ranchers and farmers, necessarily predisposed to sympathize with predator control campaigns. Any management of predacious species should have stayed

with USFWS, which is already involved in many wildlife issues, such as endangered species and refuge work.

Have you noticed any increase in predator killing since management responsibility changed departments? We really haven't had the time to do ground checks, but I have been getting phone calls from New Mexico, Arizona, and a few other states reporting that predator control has, in fact, been stepped up very much.

Take us back 25 or 30 years to your predator control days. I'm interested in finding out what some of your tasks were.

I signed on with the USFWS about the time the predator poison Compound 1080 was replacing thallium sulfate. The simple solution to a complex problem was, and still is, slaughter the "bad" to protect the "good".

My work varied somewhat, depending on the area and the annual appropriation to the department. In the spring when ewes were having lambs and coyotes were having litters, my job was to search out and destroy any coyote pups or adults I could find. Coyote numbers were at their lowest in that season, so if lots of pups were killed, coyote numbers would decrease.

In the summer, when sheep moved to the mountains, I moved with them. Not deterred by the altitude, coyotes were still interested in sheep and I was interested in them. Black bears and sometimes grizzlies, thinking some benevolent soul had set the table, also dined on sheep. More often, panicking when a bear wandered by, sheep scattered and got lost in the forest or fell off cliffs. Generally, any bear who lived in mountain areas where sheep grazed was fair game for me.

Late fall months were trap-setting time, and the outer covering of my trap victims was auctioned, with proceeds going into a pot to help pay trappers' wages. Winter months were mostly spent in helicopters or fixed-wing aircraft, removing the undesirables with a 12-gauge shotgun loaded with BB shot.

You say that pelts from your trapline were sold and the money collected was used to pay trappers' wages. Does that mean that the government is in the fur business?

When Federal agents trap predators, they don't just throw away the skins. They turn them over to the USFWS, which auc-

Continued on next page



Dick Randall

Animals at the top of the food chain accumulate concentrated amounts of the poisons scattered throughout the environment by predator controllers. This golden eagle, held up by Dick Randall, tested positive for Compound 1080.

At 62, Dick Randall is into his second decade of work with Defenders of Wildlife, the Washington D.C.-based preservation group. He's no highly paid lobbyist in the nation's capitol, but a field representative in the boondocks of a state whose capital, Cheyenne, boasts only 48,000 people. In Rock Springs, Wyoming, Randall shares space with people who could never be distinguished for their sensitivity to animals. Randall is good at understanding their mindset, though. For about ten years, his mind was set on a single task: killing predators. As an agent of the Animal Damage Control branch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Randall ended thousands of lives—coyotes' mainly—by using an arsenal of traps, guns, and poisons in a war that should never have been fought. But with his regrettable history and social conditioning behind him, Randall commands credibility with those he talks to—whether they are members of Congress; government trappers; or interviewers from The ANIMALS' AGENDA.

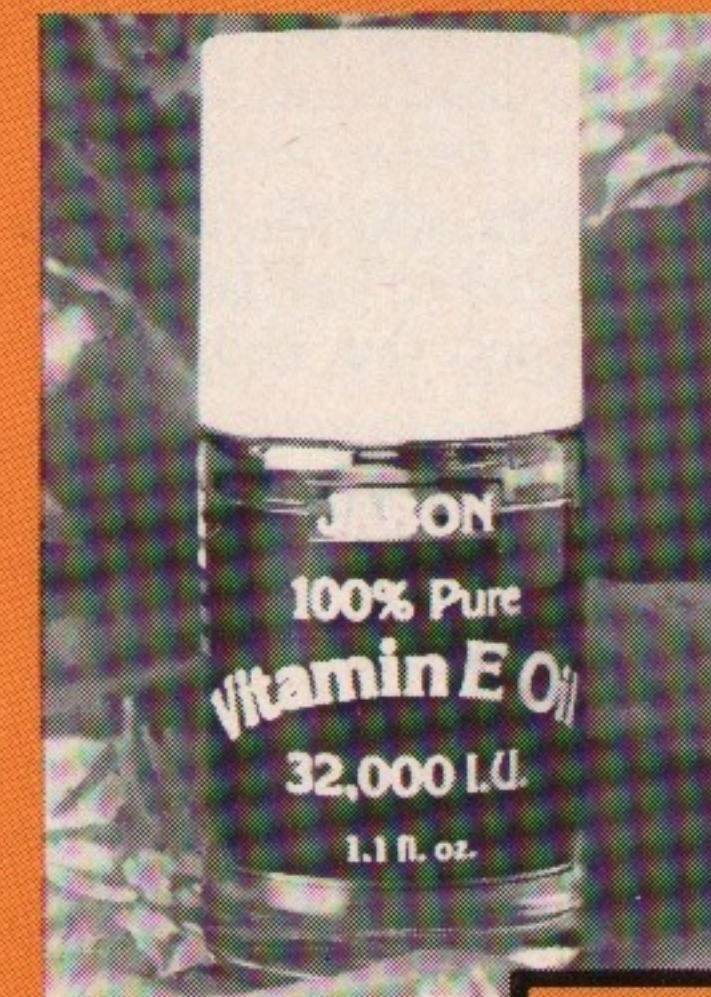
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*Continued from previous page*  
tions them to fur traders. The revenue that the USFWS gets goes back into predator control. In that sense, they do legwork for the fur industry and fill the agency's coffers at the same time.

They have also supported the fur industry in other ways. For instance, according to USFWS records, before African spotted cat skins were banned for export, bobcats were not considered to be any threat to livestock. After the African spotted cats were banned and the price of bobcat skins went up, USFWS literature changed its tone and unequivocally stated that bobcats were causing lots of problems and needed to be killed. That situation only lasted for a couple of years, but it did bring in more money for predator control and led to the destruction of lots of bobcats, who are one of the easiest mammals to trap.

#### Were sheep the animals you were generally assigned to protect?

Yes, most predator control was originally supposed to benefit the sheep industry. If you go back 20 years, you see that Western cattle ranchers did not support the use of poisons for predator control. They viewed the coyote as a valuable ally in rodent control. But due to economics, many former sheep ranchers now raise cattle, and they brought their predator control philosophy with them. Today, the Cattlemen's Association supports the use of poisons, and lobbies for more taxpayer money to increase the body count.

#### Could you tell us how animal control policies evolved in the decade you worked for the Federal government?

During the heyday of the predator poisons, the public didn't have the slightest idea that Western rangelands, mostly public land, were laced with every kind of poison known to humans. One thing that documented the killing and alerted the public was a book by Jack Olsen called *Slaughter the Animals, Poison the Earth* (1971). But the public really woke up when President Nixon banned the use of toxicants on public lands to kill predators. The Environmental Protection Agency upheld this position by de-listing certain toxicants. Unfortunately, Ronald Reagan reauthorized the use of 1080 in sheep collars in order, theoretically, to poison attacking coyotes.

Those are the only significant changes I can see. Certainly the changes do not come internally. They come from outside pressure. The theory behind the predator killing is still there: if you kill lots of predators, especially coyotes, foxes,

## INTERVIEW



*Aerial hunters are effective in amassing a high "body count".*

mountain lions, bears, then cows and sheep can sleep in peace. It's time we recognize that this philosophy has never worked, and it never will.

#### How have the methods of killing changed over the years?

When predator poisons were banned, the controllers turned to aerial hunting, using both helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. In winter, when the snow is deep and predators have no place to hide, thousands of the "unwanted" are felled by shotguns.

Because of a loophole in the "Aerial Hunting Act" which states "if an animal is doing, or about to do damage", states can license anyone to kill predators from aircraft. Some people get their jollies killing coyotes from aircraft. Others, especially helicopter hunters, collect pelts for dollars, even though they may live on the other side of the state. Congress should remove the loophole allowing sport and

Coyotes have thrived despite attempts to eradicate them, but other species haven't been so lucky. Which ones have been eliminated, endangered, or threatened by wildlife management policies?

Certainly the wolf. And rodent poisons knocked the black-footed ferret into the endangered species classification. Great numbers of eagles were also destroyed, though they are now making a comeback. In the area where I put out poison, wolverines—who usually lived in the high mountains—were knocked almost to extinction. I know we hurt the marten. In areas loaded with Compound 1080, there were none. Today, without 1080 in those same areas, they are flourishing.

#### What is the situation with the use of pesticides and toxicants in the West today?

Predator toxicants are banned on public land except for 1080 in sheep collars. But there has always been a black market for strychnine, 1080, and others. Two years ago, north of Rock Springs, a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) biologist and I found a sheep carcass with three golden eagles, several buckets of magpies, and a couple of coyotes dead nearby. The lab that tested this carcass found out that warbex had been put on it. Warbex is a pesticide used for killing warbles (worms that get in the backs of cattle). This is the type of pesticide you can buy off the shelf. What we've been finding in Washington, Oregon, Texas, and several other states is that the "grapevine" has told ranchers that if they want to kill something they don't need 1080 or strychnine—they can go out and buy these pesticides which will do even better because they kill everything. In fact, the only reason poisons have been used historically is because they are the cheapest way to kill massive numbers of wild creatures.

#### Is there much plausible evidence indicating that predators seriously cut into livestock populations?

Most of the polls that have to do with losses due to predators are from ranchers. I think a whole lot of ranchers are very honest people, but some of them inflate their losses terribly. When I worked for the USFWS, it didn't take me very long to find out who was telling the truth and who wasn't.

#### Does a coyote actually present any threat to a cow?

The last reports I have read show that

*Continued on next page*



## INTERVIEW

Continued from previous page

ranchers report less than a tenth of one percent of their calves and cows are lost to coyotes.

**What is the general attitude in most academic circles about the role predators play in an ecosystem?**

Academia is promoting the idea that predators are a necessary part of an ecosystem. Certainly when it comes to natural selection, predators are much better at it than we are. They enhance the quality of the gene pool of their prey by killing the weak and the sick. Conversely, the trophy hunter kills the largest and grandest animal he can find. A few centuries ago, a huge, magnificent species of bear lived in Europe. Today, after centuries of trophy killing, the former gigantic ursus stands about as tall as a German shepherd, is quite docile, and is mostly nocturnal.

Scientists have also been studying the coyote, the animal that taxpayers have contributed hundreds of millions of dollars to control. Dr. Frederick Knowlton of Utah State University found that you must kill 50 percent of the coyotes in a given area to reach the break-even point, and even more than 50 percent the next year. You have to kill an even higher percentage to reduce the population. Surely an exercise in futility, but talk about job security!

**What contributed to your change in attitude about the work you did?**



— Dick Rendall

*"Denning" is nothing like sitting around in a comfortable room of the house watching television. It is a brutal "control" technique. One form of it involves an agent driving out coyote pups with smoke, and then dispatching the choking and blinded pups with a shovel.*

I began to see the futility in the endless killing of predators and non-target wildlife who got in the way. Coyotes, unlike the gray wolf, have made a fool of the system by not only surviving, but by expanding their range to Eastern states. It's time we began protecting livestock, not killing predators.

**Did you feel a moral or ethical conflict**

**in killing the animals?**

Yes, but if you spent much time debating ethics with yourself you couldn't do the job you were being paid for. I did reach a point where I could not kill a coyote pup. The futility of it all came home to roost in the 1968-69 winter. It snowed, and kept snowing. The sagebrush was covered, and from an airplane you could spot a coyote a mile away. We operated three aircraft out of Rock Springs and broke all kinds of aerial coyote hunting records. The next spring you had to ride a horse a long way to find a coyote track. But trouble calls from ranchers, saying that they couldn't stand the losses, totaled about the same as the previous spring when there were lots of coyotes.

**How can we effectively communicate our concerns about wildlife to the Federal government?**

I think we have been doing a darn good job. The Endangered Species Act says that American people care about the future of flora and fauna. Education is playing a major role in teaching the value of wildlife and their habitat. Ranchers in several states are beginning to support guard dog programs to protect livestock. And research on aversives and other innovations that protect livestock instead of killing predators is progressing. We still have a long way to go, but we are getting there. Imagine what it would be like if a lot of people didn't care.

## COMING SOON

◆ **ZOOS LIKEN THEMSELVES TO NOAH'S ARK**, collectively conserving rare creatures while habitat destruction wipes out over a hundred species a day. That means intensive breeding while irreplaceable animals are in their prime, and the "culling" of unneeded or unwanted individuals to make room for "better specimens". What happens to surplus zoo animals?

◆ **A SENSIBLE MEDICAL CARE SYSTEM** would be based on prevention of disease. Yet public health agencies continue to invest almost exclusively in research geared towards developing cures. Most medical problems can be traced directly to lifestyle, but people have been led to believe that hiring researchers to destroy animals in laboratories is the best way to improve human health.

◆ **A PHILOSOPHER "WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD"**, Michael Allen Fox tells how he came to reverse his stand on the ethics of animal experimentation. Several months after writing the only major philosophical book to attempt a defense of vivisection, Fox publicly rejected his own thesis. A brave and honest man shares his experience of self-examination.

# THE AMERICAN HUNTING MYTH

**How hunter-dominated state and federal wildlife agencies are systematically destroying America's wildlife and natural lands and what you can do to help restructure these agencies and insure a responsible stewardship over America's wildlife.**

Every day in North America more than half a million wild animals are killed as a result of the combined efforts of recreational hunters, state and federal wildlife managers, and "varmint" shooters. Tens of thousands of other animals are wounded or crippled by bullets or arrows or are maimed by steel traps or suffer slow deaths from poisoning. Hunters and government wildlife officials call these enterprises "wildlife management," but many naturalists and ecologists, including Ron Baker, consider these practices cruel and irresponsible.

In his book *The American Hunting Myth*, Baker examines the so-called "sport" of hunting and the destructive system that state and federal wildlife agencies use to perpetuate it. One by one, he convincingly refutes the arguments that hunters and wildlife officials use to defend recreational hunting. He graphically illustrates how greed for more funding by state game bureaus results in environmentally destructive practices; how politicians on both the state and federal levels use their influence to expand public hunting; how traditional beliefs about nature are partly responsible for the nonecological educations received by college and university students who train to become wildlife biologists and wildlife managers and how this training ensures land and wildlife mismanagement practices; how game management creates artificial "surpluses" of hunted species, which often exist to the detriment of nongame and endangered wildlife; how controlled hunting often increases deer starvation; how the killing of so-called "nuisance" animals is destructive to species and ecosystems; how many species that are rare, threatened, or endangered are legally killed by American hunters; how the current system of managing wildlife has been a biological, ecological, and social disaster; how a significant percentage of hunters oppose a wilderness ethic; how nonhunting citizens unintentionally support the hunting lobby with their money; how hunting results in innumerable violations of nonhunters' constitutional rights; how hunting often helps to foster an insensitivity to life that sometimes results in violence and criminality; the real reasons why people hunt; how hunting could be phased out in favor of sound wildlife management practices; and, finally, what you can do to help end the carnage and ensure a humane stewardship over America's wildlife.

*The American Hunting Myth* is not a chronicle of sensationalized horror stories. It is an unemotional and meticulously researched work. It is both a vehicle that points the way to reform and a plea for the development of an environmental ethic before time runs out for wildlife and ourselves.

**"Baker builds a strong case for the abolition of recreational hunting. This is a much needed book."**

—R. D. Lawrence, author of *Paddy: A Canadian Naturalist's Story of an Orphan Beaver*, *The North Runner*, and *Secret Go the Wolves*.

### About the Author

Ron Baker has had an intense interest in the outdoors that has spanned most of his forty-two years. A serious student of wildlife for most of his adult life, he began crusading for animals and the environment during the late 1960s. Among his many other projects, he campaigned in Vermont for the curtailment of snowmobile and ORV use in that state's wilderness areas. In rural Massachusetts, he helped to plan legal action to halt construction of both a highway and a pipeline, each of which would have destroyed thousands of acres of natural lands. He is the former editor and publisher of *Backwoods Journal*, a nature-appreciation quarterly, and a frequent contributor to *Agenda*, the news magazine of the Animal Rights Network. He is an active member of several animal protection and environmental organizations and serves as vice-president of the White Plains (New York)-based, 2,000-member Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting. He lives with his wife in a log cabin in the Adirondack wilderness of northern New York State.

### THE AMERICAN HUNTING MYTH

by Ron Baker \$10.95

(275 pages, hardcover)

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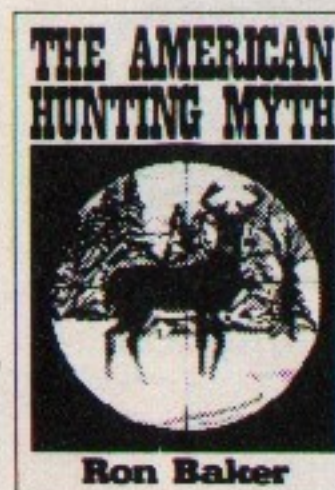
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## NETWORK NOTES

### Translators Needed

The Hans Ruesch Foundation/CIVITAS is in need of persons who can translate manuscripts from foreign languages (especially German and Italian) into English. The group is not able to pay a salary, but can cover translators' expenses. Contact: Bina Robinson, The Hans Ruesch Foundation/CIVITAS, P.O. Box 26, Swain, NY 14884; (607) 545-6213.

### Genesis Awards

The second annual Genesis Awards ceremony, honoring those in the media whose work has contributed to increased understanding of animal issues, was held by the Fund for Animals on November 7 in Hollywood, Calif. Among the 20 award recipients were: the film *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*, which dealt with humpback whales (Leonard Nimoy, director/co-writer/co-star); PBS' "MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour", for a report on legislation to protect animals in research (Michael Tobias, segment producer); composer Paul Winter, for his *Whales Alive* album; and *Harry and the Hendersons*, a movie with vegetarian and anti-hunting overtones (William Dear, director/co-producer/co-writer).



Animal abuse is illogical.

### Bone China

Those interested in avoiding the use of slaughterhouse by-products should keep in mind that some china dishware—that which is known as "bone china"—is made of a mixture of 50 percent ground bone (usually from oxen) and 50 percent clay.



### Direct Action Down Under

Direct action—i.e., raids to free animals and cause economic losses to animal exploiters—is on the increase in Australia. The most prominent liberation group in the country is Action for Animals (not connected to groups with similar names in the U.S.). Three activists from the group have been arrested and charged in connection with an alleged raid to free 16 hens from a battery egg farm in Carum Downs, Victoria: a defense fund has been established to help with their legal representation. Those interested in supporting the arrestees may contact: The Supporters Group for Animal Activists, P.O. Box 519, Eltham, Victoria, 3095 Australia.

### Winter Warning

Remember, antifreeze spills should be cleaned up *right away*, because dogs are attracted to the sweet taste of antifreeze and may become poisoned. Symptoms of antifreeze poisoning are: staggering, lack of coordination, and depression in the first few hours after ingestion—followed by vomiting, kidney pain, and death by kidney failure up to two days later if enough antifreeze is ingested. Don't put your dog or your neighbor's dog through this. Also, remember that cats often seek shelter under the hoods of cars when it's cold or wet. If you live in an area frequented by cats, bang on your car hood or honk the horn as a warning before starting the engine.

### Something Wild

The Peninsula Humane Society (PHS) is offering, free of charge, a series of articles on nonlethal means of handling wildlife problems. For copies, write to PHS at: 12 Airport Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94401.

### Superman Takes On Vivisection

Thumbs up to D.C. Comics, for its *Superman Annual #1*, a comic book with a decidedly anti-vivisectionist theme. In a story by John Byrne, Ron Frenz, and Brett Breeding, Superman and Lois Lane challenge a researcher conducting painful experiments on a nonhuman primate in a secret Pentagon project. Readers may write to D.C. (666 5th Ave., New York, NY 10103) and express their thanks for the story.

### Wear Your Heart on Your Lapel

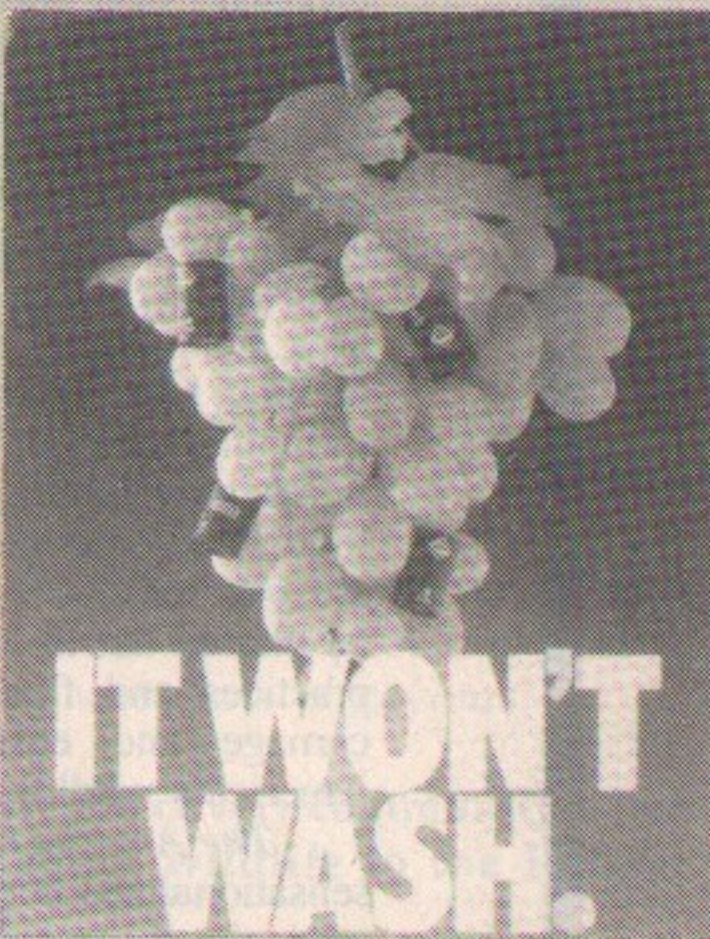
Animal Rights Connection (ARC), a grassroots animal rights organization in San Francisco, Calif., is offering buttons featuring two different animal rights messages: "I'm not eating meat for the animals' sake" and "Imprisoned without trial: boycott zoos". Specify desired message and send \$1 for each button to: ARC, P.O. Box 640203, San Francisco, CA 94109.

### WAWG Membership Draw

The World Animal Welfare Group (WAWG), headquartered in England, has come up with a unique way to network with activists around the world while raising funds for animals at the same time. The WAWG "Membership Draw" is basically a giant, worldwide, lifelong raffle—entered for a one-time fee of £1.50 (about \$2.61 in U.S. funds). The proceeds earn interest which is used to pay out the prizes, with winners getting to name the animal protection organization of their choice to receive the monetary prize. Each person is entered for life and has many chances to win; drawings are held monthly. For more details, write to WAWG at: 8 Paslows, Vange, Basildon, Essex SS16 4LS, England.

### Honor the Grape Boycott

In 1984, the United Farm Workers (UFW) launched a nationwide boycott of California table grapes in response to indifference on the part of the growers to the workers' demands, which include: free and fair elections, good faith bargaining by growers, a project to test grapes for pesticide residues, and a ban on the five deadliest pesticides presently used on grapes. The UFW is making strides against agriculture's over-reliance on pesticides, which threatens humans and animals alike. The UFW has also joined forces with animal advocates in Southern California to help bring about improvements for animals and workers at Egg City, a huge battery egg farm near Los Angeles. Let's strengthen the alliance between the two movements by honoring the UFW's boycott of table grapes (raisins, wine, and certified organic grapes are exempt from the boycott). For more information, or to obtain a copy of the 14-minute video "The Wrath of Grapes" which explains the boycott, write the UFW at: P.O. Box 62, La Paz, Keene CA 93570.



### Organizing the Ozarks

A new group, Ozarks Animal Rights (OAR), is organizing folks in Arkansas around the issues of vegetarianism, dog and cat overpopulation, animal research, and fur ranching and trapping. The group is currently seeking support from all quarters in a nationwide anti-fur letter-writing campaign. For information, contact OAR at: 327 W. Meadow, Fayetteville, AR 72701; (501) 521-1998.

### Hardware Wars

The Elsa Wild Animal Appeal is conducting a nationwide petition drive and pledge campaign to get hardware stores to stop selling leghold traps. The two-pronged effort targets the national chain of Ace Hardware stores with petitions; and reaches local, independent hardware stores with a form which store owners can sign, pledging that they will not stock leghold traps. The group needs support from activists around the country in order to make the campaign a success. Pledge forms and petitions can be obtained by writing: Elsa Wild Animal Appeal, P.O. Box 675, Elmhurst, IL 60126.

### Breeding Responsibility

The Coalition for Pet Population Control, a cooperative effort between humane groups and agencies operating animal shelters, needs volunteers to answer spay/neuter hotlines at their Los Angeles (California) office beginning in January. The pilot program will provide low-cost or financially-assisted dog and cat sterilization surgery throughout Los Angeles County. The goal is to reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats in the area to zero. If the initial year's effort proves effective, the program may be extended to other regions. Interested readers may call the Coalition at: (213) 936-8444.

### Horse and Dog Racing Legalized in Texas

Despite the efforts of a coalition of animal protection groups, churches, anti-gambling organizations, and law enforcement authorities, a voter referendum allowing parimutuel horse and dog racing in Texas was passed in November. With a 30 percent voter turnout, the measure passed with 56 percent in favor and 44 percent opposed—a close margin, considering that opponents of the referendum were outspent two-to-one by proponents of it. Though Texas animal advocates are disappointed, they note that as a result of the referendum process, thousands of citizens were made aware of the cruelties involved in horse and dog racing.



—Baron/Pix

### A Fair Chance

Many dogs are abused, neglected and abandoned because their human caretakers use an ineffective method (or no method at all) in attempts to housebreak them, and then take their frustration out on their dogs. Yelling, hitting, and shoving the dog's face into the mess are not only unnecessarily heavy-handed, they are particularly ineffective methods of teaching dogs the house rules, according to the Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS). PAWS offers a brochure detailing specific techniques for housebreaking dogs *without* punishment and intimidation, and *with* persistence and praise. Says the brochure, "Dogs that 'can't be housebroken' are dogs who weren't given a consistent training pattern—or a fair chance." The brochure gives advice on dealing with both puppies and adult dogs. We encourage readers to pass along PAWS' humane and effective housebreaking techniques to other individuals, animal shelters, veterinarians, and animal protection organizations. For a copy of the brochure, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: PAWS, P.O. Box 1037, Lynnwood, WA 98046.

### Vegetarians in Cattle Country

The Texas Vegetarian Society uses education, protest, and lobbying to promote meatless living, and organizes local observances of national vegetarian events such as the Great American Meatout and World Vegetarian Day. Contact them at: P.O. Box 11007, Dallas, TX 75223; (214) 823-7264.

### Food for the Thoughtful

Cultural Media Services is a nonprofit radio production group founded in 1985. Its principal production is "Food for the Thoughtful", a syndicated weekly radio show which explores current dietary trends and their effects on human health and the environment. A catalog listing over 60 half-hour radio programs available on cassette—with topics ranging from vegetarianism in the United Kingdom to the detrimental effect of fast food chains on animals, humans, and the environment—is available free of charge. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Cultural Media Services, P.O. Box 1598, Soquel, CA 95073.

### Sculpture Offends Furriers

*Fur Age Weekly*, the *National Enquirer* of the fur industry, is picking on the Franklin Mint for having produced a porcelain and lead crystal sculpture of a baby harp seal as part of a fundraising arrangement with the Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS). The furriers are calling on members of their dastardly trade to write letters of complaint to the Franklin Mint. We urge readers to contact the Franklin Mint and ask them not to bow to pressure from the fur industry. Write to: Lynda Rae Resnick, executive vice-president, The Franklin Mint, Franklin Center, PA 19091; or call: (215) 459-6552.

### Apple Computer Ad Pulled

In our July/August 1987 issue, we reported on the stand taken by high school student Jenifer Graham, who refused to dissect a frog in her biology class—and has subsequently taken her school district to court to assert her right not to be penalized for

her convictions. Apple Computer recently featured Jenifer in a 30-second television commercial, showing viewers how Apple's "Operation Frog" program can replace frog dissections in teaching anatomy. But, after receiving an organized barrage of phone calls and letters from members of the animal research community and their sympathizers, Apple pulled the ad off the air, saying, "people were perceiving Apple as taking a stance on dissection." Letters and phone calls from animal advocates, especially those who use Apple computers, are needed to urge the company to put the ad back on the air. Letters should be positive, stressing the value of innovative programs such as "Operation Frog" rather than condemning the company. Point out that making available an educational tool need not be viewed as taking sides on the issue of vivisection. Write to: John Sculley, president, Apple Computer Inc., 20525 Mariani Ave., Cupertino, CA 95014; or call Apple Consumer Relations at: (408) 996-1010.

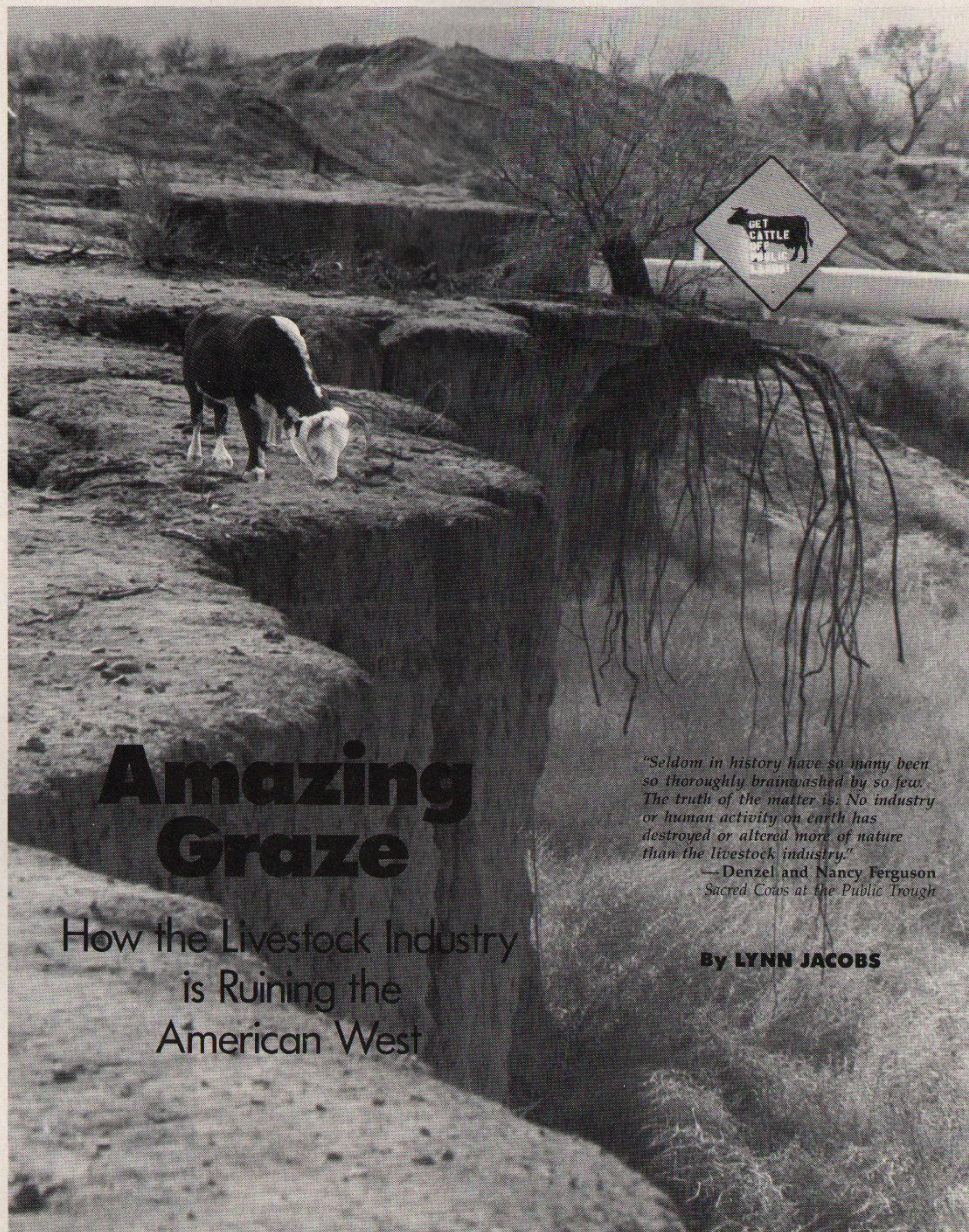
### Post Office Outreach

Dr. and Mrs. George Edward Bock of Fountain Hills, Arizona have come up with a way to reunite lost animals with their human friends, while at the same time educating their neighbors about animal issues. The couple obtained permission to place a permanent "Animal World" bulletin board in their local post office, with space for posting lost-and-found notices, animal protection literature, and newsletters. This is an idea other animal advocates may wish to implement in their own locales. Those wishing to contribute items for the Bocks' bulletin board may send them to: 16652 Jacklin Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268-5415.



Networking at the town post office.





# Amazing Graze

How the Livestock Industry  
is Ruining the  
American West

*"Seldom in history have so many been so thoroughly brainwashed by so few. The truth of the matter is: No industry or human activity on earth has destroyed or altered more of nature than the livestock industry."*

—Denzel and Nancy Ferguson  
Sacred Cows at the Public Trough

By LYNN JACOBS

—Steve Johnson

The new health food store here in Tucson, Arizona is by far the largest "natural" foods store in town. Its shelves are well-stocked with edibles and products of every description. There, you can buy everything from non-factory-farmed eggs to "save the whale" soap.

The meat, poultry, and fish section of this "ranch market" is not only a source of professional pride, but a big customer draw. It features as its main attraction "the finest range-fed beef available—100% Rocky Mountain Pure".

A free handout on the meat counter details how these "cattle graze on unfertilized mountain pastures, drink from snow-melt streams, breathe crystal clear mountain air, and are raised in a completely natural environment." On its cover, beautiful, rugged mountains sweep up majestically to meet a deep blue sky. In the foreground is a large meadow scattered with cattle. The meadow is badly trampled and overgrazed.

On the wall behind the meat counter is a collection of old photographs of prize-winning bulls and rangeland roundups. One portrays a vast western landscape—overrun with cattle, beaten and stripped of almost all vegetation. If not for the cattle, the scene could easily pass for the aftermath of some war-borne holocaust.

Is there something out of kilter here? This "ranch market" promotes the consumption of some of the "purest" and most "naturally" produced beef in the country. Yet scenes portraying cattle-caused environmental devastation are displayed as proudly on the walls and in pamphlets as the meats are in their cases.

The contrast between unadulterated beef and an adulterated environment demonstrates that very few people recognize or understand the environmental problems associated with cattle grazing. Probably the large majority of consumers who purchase "natural range-fed beef" believe they are doing something positive by selecting it as a "clean, healthy alternative" to intensive pasturing and feedlot factory farming. Looking at it from a personal human health vantage point, they are probably right as so-called natural meat is generally leaner and more chemical-free than nearly all other beef. But from an environmental perspective, livestock grazing is nothing short of a disaster.



Only a few hundred grizzly bears remain of the thousands who roamed the American West 150 years ago.

## The public lands oligarchy

For decades, ranchers and government agencies have been working together in an attempt to turn our public lands into profitable cattle ranches. The reality is that they are perpetuating a system—often described as "welfare ranching"—which consumes tax dollars as quickly as range livestock consume the environment.

This destruction began in the mid to late 1800s, when the grazing industry took control of most of the West in a flurry of violence and intimidation. During that era, ranchers ruled over most of the West with an iron fist. They ran cattle and sheep across the landscape with little or no consideration for farmers or other land users. They also had a major hand in

formulating the laws that Westerners still live under today.

Now, in the 1980s, things have not really changed much, except that social violence is a much less acceptable tactic. The grazing industry continues to control most of the rural West—socially, politically, and economically. A distinctly high percentage of Western politicians are themselves ranchers or are closely tied to the ranching industry. It is not uncommon for a Westerner's county supervisor, governor, and state and Federal representatives to all be ranchers. Even Ronald Reagan is a rancher. Thus, it is not surprising that needed reforms have not occurred.

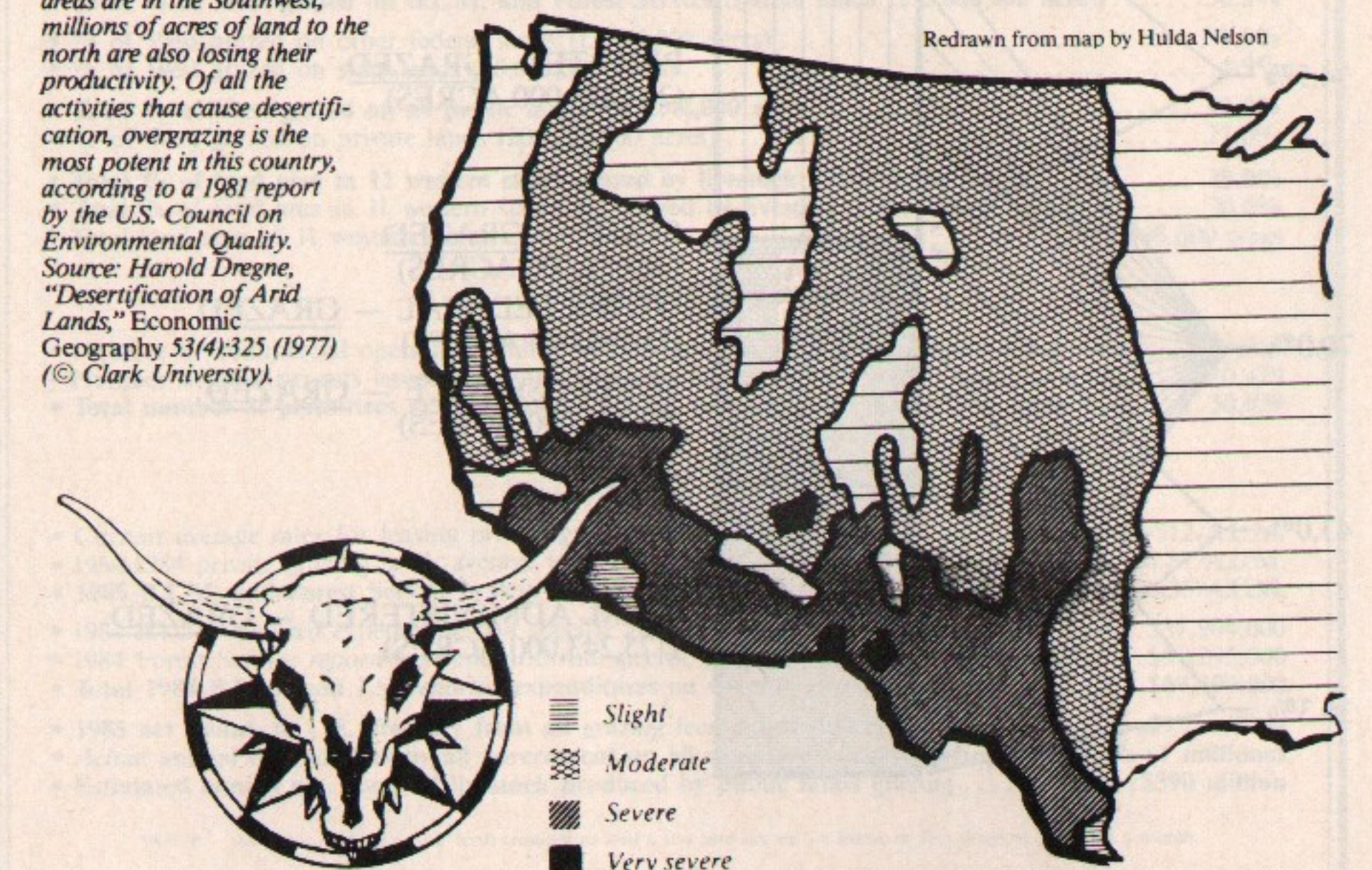
Today, less than 30,000 ranchers run their cattle and sheep on 323 million acres of public land—43 percent of the land area of the 11 far Western states. This averages about 10,000 acres of public land for each public rancher. Livestock graze not only on grasslands, but on deserts, forests, brushlands, wetlands, wildlife refuges, military reservations, recreation areas, wilderness areas, and even some national parks and monument grounds—almost any place that has enough forage or browse to keep a cow alive.

The bulk of this public land is  
*Continued on next page*

## The Status of Desertification in the United States

Overgrazing has helped put about 10 percent of the land in the United States, all in the West, in a state of severe or very severe desertification, according to Harold Dregne, head of the International Center for Arid and Semi-Arid Land Studies at Texas Tech University. While the most severely desertified areas are in the Southwest,

millions of acres of land to the north are also losing their productivity. Of all the activities that cause desertification, overgrazing is the most potent in this country, according to a 1981 report by the U.S. Council on Environmental Quality. Source: Harold Dregne, "Desertification of Arid Lands," Economic Geography 53(4):325 (1977) (© Clark University).

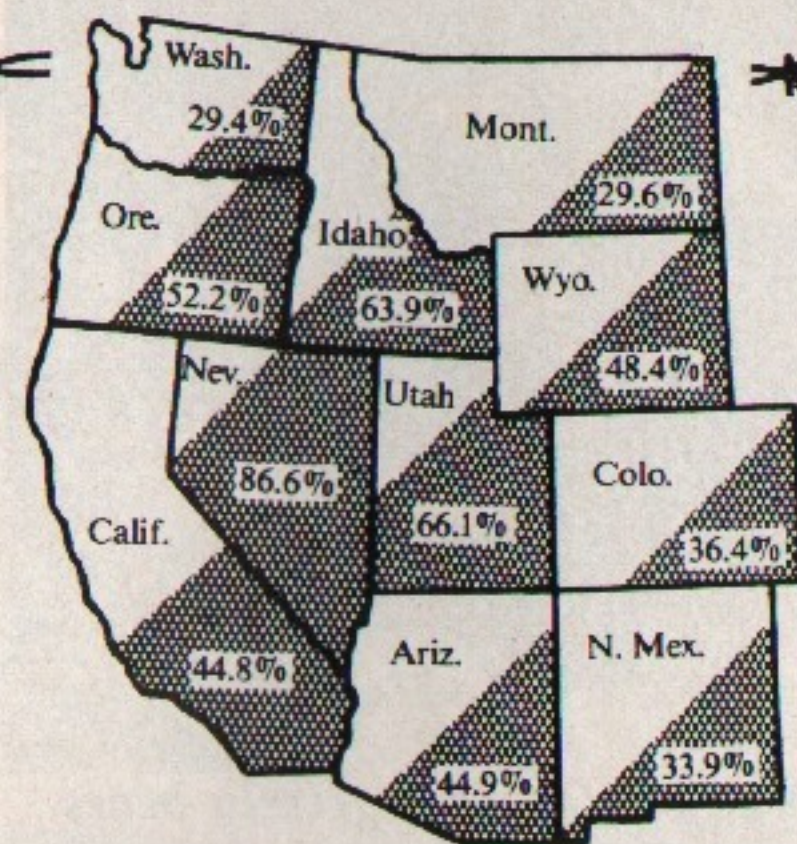




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administered by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), which is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Privileged ranchers hold permits from these agencies which entitle them to lease the forage (not the land itself) for a small fee. This fee is currently \$1.35 per month per cow—only about a fifth what is charged for equivalent forage on the private market. Since the government spends much more on grazing programs than it takes in from grazing fees, public forage is essentially given to the "welfare ranchers". The U.S. Treasury grossed only \$9.2 million from all grazing fees in 1985, while spending at least \$100 million directly on livestock grazing-related programs that year.

Other indirect government subsidies (which, in sum, make that \$100 million seem a small amount) include predator control, fire management, soil erosion control, "dirt-cheap" property taxes, open-range laws (which state



Proportion of land in 11 western states owned by federal government (does not include state, county, and city lands). 80% of this federal land and 72% of most of the balance—private land—is currently grazed by livestock.

that a person must fence other people's livestock out, not vice-versa), road networks, and much more. Taken as a whole, these subsidies add up to more than the total annual net worth of the public lands grazing industry itself.

Government bureaucracies seem only too eager to waste tax dollars. The BLM, with half or more of its total operation geared toward livestock production, is often referred to as the "Bureau of Livestock Management", and the Forest Service makes no secret of the fact that, under its stewardship,

logging comes first with livestock grazing a close second. These agencies function as components of the overall grazing establishment. And besides providing material and technical assistance to ranchers, they serve as public relations conduits, trying hard to offer the public a positive image of the grazing industry.

But power abuse could not occur indefinitely if the public did not let it. What keeps the public lands grazing industry in business is the public's lack of knowledge and even apathy towards the issue—both overshadowed by the public's blind love for cowboys and cows, ranchers and ranches, and anything even remotely Western.

To overcome this, we must understand that the livestock grazing industry is a hard-nosed business—not a romantic fantasy. Much more than a loose coalition of harmless, rustic cowpokes, it is a highly organized and heavily financed oligopoly that is despoiling the West.

### The livestock invasion

Trying to explain the many effects of livestock grazing upon the environment is difficult and complicated. The effects are as numerous as the ecological interrelationships they disrupt. Basically, the damage can be divided into two categories—that caused directly by the livestock themselves and that caused by "range management". For over 100 years, these factors have kept Western rangelands in a dynamic state of severe degradation.

The most obvious thing livestock animals do to the land is strip off the vegetation cover. On most rangelands, cattle eat most of the forage (grass and herbage cover) and a fair percentage of the browse (leaves on shrubs and trees). They generally prefer forage, but will eat almost anything, including cactus and tree bark if they get hungry enough. In fact, today, cattle eat a much greater percentage of forage and browse on Western rangelands than do native wildlife. They eat much more than native animals did even when bison roamed the West more than 130 years ago.

Possibly even more destructive to vegetation than the feeding itself is the trampling that comes with the search for food. Most Western native plants are ill-equipped to survive intensive pounding from the hooves of domestic cattle—cloven hooves that bust the sod with a pressure of 24 pounds per square inch. Combined with overgraz-

ing, trampling has transformed much of the landscape from relatively lush vegetation to scraggly stands of less desirable "increaser", "invader", and "exotic" plants—or to bare dirt.

With altered and depleted plant cover, most native animals—from insects to birds to large mammals—have less to eat, less cover in which to hide from predators, less vegetation in which to take shelter during extreme weather conditions, and fewer places to mate and nest. It is no exaggeration to say that many rangeland areas are now zoological wastelands.

Extensive damage has also been caused to the soil. No longer sheltered or held together by organic matter, loose soil particles can be carried away by water and blown by the wind, leading to eroded and desertified landscapes. According to the USDA, livestock grazing is outranked only by farming (which intentionally manipulates the soil) as a cause of soil loss and damage. Some experts estimate that half of the original topsoil has been eroded in large areas. As a result of soil loss and vegetation destruction, it is further estimated that Western rangelands today produce less than half the biomass they did before being damaged by the grazing industry.

Likewise, heavy grazing has also adversely affected what some call the West's most precious process—the water cycle. By killing off most of the vegetative groundcover and damaging the soil, grazing livestock have destroyed the "sponge" which used to soak up and store most of the West's precipitation. Thus, since the late 1800s, when livestock numbers skyrocketed, many thousands of creeks and springs throughout the West have gone dry—especially in drier areas, where, ironically, they are most needed. Rivers and streams have experienced reduced flows, or flow only intermittently. The amount of water on the surface and in water tables has dropped in many areas, drastically in some. Western riparian areas are now only beaten, pathetic remnants of what they were only 120 years ago. In Arizona, livestock grazing has been the major factor in the loss of more than 85 percent of the state's original riparian area. Though many ranchers claim there has been a drying trend in climate, overwhelming evidence suggests cattle are the cause.

All of this has resulted in suffering and death for countless aquatic and riparian-dependent life forms. Many

have been pushed out of existence as riparian areas have been destroyed and water sources dried up. Others have been suffocated from pollution—the combination of loosened sediments and fecal matter—that concentrates at water sources. Populations of many species have seriously declined

in numbers as a result of these influences—most notably native trout.

Simply put, most of our public lands are either too dry, rugged, thinly soiled, or sparsely vegetated for practical livestock grazing. Dave Foreman of Earth First! sums up the effects of

Continued on next page

## GRAZING STATISTICS

FOR  
THE ELEVEN WESTERN STATES  
(ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, COLORADO, IDAHO, MONTANA,  
NEVADA, NEW MEXICO, OREGON, UTAH, WASHINGTON, WYOMING)  
(Sources — 1984-1986 U.S. Dept. of Interior and U.S.D.A. Publications)



### LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION



• % of U.S. livestock feed (livestock food of any kind) produced on public lands in West	2%
• % of U.S. livestock feed produced on public lands in East	< 1/4 %
• % of U.S. livestock feed produced on private lands in West	17%
• % of U.S. livestock feed produced on private lands in East	81%
• Total	98%
• Total % of U.S. livestock feed produced on all lands in West (public and private)	19%
• % of western livestock forage (grass and herbage) produced by all public lands	14%
• % of western livestock forage produced by private lands	86%
• Cattle production on western B.L.M. lands	9,575,147 A.U.M.s*
• Sheep and goat production on western B.L.M. lands	1,491,737 A.U.M.s
• Total	11,066,884 A.U.M.s
• Cattle production on western Forest Service System lands	6,274,573 A.U.M.s
• Sheep and goat production on western Forest Service System lands	857,301 A.U.M.s
• Total	7,131,874 A.U.M.s
• Livestock production on western B.L.M. and Forest Service System lands	18,198,758 A.U.M.s
• Livestock production on western private lands (approximate)	154,689,000 A.U.M.s
• Total (approximate)	909,950,000 A.U.M.s

### LAND OWNERSHIP

• % of land area in West which is owned by B.L.M. (175,208,000 acres)	23.3%
• % of B.L.M. owned lands in West grazed by livestock	89.5%
• % of land area in West which is owned by Forest Service (141,037,000 acres)	18.7%
• % of Forest Service owned lands in West grazed by livestock	69.3%
• % of West administered by B.L.M. for livestock grazing (175,243,000 acres)	23.3%
• % of West grazed on Forest Service System lands (97,757,000 acres)	13.0%
• Total % of West grazed on B.L.M. and Forest Service System lands (273,000,000 acres)	36.3%
• % of West grazed on other federal lands (13,585,000 acres)	1.8%
• % of West grazed on state lands (36,659,000 acres)	4.9%
• Total % of West grazed on all public lands (323,244,000 acres)	43.0%
• % of West grazed on private lands (203,255,000 acres)	27.0%
• Total % of land area in 11 western states grazed by livestock (526,499,000 acres)	70.0%
• Total % of land area in 11 western states not grazed by livestock (226,449,000 acres)	30.0%
• Total land area of 11 western states	752,948,000 acres

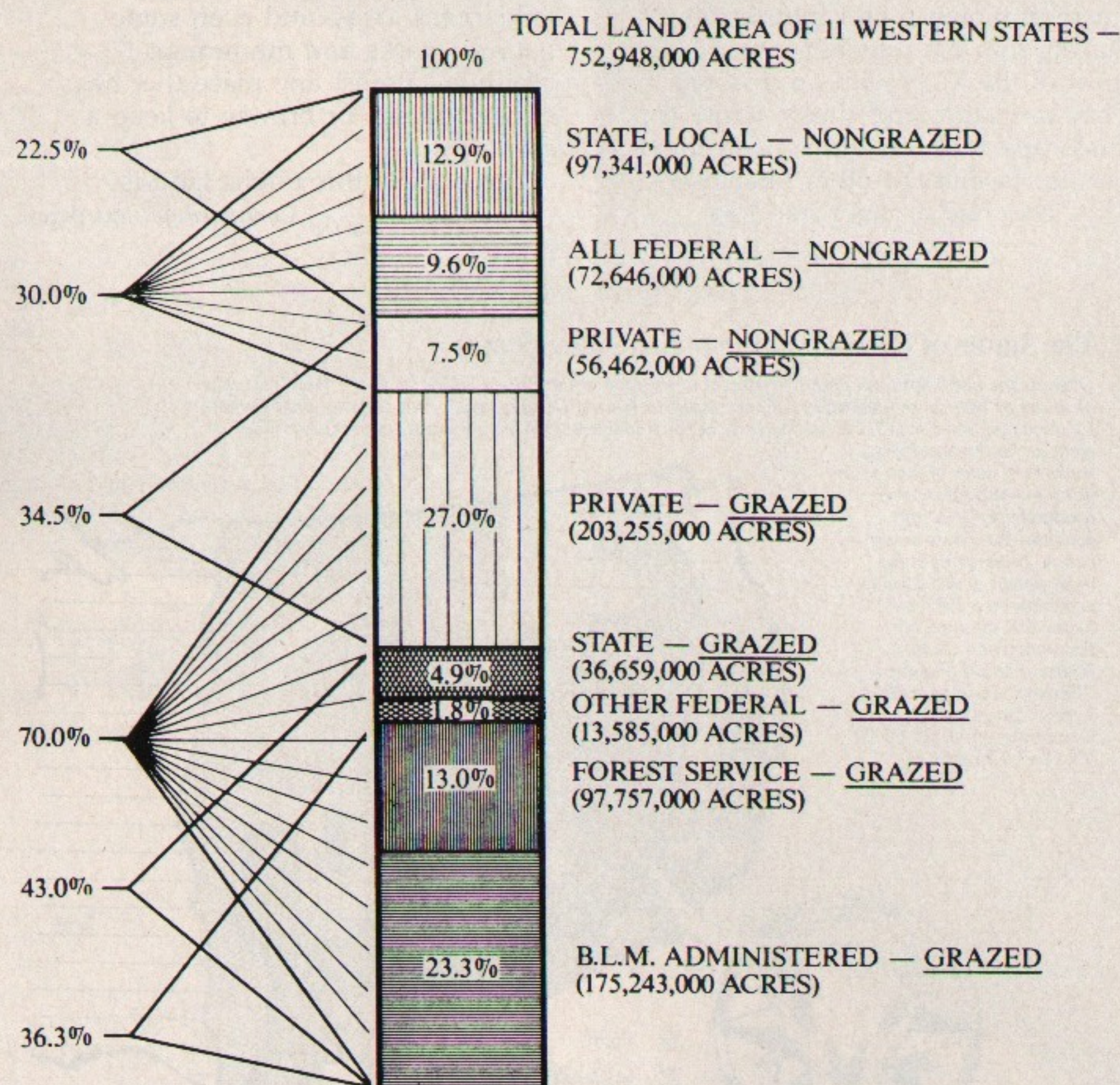
### PERMITTEES

• Number of commercial operators holding licenses and leases to graze western B.L.M. lands	19,610
• Number of paid permits issued for grazing western Forest Service System lands	10,429
• Total number of permittees grazing western B.L.M. and Forest Service System lands	30,039

### FINANCES

• Current average rates for leasing private grazing lands (approximate)	\$4-\$12/A.U.M.
• 1964-1984 private grazing lands average lease rate (from U.S. Govt. survey)	\$6.87/A.U.M.
• 1985 B.L.M. and Forest Service System average grazing fee	\$1.35/A.U.M.
• 1984 B.L.M. reported expenditures on specific grazing programs	\$37,904,000
• 1984 Forest Service reported expenditures on specific grazing programs	\$31,295,000
• Total 1984 B.L.M. and F.S. reported expenditures on specific grazing programs	\$69,199,000
• 1985 net money to U.S. Treasury from all grazing fees (approximate)	\$9.2 million
• Actual annual expenditures by all government on all aspects of public grazing	\$100's of millions\$
• Estimated annual net worth of livestock produced by public lands grazing	\$390 million

\*A.U.M. = the amount of forage (or feed) required to feed a cow and her calf, a horse, or five sheep or goats for a month.



### GRAZED AND UNGRAZED LANDS IN WEST



Continued from previous page  
livestock grazing: "Suffice it to say that the livestock industry has probably done more basic ecological damage to the western United States than any other single agent."

## "Managing" our public lands

While the problems caused directly by the livestock themselves are more than enough reason to call for an end to livestock grazing on public lands, that's only half the story. In their attempt to create favorable conditions for cattle and sheep, ranchers and government agents have declared war on the environment. This war is being fought with a tactical system called "range management" and weapons called "range improvements".

One of these "improvements", barbed-wire fencing, which stretches for hundreds of thousands of miles across the West, exists solely to serve the grazing industry. These barbed-wire boundaries prevent migration and restrict the free movement of many wild animals—especially pronghorn and bighorn sheep. This shrinks their range and limits their access to necessary food and water sources, mating grounds, and hibernating areas. Barbed-wire also entangles and mutilates many animals each year. The dangling corpses of pronghorns, coyotes, foxes, and many other large mammals are a testament to ranchers' success in "taming" the West.

Along with artificial boundaries have



Herbert Lanks/PIX

**Often the killing of "competitor" species such as these bighorn sheep is done under the pretense of big game hunting.**

come artificial water sources. "Tanks", livestock watering developments of various kinds, allow cattle to survive in areas that are otherwise too arid to support them. Hundreds of thousands of tanks have been scraped into the land with bulldozers, spreading the impact of intensive grazing to areas that would otherwise be lightly grazed or not grazed at all. The "sacrifice area" surrounding a livestock tank (or a salt block) for a radius of several acres gets its name because all life in the area is sacrificed under the pounding hooves of numerous cattle. Not only are they sores on the land, open metal and concrete stock tanks often become death traps for birds and small animals who try to drink from them, fall in, and drown. Few ranchers bother to provide escape ramps for wildlife.

More dirt roads have been blazed and blasted through the West for the benefit of the grazing industry than for any other reason. They meander

along almost every valley and canyon floor, hilltop and mountainside, plain and plateau. In this way, the grazing industry has contributed to the infiltration of the West by others interested in exploiting its resources. These roads have opened up huge areas to destructive and/or illegal hunting, off-road vehicle use, mining, woodcutting, arson, and a wide range of other activities harmful to native animals and the environment.

One form of range management—manipulation of vegetation cover—has changed the very nature of the land. Stockmen and their government lackeys destroy inedible vegetation by spraying dangerous herbicides, burning, chaining (dragging a heavy chain between two tractors), bulldozing, plowing, and any number of other methods. The whole idea is to create as much livestock forage as possible, by any means necessary.

Often, after a vegetation removal or fire, an area is seeded by government agents with an imported grass, usually crested wheatgrass from Asia. Seedings create grass monocultures—sterile biological deserts—which significantly diminish the diversity of plant and animal life that would normally exist.

## Blaming the victims

The livestock grazing industry fights a never-ending battle against three main groups of animal enemies—predators, competitors, and "pests". The predator control program is probably the most obvious of the grazing industry's harmful activities against animals. Historically, Federal agents and ranchers have targeted wolves, bears, mountain lions, bobcats, lynx, coyotes, and eagles as their nemeses. But non-target species have suffered an even worse toll as a result of the indiscriminate tools of the trade: traps and poisons. It is estimated that two-thirds of animals trapped are non-target or "trash" species, and that poisons take an even higher toll. Much of the sport and commercial trapping that occurs throughout the West, while usually not done by stockmen themselves, is nonetheless encouraged and/or subsidized by them. In addition, killing predators is an obsession with many ranchers, and they shoot at every one they see. All things considered, the grazing industry's "predator control" programs have been nothing less than a ruthless

campaign of genocide against many animal species.

The total number of cattle and sheep killed by predators on public lands would provide each American meat-eater with 1/12 of an ounce (about the weight of a peanut) of mutton and beef per year. Yet predator bounties are still paid in some areas. A good example of the insanity of the grazing empire's predator control fiasco occurred recently in an area east of Glacier National Park in Montana. The Federal government spent \$41,000 to shoot five wolves who had killed several cows worth maybe \$2,000.

"Competitor" animals are those who might eat the same kind of vegetation as cattle or sheep. This includes a huge number of animals, large and small. Often the killing of animals



Steve Johnson

**In order to make the land "safe" for livestock animals, the industry wages a campaign to eliminate predacious species.**

such as pronghorn, bighorn, deer, and elk is done under the pretense of "big game" hunting in order to disguise the true purpose.

Two of the many "competitor" species are wild horses and burros. Ranchers and the BLM generally consider them pests, even though they usually eat less than five percent as much of the forage in their range as do livestock. Millions of wild horses and thousands of wild burros have been killed over the years by public lands ranchers and their government helpers. The BLM spent \$16 million last year to domesticate and slaughter feral horses and burros, yet made no serious attempt to reduce the number of livestock.

Continued on page 46

# THANK YOU, FOLKS

The staff of **The ANIMALS' AGENDA** would like to thank all of our readers and supporters for helping make this magazine into a vital tool of the international animal rights movement.

**And**, we wish to extend **special** thanks to all who have made that extra special commitment to the continued success of this effort —our 1987 **Sustainers**:

Sudhir and Kiran Amemba, American Anti-Vivisection Society, Animal Protection Institute, Animal Rights Coalition, Ronnie Bamberger, Ms. Ann Barasch, Bob Barker, Emma Elizabeth Barnsley, Robert J. Bebeko, M.D., Sheri Beck, William J. Bennet, William R. Bey, Edwin Case, Pauline Blanc, Suniva Bronson, Linda Brunner, Ms. Erica Brunson, Rosemary Burnham, Linda Buyukmihci-Bey, George Carrano, Rob Chapman, Marie Chavannes, Dorothy Chmela, Choices Womens' Medical Center, Betty Ann Cross, Mrs. Vivian Crumley, Wallace Danielson, Dr. William R. Davidson, The Fund for Animals, Good Shepherd Foundation, Ellen Curtis Griffing, Marlena Grunewald, Carolyn Hastings, S.D. Heather, Ms. Natalie Helms, Christina U. Henderson, Humane Farming Association, Humane Society of the United States, Linda Kern, S. Kilburg, Marie LaCoste, Joanna Lancaster, Catherine and Britt Leach, Jennifer Lester, Betsy Lewis and Mark Lerman, James Likens, M. Lindberg, Charles Magel, Marin Humane Society, Massachusetts SPCA, T.P. McDaniel, Howard F. McGraw, James Messerschmidt, Gil Michaels, Olga Michel, Michigan Humane Society, Mrs. John Mitchell, Mr. Len Mitchell, National Anti-Vivisection Society, Yvonne Nelson, DVM, New England Anti-Vivisection Society, Bernie Nyberg and Don Hutton, Peninsula Humane Society, Sam Perry, A.M. Peterson and V. Bien, Joan Price, Progressive Animal Welfare Society (WA), Sharon and Gene Proietti, Stuart Pyle, Irene Radsack, Hope Rafferty, Judith A. Roberts, Rocky Mountain Humane Society, Sally Rogers, Robert Sabin, Michael Sargent, Charles W. Saunders, Ms. Dora Saylor, Ed and Ruth Snediker, Leon Spiegel, Ms. Eileen Spring, T. Stout, Kim Sturla and Ned Buyukmihci, Kathryn and James Taylor, Anna Thomas, Lois Turner, Pari Vahdat, ...and all of you who prefer to remain anonymous.

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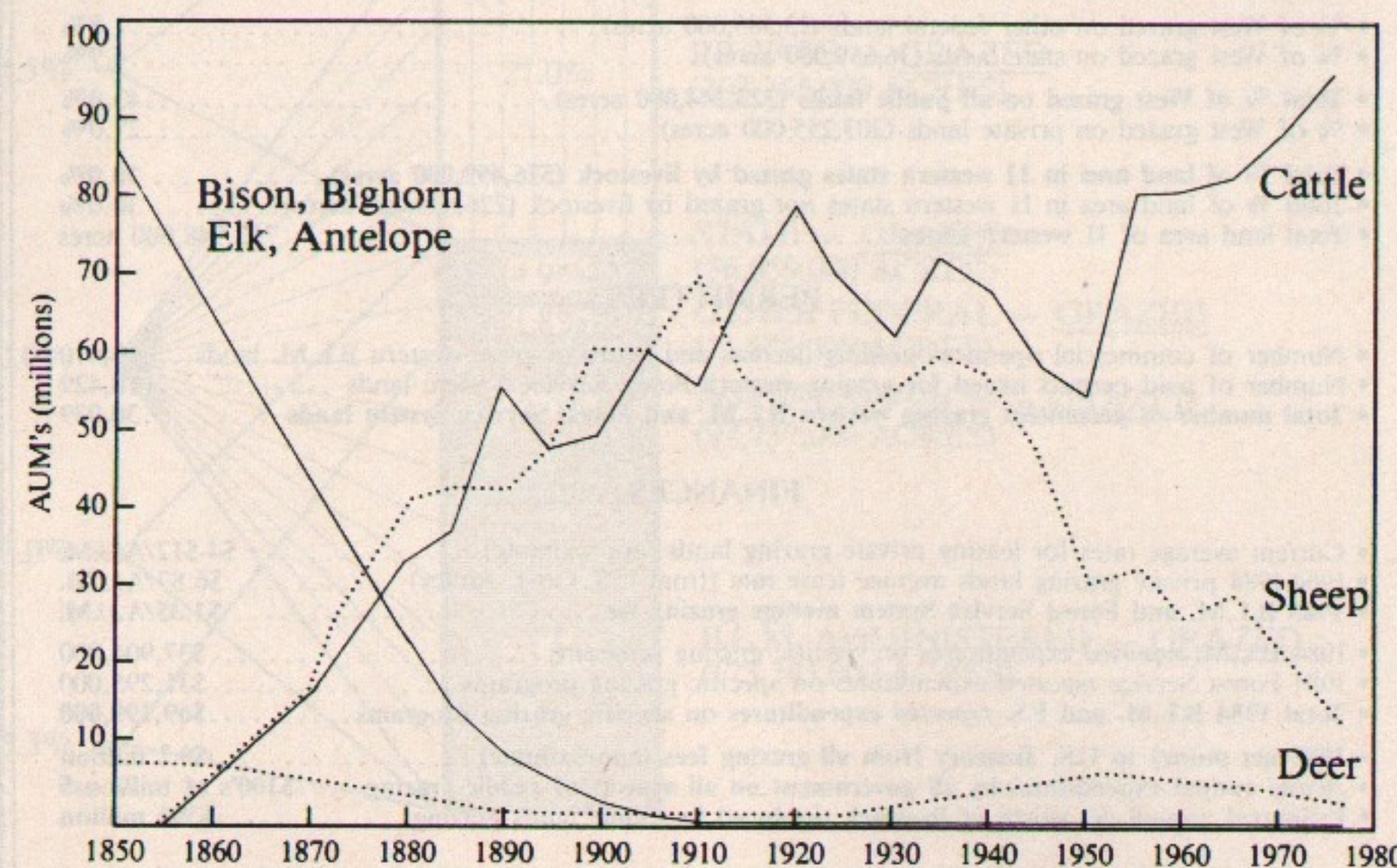
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Sustainers receive a quarterly PUBLISHER'S REPORT detailing progress with the magazine.

**The ANIMALS' AGENDA Sustainers**, P.O. Box 5234, Westport, CT 06881



Conjectured AUM's of wild and domestic grazing pressures on rangelands of the 11 western states [with modifications upwards for early deer pressures] (from "Livestock Grazing and the Livestock Industry" by Frederic H. Wagner)



OCTOBER 9, 1987

## Rally at the National Institutes of Mental Health

NEWS COMMENTARY BY DON BARNES

While there can be no valid ethical rationalization for using nonhuman animals in biomedical research, certain experiments appear so blatantly inane as to severely tax one's abilities to even imagine their approval and funding by intelligent scientists. Psychological research with nonhuman animals often meets these criteria, and has therefore become a target for the wrath of animal rights activists. Early behavioral research by the late Harry Harlow and others has been roundly criticized for years as epitomizing animal abuse in our government laboratories. Unfortunately, the outcry has been to no avail, for the experiments continue to proliferate, both in absolute numbers and in degree of irrelevance to human psychology.

In order to wage a successful battle, it is important for the animal rights movement to at least attempt to understand the psychological research community. Psychology—purportedly the science of understanding, predicting, and controlling human behavior—has historically been viewed as a “soft” or “pseudo” science by those in the “hard” sciences of mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biology. Traditionally, psychologists have studied internal (and, hence, unmeasurable) phenomena—i.e., motivation, perception, learning, and other mental processes. After decades of such research, however, psychologists came to realize the inadequacy of their data, for results from one experiment were seldom reproduced in another, and the accurate prediction of human behavior seemed no

closer than it had ever been. The obvious conclusion: humans were simply too complex to understand all at once. “If we study simpler organisms,” it was reasoned, “we could then extrapolate the data, bit by bit, to the more complex interactions of the human.”

The door was opened—and chickens, mice, rats, and other “simple” life forms were soon forced through that door into the laboratories of this new breed of psychologists. First, there was merely a trickle of “subjects”, but it soon swelled to a steady stream, and then to a virtual torrent—which has continued to increase ever since.

How successful has this approach been for psychologists? Well, some simple behaviors *can* be predicted with reasonable accuracy. For example: the rate at which a rat runs a complex maze; or, the the number of “reinforcements” required to teach a pigeon to peck a white key as opposed to a blue one. Ergo, such “successes” have created the impression of scientific validity. The real question, “How good are psychologists at predicting human behavior?” seems to have been forgotten. Unfortunately, most

humans are less adaptable than their nonhuman subjects, and once embroiled in the morass of the laboratory, are apparently incapable of finding their way out.

The task for the animal rights movement, therefore, seems to be to find a logical target for its arguments. The American Psychological Association (APA) has been a focus of the movement, but is a target which has so far proven intractable. After all, the APA exists to further the “science” of psychology as it exists. It funds no research, but simply serves as a protective “union” for its members. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and its parent agency, the Department of Health and Human Services, have also been chosen as targets by animal rights activists, but these monolithic institutions are nearly invulnerable to change encouraged by minority interests such as ours.

On November 9, 1987, the U.S. animal rights movement made its first frontal attack on the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH), primary funding agency for the majority of behavioral research using nonhuman animals. In an action initiated and organized by the California-based organization In Defense of Animals (IDA), over 200 activists rallied before Building 36 on the grounds of the NIH in a meaningful and intense protest of the continuing abuse of animals in psychological research. Individuals from many animal rights organizations cooperated in the planning and implementation of the

protest, with speakers drawn primarily from the ranks of scientists within the animal rights movement.

Dozens of specific experiments presently being carried out with U.S. taxpayer monies were discussed and questioned, with alternatives suggested—and impassioned pleas for rationality and meaningful dialogue were made. NIH employees lined the windows of Building 36, and opposition observers and photog-

rappers were everywhere in evidence—but no one came forward to contest the views being expressed, to attempt to justify the futile experiments being done at the terrible expense of nonhumans. Finally, 41 dedicated and frustrated animal activists blocked the doors to Building 36 and refused to move. Squadrons of police moved to arrest these individuals, and they were peacefully taken from the site, detained several hours, and released with minimal fines.

The proper battle to end the abuse of nonhuman animals in behavioral research seems to have finally been enjoined. The first tentative steps toward weakening the superstructure of NIMH have been taken. The press coverage, while limited, was significant in recognizing the logical and scientifically credible nature of the protest.

Follow-up actions by many animal advocacy organizations—either individually, or in cooperation with one another—are expected. IDA is planning another rally at NIMH in March 1988. Interested persons may contact the group at 21 Tamal Vista Blvd., Corte Madera, CA 94925; (415) 924-4454. Activists should plan on being a part of the March rally, and spend as much time as possible between now and March in preparation and action designed to end this unconscionable research.

Don Barnes is director of the Washington, D.C. office of the National Anti-Vivisection Society.



—Betsy Stuart

### COUNTDOWN:

## Laboratory Animal-Liberation Week 1988 April 24-30, 1988

There are only 3 months left to prepare for Laboratory Animal-Liberation Week. And we need your help NOW!

We want these upcoming events to be the largest and most successful ever -- the largest direct action demonstrations in the history of our movement and the best turn-out ever for the animals.

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 non-violent direct action for the animals. Next year can be bigger and better!

But we can't do it without your help. We need additional:

- Participating organizations
- Individual participants
- Regional contacts
- Coordinators
- Financial resources

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Yes, I want to help IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS and the April 24th Coalition with Animal Liberation Week:

☐ Please send me information on what I can do.

☐ I want to be an IDA contact in my area.



Top: Elliot Katz, president of In Defense of Animals, addresses the crowd. Bottom: Forty-one activists were arrested after linking arms and blocking the doors to the National Institutes of Mental Health.

—Barbara Berger



## ARE YOU FEELING DEPRIVED?

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- You've crossed rodeos and circuses off the list of entertainments to which you'll treat the kids in your life.
- You've cancelled your vacation to Canada because of the seal kill.
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- etc., etc., ETC!

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## ANIMAL NEWSLINE



### Natural Foods Expo Draws Thousands

*Trend in Animal-free products seen*

NEWS COMMENTARY BY DOUG MOSS

In what may signify a consumer trend towards "natural" and non-animal-derived foods and personal products, 6,000 health food retailers and industry suppliers attended the four-day Natural Foods Expo '87 at Philadelphia's Civic Center over the weekend of October 15-18, 1987. Five-hundred exhibiting companies, showing products ranging from biodegradable laundry detergents to "Tofu Pups", fielded questions, distributed samples, took orders, and fed lunch and snacks to attendees at this third annual event.

Hosted by New Hope Communications, publishers of the trade newspaper *Natural Foods Merchandiser* and *Delicious!* magazine, the expo provided a showcase for many up-and-coming natural products companies. Many recognizable brand names were on display, such as: Aubrey Organics, Reviva, Tom's of Maine, Borlind of Germany, Kiss My Face, Worthington, Eden Foods, Fantastic Foods, and Vitasoy, as well as others not so well-known. Vegetarian hot dogs, soy milks, dressings and mayonnaise, soy chips and dips, tofu "chocolate", soy cheese pizzas (including a new product from Tree Tavern), Ice Bean (nondairy dessert), tofu raviolis, nondairy fruit "yogurts", and even vegetarian baby foods made up much of the food offerings, while soaps, shampoos, and cosmetics of non-animal origin were represented by many of the non-

food industry suppliers. Most conventional name brand cosmetics available in stores contain slaughterhouse by-products and are tested on animals prior to marketing.

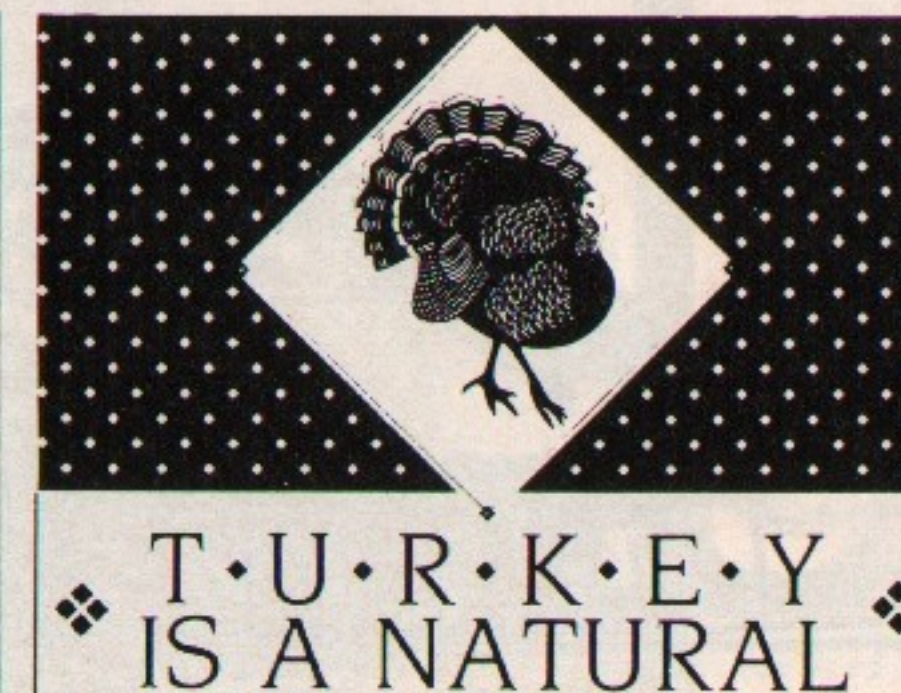
Perhaps most encouraging was the visible presence of the tag line "no animal testing—no animal ingredients" on many companies' packaging and literature. Although the sponsors of the event were by no means promoting this kind of ethic throughout the natural foods community (they were selling their own book of non-meat and meat recipes, and seminars were marketing-oriented), it appears to be surfacing strongly, most likely due to the increased publicity for animal rights ideas associated with food and personal products. The crowd, both exhibitors and attendees, seemed to be comprised largely of very conscientious people who have taken an entrepreneurial approach to living their beliefs, either through management of retail health food stores or small companies (even many husband-and-wife teams) producing for, or otherwise supplying, this growing industry. Indeed, the health food community, long associated with "flakiness" and its accompanying pills and tonics, has grown into a viable contender for the consumer food dollar.

Still, any movement for social progress has its opportunists ready to co-opt the buzzwords of the day. This we see

## ANIMAL NEWSLINE

regularly in TV ads boasting of products as "natural", or "high in calcium", for example. The presence of the National Turkey Federation ("Turkey is a natural") at Natural Foods Expo '87 seemed wholly inappropriate, and it is doubtful that Gloria Vanderbilt salad dressings have much to offer other than a fancy name. Excessive cosmetics displays complete with tables for lying down on, and cosmeticians in white lab coats were all-too-reminiscent of Macy's and Bloomingdale's, and the presence of "natural" pet products companies, complete with the usual array of leather goods and animal by-products seemed opportunistic.

Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT), the farm animal welfare group-turned-merchant, was also present—promoting its "Nest Eggs" (from free-range hens) and "Ramblin' Rose" (also free-range) veal. FACT, run by Robert Brown out of Chicago, Illinois, promotes non-factory eggs and veal as an alternative in a marketplace dominated by factory-produced products. While this conservative approach is favored by some working in farm animal welfare, many animal advocates are uneasy with it or question the strategy categorically. Most natural foods stores, in fact, de-emphasize meat products (if they carry them at all) and often carry only a small selection in hopes of being the one-stop shopping place for customers now doing all their shopping with them *except* for the meat. With the growth of "health food" sections in major



*In response to public concerns about meat-based diets, the meat industry is groping for new niches.*

supermarkets, some natural foods store owners have been forced to grapple with this dilemma just to stay in business, given the increased competition now posed by the big chains' natural foods departments. Nevertheless, promoting veal (intensively confined or not) to an industry clearly moving away, ideologically, from meat-based food merchandising seemed a step out of bounds on FACT's part. It would have been more appropriate, if at all, for FACT to appear at a supermarketing convention to try to wean meat buyers away from intensively-confined veal by offering a "free-range" alternative.

Upcoming Natural Foods Expos, open only to the trade, are scheduled for Anaheim, California and Baltimore, Maryland in 1988.



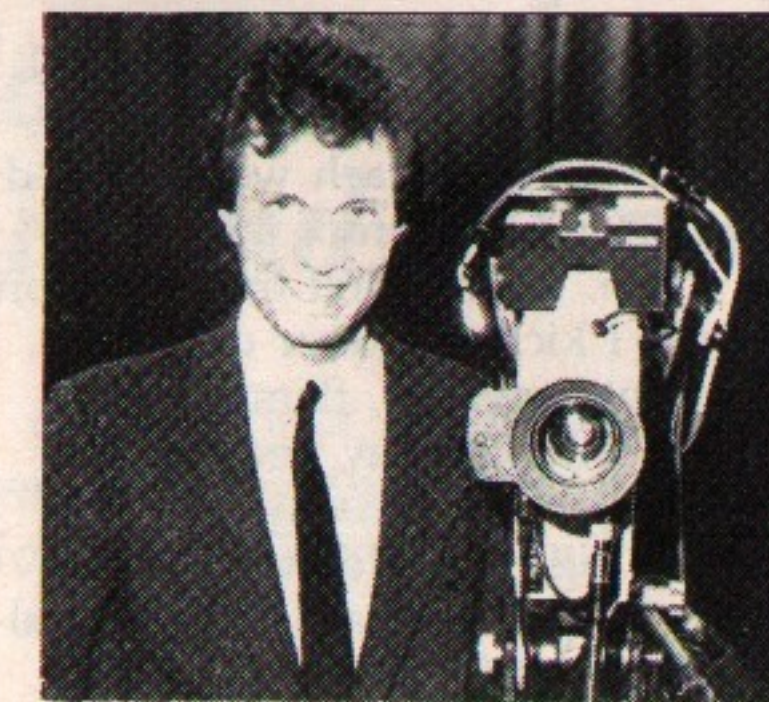
Illustration by Suzanne Ebeling

### You know you're a vegetarian when...

- ...you know what TVP is.
- ...you can't drive by a farm without thinking of Auschwitz.
- ...Your weekly grocery bill for a family of four is \$42.60.
- ...you are the only one in the checkout lane with tofu in your cart.
- ...watching a kid eat a hot dog makes you sad.
- ...you are the only one in your office not trying to lose weight.
- ...a caterpillar is eating one of your chrysanthemums, and you let him.

—Ralph Doty

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## Barnfire!

St. Sabine, Quebec, 4/6/86—650 sows and their litters of six to twelve piglets each were burned alive when a hot tin roof ignited stored grain. As the first firefighter on the scene, I kicked a door open, but with the intense heat, flames wreathing the doorway, red-hot iron pen gates, and the ferocity of frightened pigs, I couldn't rescue so much as a piglet. I heard their squealing in my mind for weeks afterward.

North Troy, Vermont, 10/86 through 11/86—Four dairy barns burned in a series of suspected arsons, killing about 150 cattle, several horses, and numerous cats. Two previous barns had burned on one of the foundations, from different causes, since 1966.

St. Armand West, Quebec, 12/4/86—1,500 pigs, two-thirds of them piglets, died when the central barn in a complex burned to the ground. Six local fire crews kept the blaze from spreading to adjacent barns.

Acton Vale, Quebec, 8/16/87—900 pigs burned or suffocated and another 350 were without water for 12 hours after an electrical fire devastated their barns.

Newport, Vermont, 8/19/87—Spontaneous combustion of damp stored hay leveled two adjoining barns only minutes before a large dairy herd would have been brought inside for milking.

That's eight barn fires killing or nearly killing a lot of animals in sixteen months—all within an hour's drive of each other. It's an average toll, say fire officials and insurance agents.

Packed with dried grass for most of the year, barns are naturally vulnerable to fires. Spontaneous combustion, electrical defects, and lightning are the leading causes of barn fires, but arson claims many animal lives as well. There are vandals, like the one suspected in the North Troy cases, and also profiteers. Here in the Vermont/Quebec border country, there are frequent whispers of financially troubled farmers who "burned their cows" when insured for more than a glutted market value. Everyone knows of farmers who sold out to subdividers after mysterious barn fires.

How many animals burn each year on the national average? Appallingly, nobody knows—not even the National



*Barnfires, both deliberate and accidental, may claim as many as a million animals' lives each year.*

Fire Protection Association. Insurance companies keep only dollar-loss statistics, and only some of them separate out livestock statistics. According to David Hurst of State Farm Insurance, his firm paid just over \$265,000 in claims for livestock killed by fires from 1983 through 1985. Most were swine and cattle. Their value could range from \$10 for a newborn piglet to \$50,000 for a prize bull. Guesstimating the average insured value of an animal at \$100, that's "only" 2,650 deaths. But State Farm is "mainly an insurer of smaller, family farms," Hurst says. They probably handle less than one percent of farm business nationwide, and they don't cover many poultry barns, which often house over 10,000 birds at an average individual value of under \$5.

David Beal of the Cooperators General Insurance Company in Guelph, Ontario offers more comprehensive data. In Ontario, in American dollars, his firm paid \$750,000 for livestock killed in fires from 1984 through 1986. Again using the \$100 average value estimate (which may be quite high), that's 2,500 animal deaths per year. Nationwide in 1986 alone, Cooperators paid \$636,000 in claims for livestock killed in 685 barn fires. Figure a minimum of 6,360 deaths; and, like State Farm, Cooperators handles only a small percentage of total Canadian farm business. From this limited data base, total U.S. and Canadian barn fire animal deaths apparently range from 600,000 to a million per year—but could be considerably higher.

Most barn fires could be prevented, if animals in barns were even as well-protected as the contents of the average warehouse. Cooperators encourages installation of lightning rods, use of smoke detectors with duplicate

alarms in farmhouses, electrical renovation, and placement of portable fire extinguishers at strategic points in barns as well as aboard tractors and combines. Barry Crooks of Mercantile General Insurance says his firm won't cover heated barns, because current heating systems are too dangerous.

The overhead pipeline water supply system in most barns could be easily adapted to include heat-sensitive sprinkler heads, like those in stores and public buildings. New barns could include quick-release tie-up or lock-up systems, so that a farmer could release a whole row of animals by moving a single lever.

While the convenience of overhead hay storage has appealed to farmers since the hayloft was invented in the late Middle Ages, barn fire fatalities could be virtually eliminated if hay and grain were stored at ground level, in a separate building from the animals. The leading cause of barn fire animal deaths, as Beal notes, is entrapment. The leading cause of entrapment is smoldering feed dropping down from overhead lofts to block exits—panicking animals and creating so much heat and smoke that rescue becomes impossible. That's what happened in every one of the local fires.

Animal rights activists can help by questioning factory farmers about their fire precautions, and by urging their municipalities to adopt appropriate fire safety codes for barns. At present, barns are one of the few major types of structures that are specifically exempt from most fire codes in areas outside city limits.

—Merritt Clifton

*Merritt Clifton is an environmental journalist living in Vermont.*

—The Chronicle



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## TELEVISION FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS— THE TIME HAS COME



# VNN

### The Voice of Nature Network

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:

- commercials on furs, hunting, wildlife slaughter, and animal experimentation;
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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.

VNN is seeking individual, organizational, and foundation support for this ambitious project. Please let us hear from you by returning the coupon below.

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(VNN-1/88 AA)

## ANIMAL NEWSLINE

### Food for the Gods *Animal Sacrifice in the U.S.*

Each day, in communities all across the country, animals are mutilated and killed in strange religious ceremonies beyond the ken of most Americans. Stories of discarded, maimed animal bodies appear on the six o'clock news or in local newspapers, but the discoveries are often shrugged off as unexplained, isolated incidents.

The truth is that there are major cults across this country whose practices include the sacrifice of dogs, cats, sheep, goats, chickens, and other domestic or wild animals. These ritualistic killings are intended to appease the gods worshipped by the various cults. The blood and body parts of sacrificial animals are offered to the gods, who are thought to consume the "spiritual essence" of the victims and, thus sated, are expected to grant favors sought by cult participants. Several animal sacrifice cults in the U.S. are related to African religions brought to the Americas during the days of slavery. Santeria, Palo Mayombe, and Voodoo all find their genesis in these roots.

Santeria, a religion mixing Voodoo and Catholicism, is perhaps the largest of these cults. In South Florida alone, it is said to have up to 100,000 followers. Thousands more live and practice their beliefs in New Jersey, California, New York, and the District of Columbia. In some of these areas it is not uncommon to discover the headless bodies of sacrificial animals in waterways, parks, cemeteries, and other isolated areas. Animal corpses may be found in conjunction with characteristic Santeria paraphernalia, such as colored beads or ribbons, pennies, shells, railroad spikes, and cigars.

In Florida, one group of Santeria followers has opened up a public church in Hialeah, a city close to Miami. In the September 1987 issue of The ANIMALS' AGENDA, it was reported that city officials had backed down on passing an ordinance banning animal sacrifice after the church threatened a lawsuit against the city. But when Florida Attorney General Bob Butterworth ruled that animal sacrifice was a violation of state law, the city went ahead and passed several ordinances which had the cumulative effect of banning animal sacrifice in Hialeah. The church is suing the city, claiming that the cult's Constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion is being violated by the ordinances.



—Baker/HSUS

### *In the name of religion.*

Are there legitimate constraints on religious freedom? Marc Paulhus, director of the Southeast Regional Office of the Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS), has been assisting the city of Hialeah in its efforts to stop animal sacrifice. Says Paulhus, "We are not telling Santeria followers what they can or cannot believe; we contend that their beliefs do not allow them to act in disregard of state or Federal laws which uphold a compelling public interest. This tenet has been applied by the courts in cases dealing with polygamy, ceremonial drug use, snake-handling and other so-called religious practices. We believe that animal sacrifice is similarly illegal."

Palo Mayombe and Voodoo are similar to Santeria. In fact, many Santeria believers also practice Palo Mayombe. But Voodoo and Palo Mayombe have other macabre aspects. The rituals not only involve the torture and death of animals, but also include grave robbing to obtain human body parts—and, reportedly, even human sacrifice.

Located in coastal South Carolina is the Oyotunji African Village, a group with over 100 members. The group is composed of American blacks who are trying to recreate African tribal life by adopting West African dress, social practices, and religion. A 1981 investigation of the cult

## ANIMAL NEWSLINE

by Bob Baker of HSUS found Oyotunji followers sacrificing dozens of chickens each week, as well as goats, opossums, snakes, and dogs. These animals had their jugular veins punctured and were allowed to bleed to death on altars.

Most animal sacrifice cults in America

appropriate violations of zoning laws or health regulations. HSUS's Bob Baker says that most important is to "educate the public about the activity. Most people don't believe it could be going on in their own city."

Finally, propose that your city or county

*"We are not telling Santeria followers what they can or cannot believe; we contend that their beliefs do not allow them to act in disregard of state or Federal laws."*

are associated with specific ethnic groups and are found in areas having large populations of Caribbean immigrants. But cults that kill and torture animals can exist anywhere. Satanic worship is practiced across the nation, and the mutilated bodies of animals are found in even the smallest communities. Often, law enforcement officers speculate that the brutal slayings are the result of teenagers dabbling in the occult or influenced by acid rock bands, but seldom do the theories become proven fact. Even law enforcement agencies that deal extensively with occult-related activities say they have problems proving an animal killing is cult-oriented. Satanic cults often have small memberships which do not publicize their existence. Clues that police look for include bodies of animals which appear to have been subjected to torture and sexual abuse. The killings are most likely to take place on one of eight Satanic holy days, called Sabbats.

How would you know if any of these cults existed in your community? A quick look through the Yellow Pages of the telephone directory could provide your first hint. Stores catering to followers of Santeria, Palo Mayombe, or Voodoo generally are listed as "botanicas" under the "religious supplies" category. The advertisements feature merchandise such as animals, herbs, good luck sprays and other charms. The presence of a botanica in the area is a sure indication that a cult with a substantial following exists nearby.

The next step is to contact your local animal shelter and ask if any animal sacrifice activities have been discovered in the community. If so, put pressure on local law enforcement authorities to crack down on those sacrificing animals by charging them with animal cruelty and

adopt ordinances banning the sacrificial killing of animals. Readers can obtain a copy of a model ordinance on animal sacrifice by writing to: HSUS, Southeast Regional Office, 325 John Knox Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32303.

—Laura Bevan, HSUS Southeast Regional Office, with thanks to Marc Paulhus.

### The Animal Activist

◆ Puts anti-fur stickers on fur coats in stores, and sticks them up on mirrors in dressing rooms, in elevators, on doors and newspaper racks—anywhere people can see them

◆ In restaurants, puts anti-meat stickers on restroom mirrors or inside menus next to meat dishes, and in grocery stores sticks them on the meat counter and on meat packages

◆ Leaves animal rights flyers in library books, in magazines, on airplanes, and in public restrooms

◆ Puts flyers inside envelopes of outgoing mail (even bills), and puts stickers on the outside of envelopes

◆ Has a pro-animal bumper sticker or two on the car

—Susan Wiedman

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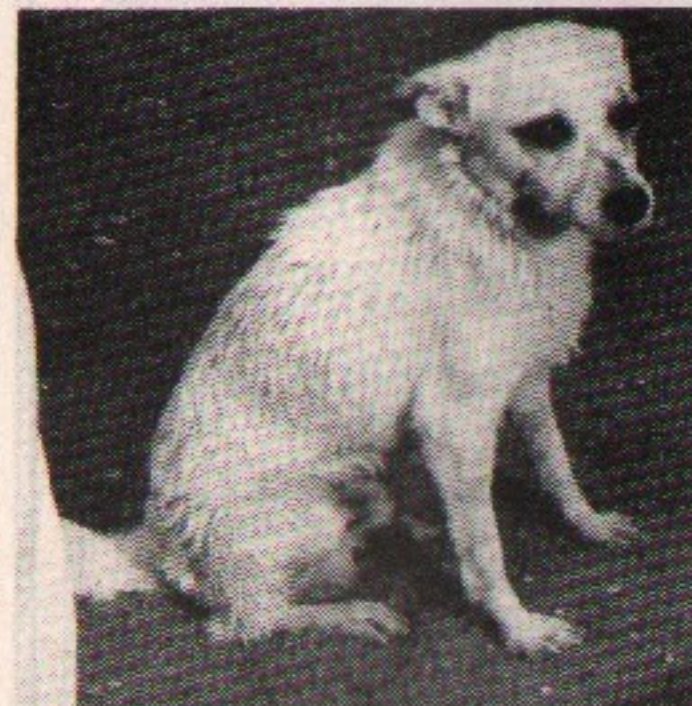
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## DATELINE: INTERNATIONAL



Still threatened



A new fur animal?



German hunting: cats pay, too.

GLOBAL—

### Status of Whaling

The 40-nation International Whaling Commission (IWC) has banned all commercial whaling for an indefinite period, but some countries, notably Japan, Iceland, Korea and Norway continue to defy the prohibition. (The IWC still condones the "limited" taking of whales for aboriginal "subsistence purposes"—with the catch limit put at 349 for 1988.)

JAPAN, by far the worst offender, has announced its intention to kill 825 Minke whales and 50 Sperm whales for "research" purposes each year for the next ten years. Although Japanese officials have acknowledged that the spoils of the hunt will be sold for profit, the country still claims that the hunt constitutes "scientific whaling". Japanese intransigence has met with an overwhelming negative press reaction around the world. In a typical editorial, Toronto's *Globe and Mail* said: "Economic sanctions are a drastic measure, but seem the only way left to harpoon Japan's violations and ensure that the country makes good on its earlier promise. The United States, the leader on this issue in the international community, should lay down the law." Japan's own leading daily, *Asahi Shimbun*, has weighed in on the side of the ban: "We can understand the anger of [the whalers] involved," said the paper, "but the implementation of survey whaling against [wide-spread] opposition should be avoided... Japan is already close to becoming the orphan of the world because of trade friction, and if it does not follow the IWC recommendations... it might find itself in an even more difficult position." The paper went on to question the high number of animals scheduled

to be killed for "research", noting that such a large figure casts suspicion on the authenticity of the "survey".

NORWAY and ICELAND have also refused to abide by the IWC ban. The former continues with its outlaw killing of Minke whales in the North Atlantic, while the latter has slaughtered 80 Fin and 20 Sei whales this year—all in the name of science.

More hopeful developments come from the East, however. KOREA, with a budding export sector vulnerable to international trade sanctions, has agreed to quit its "research" whaling. The SOVIET UNION has stopped all its whaling operations this year. The Soviets, however, have refused to agree in writing to honor the IWC ban in future years. For the U.S.S.R., abiding by the ban may be more a question of "yielding" some jealously-guarded sovereignty than giving up a crucial economic activity. Concern for the environment is nonetheless reportedly gaining a mass following there.

Under current legislation, the U.S. Department of Commerce can press for economic sanctions against any of these countries, but for political and economic reasons the Reagan Administration has been reluctant to do so. Washington's sluggish performance has prompted 11 conservation groups to reopen their Federal court suit to force the U.S. government to implement sanctions against Japan, should that country break its 1986 court-agreed commitment to end "all whaling" in 1988. *Main sources: Cetacean Society International, Whale Center Newsletter.*

EDITED BY PATRICE GREANVILLE

POLAND—

### Anything for a Fur Coat?

The Sept. 18 edition of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* reports that in Ciechanow, posters are encouraging locals to surrender their cats and dogs (as well as strays) to a nearby farm for 300 zloties—the equivalent of about \$1. Since May, claims the paper, the farm has bought 1250 dogs and turned them into 40 jackets. The garments fetch \$300 each. Cats are skinned to make belts which sell for \$13. *Main source: The Philadelphia Inquirer.*

WEST GERMANY—

### Hunters Train Dogs on Live Cats

A particularly vicious strain of the hunting disease has recently surfaced in the state of Hesse, Germany. According to an April report in the leading magazine *Stern*, some German hunting dogs are now being trained to kill as well as retrieve the wild animals shot and injured by their masters.

The story notes that breeders of hunting dogs trap cats, usually by means of cages placed on the outskirts of towns and villages, and then throw them to the dogs in tracts of open countryside where no escape is possible. Apparently many hunters are happy to pay hefty sums for dogs with a proven killing instinct.

Questioned about these practices, the Hesse Hunters Association denied all knowledge of them, but German animal rights activists have identified several of the culprits through photos supplied

German retail sales suffered a sharp decline in the early 1980s, chiefly as a result of sluggish economic activity and the emergence of a strong anti-fur movement.

by *Stern*. One of them turned out to be a church minister—Pfarrer Bock of Fritzlar-Lohne—who admitted to using cats as live-bait in the training of hunting dogs. According to Bock's own wife, the minister often goes hunting with his bishop.

From GERMANY also comes news that an *ad hoc* organization, the *German Fur Institute*, has been formed to act as a marketing umbrella for a number of leading fur associations sponsoring a consumer advertising campaign on behalf of the entire German fur trade.

According to Saga Furs, a major fur marketer in the U.S. and Europe, the campaign is being launched to turn around the sagging fortunes of the German fur business. Once the biggest fur market in the world, German retail sales suffered a sharp decline in the early 1980s, chiefly as a result of sluggish economic activity and the emergence of a strong anti-fur movement. The campaign, aimed at young women, and using the slogan "Fur—a good feeling", suggests that furs can be worn with a clear conscience. The ads are scheduled to run through January, 1988. *Main sources: Dennis Stuart (Hunt Saboteurs Newsletter), and Fur Age Weekly, respectively.*

## DATELINE: INTERNATIONAL



Sick national pastimes



Roos—a crucial reprieve?

SPAIN—

### Brutal Entertainment

Spain's morbid fascination with bulls, going back to pre-Roman times, has often puzzled foreigners who cannot comprehend how an otherwise refined culture can indulge in ancient pastimes of unparalleled barbarity. Now, according to an article in the German magazine *Bunte*, Spain's bullfighting passion may have landed the country in trouble with Common Market Directive 74/5/77, regulating the stunning of animals before slaughter. Apparently, matadors have found in that country's abattoirs the perfect place in which to practice their deathblows.

"He slaughtered 40 cows that morning with the 'descabello'—a quick sword thrust into the neck," reported the *Bunte* correspondent, describing a matador's grisly practice. "Sometimes he had to strike 3 or 4 times before the cow, afraid of death and screaming with pain, collapsed. The slaughterhouse staff loudly discuss each strike of the sword. Then, when the matador takes a break, the workers have a go." The "descabello" is supposed to kill the animal by severing the spinal cord, but bungling often condemns an animal to shackling-and-hoisting and disemboweling while still alive.

Matador training in abattoirs is widespread in Spain (and parts of Mexico), with the authorities generally ignoring the animal suffering involved. A recent letter by a Spanish animal welfare worker to WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals) confirms the plight of animal defenders in Hispanic-culture countries: "The situation is so different here that your actions and your aims are to us like a science fiction essay. Nothing is said in Spain about pre-

After several hours of this, the bull is literally covered with darts, some of which inevitably penetrate his eyes...

stunning and such fancy procedures, with everybody killing the pigs they have reared themselves in their villages without any control, veterinarian or otherwise... There is no law, no control and nobody could care less about the welfare of animals, either government officials or most veterinarians... Neither the press nor the Ministry of Agriculture nor the general public pay any attention to these problems and we are powerless right now to begin campaigning... We expect so much from the EEC [European Economic Community], but it is taking too long and conditions are worsening day by day."

Reports about another Spanish fiesta—in the village of Coria in Western Spain—further illustrate the Spanish capacity for self-debasement while torturing helpless beasts. In Coria, each day of the "fiesta" of San Juan, a bull is let loose to run through the village streets while the townspeople, safely barricaded, use blowpipes to shoot sharp darts into the animal's body. After several hours of this, the bull is literally covered with darts, some of which inevitably penetrate his eyes, but the ghastly ritual is still not over. Tradition demands that the weakened bull be hit, kicked and stabbed by the excited villagers before being put out of his misery with a bullet. The revolting celebration is capped by having a

chosen youth castrate the bull and parade the "trophy" around the village. In view of the fact that WSPA's requests to the Spanish Government to stop such vile "national fiestas" have so far gone unheeded, the organization is petitioning the European Parliament to outlaw this kind of barbaric entertainment throughout the European community. *Main source: WSPA.*

WESTERN EUROPE—

### Ban Imposed on Kangaroo Imports

In an encouraging move, the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, passed last September 18, by a wide margin, a resolution banning the importation of all wallaby products and ordering the strict monitoring of kangaroo products throughout the European Economic Community (EEC). At present, European countries do not keep any statistics for imports of kangaroo products.

Europe has been the mainstay of the commercial kangaroo trade in recent years. During the 1985-86 season, Europe accounted for 90 percent of Australia's kangaroo skin exports and 13 percent of its kangaroo meat exports, with Italy, West Germany, and France, in the lead among the importing nations. Italy, a country which derives a sizable amount of foreign exchange from the manufacturing of expensive apparel and furnishings, is the largest market. Italian dealers report annual imports of nearly 1,500,000 skins.

Animal protectionists regard the killing of kangaroos and wallabies—which is bringing some species close to extinction—to be one of the world's largest and most repugnant wildlife slaughters

In recent years Europe accounted for 90 per cent of Australia's kangaroo skin exports, and 13 percent of its kangaroo meat exports.

anywhere. By prohibiting the importation of 45 of 48 kangaroo species, the EEC is affording, in the absence of any responsible action by the Australian government, much needed relief to the Whiptail wallaby, the wallaroo, Bennett's wallaby, and Rufous wallaby. On the other hand, by listing the Red, Western Grey, and Eastern Grey kangaroos—the main targets of the commercial hunt—in Annex C, Part 2 of the European/CITES regulation, the resolution continues to allow the importation of these animals' skins, if under close scrutiny. Conservation groups, led by the International Wildlife Coalition and Greenpeace, have nonetheless applauded the vote as a measure paving the way for a total import ban in the not-too-distant future. *Main sources: International Wildlife Coalition, Greenpeace.*

International news items should be directed to:  
Patrice Greanville  
The ANIMALS' AGENDA  
P.O. Box 5234  
Westport, CT 06881 USA





—Walt Taylor

# THE LAST WOLF

The last wolf hurried toward me  
through the ruined city  
and I heard his baying echoes  
down the steep smashed warrens  
of Montgomery Street and past  
the few ruby-crowned highrises  
left standing  
their lighted elevators useless

Passing the flicking red and green  
of traffic signals  
baying his way eastward  
in the mystery of his wild loping  
gait  
closer the sounds in the deadly  
night  
through clutter and rubble of quiet  
blocks

I heard his voice ascending the  
hill  
and at last his low whine as he  
came  
floor by empty floor to the room  
where I sat  
in my narrow bed looking west,  
waiting  
I heard him snuffle at the door and  
I watched

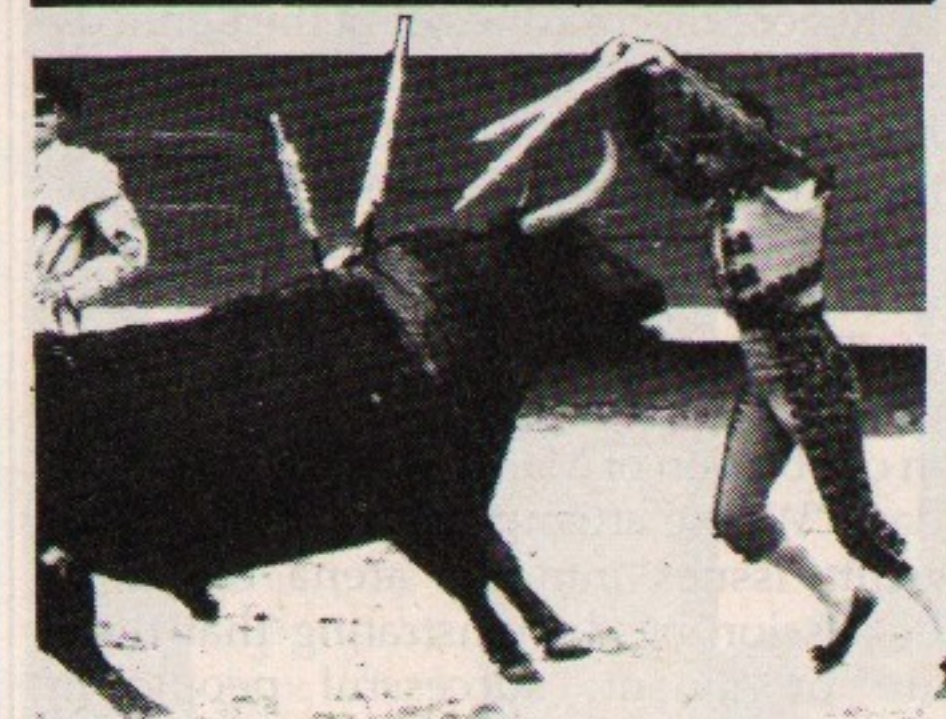
He trotted across the floor  
he laid his long gray muzzle  
on the spare white spread  
and his eyes burned yellow  
his small dotted eyebrows quivered

Yes, I said.  
I know what they have done.

—Mary TallMountain

## NEWS SHORTS

EDITED BY LESLIE PARDUE



Spectacles of death

■ Campaigns against bullfighting are being waged by several groups in Europe and the Americas. This past summer, activists in San Diego, Calif. targeted travel agencies and ticket outlets in the U.S. which were providing American tourists with transportation and tickets to bullfights in Mexico. Activists also worked to educate tourists crossing the border into Mexico—offering literature, displaying banners, and collecting signatures on anti-bullfight petitions. A Bullfight Action Committee has been established to coordinate ongoing anti-bullfight actions in the San Diego/Tijuana area: interested persons can reach the group by calling (619) 940-1450. The Mexican animal advocacy group La Voz de los Animales is asking for letters of protest to be sent to American Express, a prominent promoter of bullfights to American tourists. Write to: Stephen B. Friedman, executive director, American Express, Patriotismo 635, Col. Cd. de los Deportes, 03710 Mexico D.F. The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) has announced that a report on cruelty to animals during bullfights and Spanish fiestas is being prepared for consideration by the European Parliament (EP). The EP recently tabled a motion calling for a resolution to ban bullfights in Spain, Portugal, and France. WSPA's efforts against bullfighting in Spain have included the presentation of some 100,000 signatures of persons opposed to the shameful spectacles to Spanish Embassy officials in Britain.

■ Navy bombing and strafing runs conducted on Noman's Island—off Martha's Vineyard, Mass.—were the subject of a recent article by E. Bruce Berman, Jr. in *The Boston Phoenix*. Berman visited Gus Ben David, an official with the Massachusetts Audubon Society who defends the use of the island as a target for Navy jets, despite its supposed status as a wildlife sanctuary. David, a former nuclear weapons specialist during the Vietnam era, asserts that the bombings have a "positive" effect on the island's wildlife and defends the Navy's use of the site as part of a commitment to a "strong America". Berman subsequently visited the island, and reports, "for as far as I could see, the beach grass had been burnt to blackened stalks... There were bomb parts, ammo clips, fins, missiles, and slugs everywhere. There were dead birds: common terns and great black back gulls and herring gulls everywhere, in every state of decomposition... I was forced to con-

clude that, if this was a wildlife paradise, I don't want to know about wildlife hell." David, who remarked to Berman that "it was a mistake not to use nuclear weapons in Vietnam," continues to support the bombings with the backing of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Readers wishing to communicate their views on this stance may write to the Audubon at: Off State Rd., Edgartown, MA 02539.

■ Taurine deficiency in some commercial cat foods has been linked to cardiomyopathy (a life-threatening heart ailment similar to congestive heart failure) in cats, says Paul Pion, a veterinarian at the University of California at Davis. Taurine is an amino acid critical to cats' health. It is found primarily in fish and meat, but is also synthesized from non-animal sources into its pure chemical form for use as a supplement in both meat-based and vegetarian cat diets. Lack of taurine in the diet has also been found to cause blindness in cats. Pion studied over 50 cats who were suffering from cardiomyopathy whose cases had been referred to his clinic by other veterinarians. When he began supplementing the cats' diets with taurine, Pion observed "miraculous recoveries". The particular foods found to be taurine-deficient include: Purina Cat Chow (the best-selling brand of dry cat food), Hill's C-D, Hill's Science Diet Maintenance, Hill's H-D, Nine Lives Beef and Liver, Blue Mountain Kitty O's, and Carnation Fancy Feast Beef and Liver, according to a report on the findings in *Science* magazine. All of these foods met the apparently inadequate standards of the National Research Council, one of the organizations which sets nutritional standards for animal foods. Pion estimates that tens of thousands of cats die from cardiomyopathy each year, and the victims typically live only a few days or weeks after the illness is diagnosed. Following the report, the companies in question moved to either change or supplement their cat food formulas, with Hill's and Purina raising the taurine content of their foods from the previous level of 500 parts per million to a healthier 800 parts per million.

For a catalog of vegetarian nutritional supplements for both dogs and cats, including a supplement for cats which contains taurine derived from non-animal sources, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Harbingers of a New Age, 421 Myeena Loop, Florence, OR 97439.

More SHORTS on next page



Protesting the Navy's bombing runs on Noman's Island, Mass.



## NEWS SHORTS

■ **Three anti-fur activists** were arrested on September 21, 1987 in Vancouver, British Columbia, and face multiple charges of mischief and breaking and entering in connection with several months' worth of economic sabotage directed against fur retailers in the Vancouver area. The arrestees—Rod Coronado, David Howitt, and Linda May—are members of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, a group which initiates various direct action campaigns on behalf of animals. As a result of the vandalism directed at their establishments, two local furriers have announced that they will be going out of business; some area fur retailers report having been "hit" as many as 11 times over a two-year period. In a hysterical article in the fur trade newspaper *Fur Age Weekly*, furriers refer to the arrestees—who should be presumed innocent unless proven guilty—as "foreign terrorists" and "professional thugs". Following the arrests, the Fur Council of Canada organized 51 local furriers into the Vancouver Retail Furriers Association. Reports *Fur Age Weekly*, "A network of interested local organizations outside the fur industry was quickly established and included representatives from animal research, an aquarium and the meat packing sector." The fur industry is pushing for harsh treatment of the three arrestees, who spent a week in jail before being released on \$10,000 bail each. At press time, a preliminary hearing for the three activists had been scheduled for February 9-11, 1988. Sea Shepherd has established a legal defense fund for the activists—contributions may be sent to the group at: 207 West Hastings Ave., Suite 301, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 1H7.

■ **Triangle Animal Awareness: 1987**, the second series of what are becoming annual events in the Research Triangle area (the cities of Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill, N.C.) was held September 11-October 9, 1987. The series of events, coordinated by the Culture and Animals Foundation (CfAF), was designed to increase public awareness of animal rights. Local and national animal rights groups, university departments, and arts and media people participated in 18 different events. Initiating the series was a lecture on alternatives to the use of animals in education by Neal Barnard, M.D. of the Physicians' Committee for Responsible Medicine. The series culminated three weeks later with a candlelight walk in commemoration of World Prayer Week for

Animals. Interim events included lectures by Roger Stevens (director of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts) on animals in art and culture and Paul Watson (director of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and one of the founders of Greenpeace) on direct action; a showing of *The Animals Film* at a major local theater; and a vegetarian festival dinner in celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday. "We are attempting to bring animal rights issues into the arena of public discussion by demonstrating that there are prominent, successful people in science, culture, and the arts who take animal advocacy very seriously," says Tom Regan, president of CfAF. Media coverage of Triangle Animal Awareness was outstanding—some 14 local TV stories and 18 local newspaper stories covered the three-week series.

For information on future events, contact: The Culture and Animals Foundation, 3509 Eden Croft Dr., Raleigh, NC 27612; (919) 782-3739.

■ **For the first time, a farmer** has been ordered out of business for cruelty to animals. Paul Frisch, a Morning View, Ky. pig farmer, was found guilty on July 1, 1987 of wanton cruelty to his 30 pigs. He was given three months to get rid of the pigs or spend 90 days in jail. The sentence required that Frisch reduce the herd to 15 pigs within 30 days, and quit the pig raising business altogether after 90 days. However, he may resume pig raising if he enrolls in an animal husbandry program supervised by the University of Kentucky



Down on the farm

cooperative extension service. The cruelty conviction was upheld on the second appeal from Frisch, but he is appealing again. Problems on Frisch's farm were first called to the attention of police in April 1987 by nearby residents who observed pigs running loose in the neighborhood. The police contacted Jessie Pierce, an area animal activist who had previously worked on farm animal abuse cases. Marilyn Murphy, director of the Kenton County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, accompanied Pierce and police to the farm, where the abuse and neglect of the animals was readily apparent. Several pigs were trapped in an abandoned cellar with no cover over it; others languished in pens so full of mud and excrement that movement was next to impossible. One pig had a large maggot-infested sore. None were provided with shelter or water. The pigs were frequently starved for several days at a time, and were fed rotting raw chicken meat when fed at all. The Delaware group Farm Sanctuary followed the case closely, hoping to be granted custody of the pigs. Unfortunately, this offer was rejected by the court. Letters are needed to encourage the court to uphold Frisch's conviction. Write to: Court of Appeals, Bush Bldg., 403 Wapping St., Frankfurt, KY 40601, Case Number 87-CT-2521-D. Farm Sanctuary works to provide homes for rescued farm animals, and is moving to expand its efforts after acquiring a new facility: 10 acres of pasture, a 50 by 70-foot barn, a mini-barn, woods, and lake and pond access. A former milking parlor will be converted into an education center where visitors can be informed about the conditions for animals on today's intensive farms.

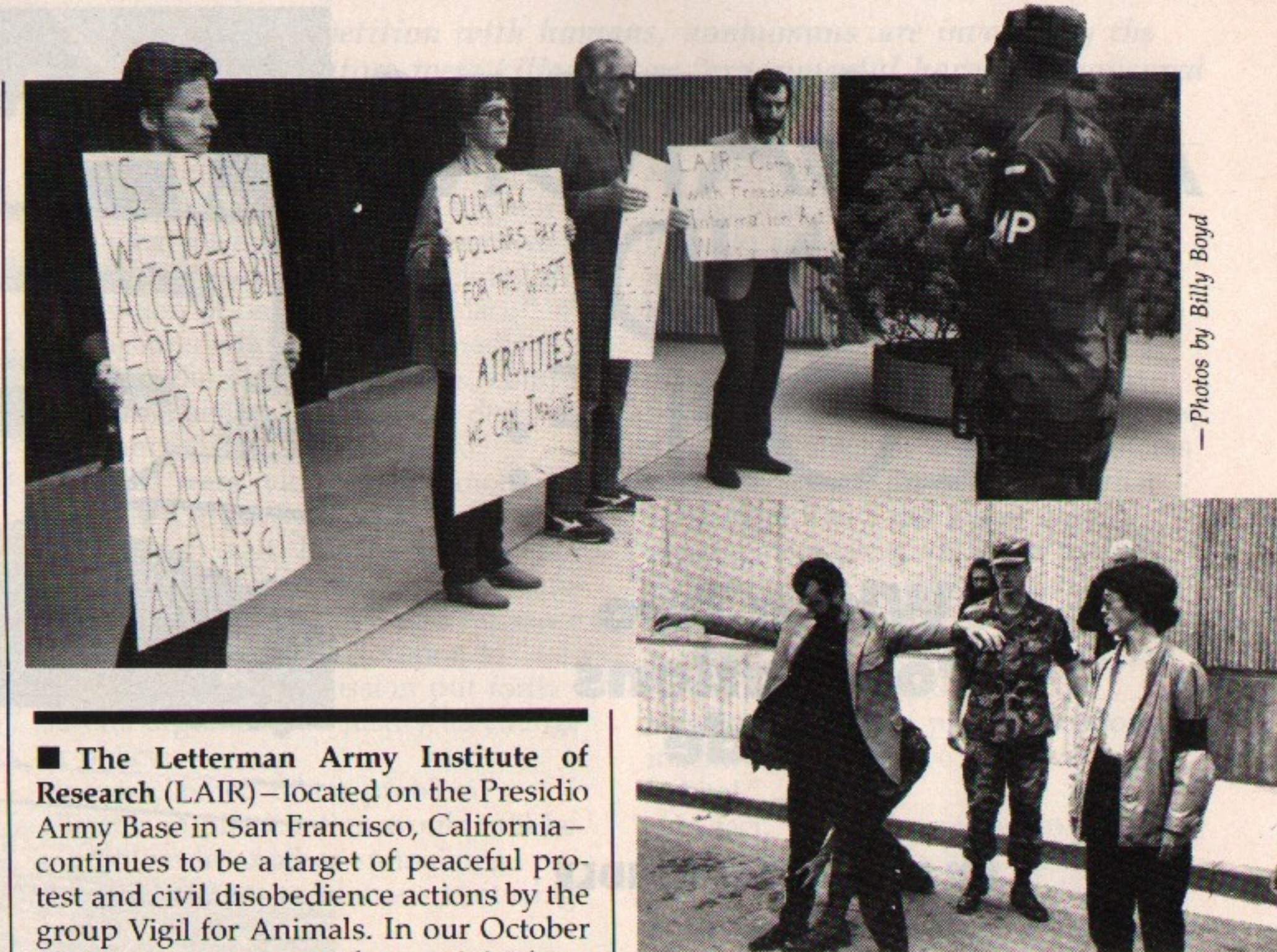
■ **The University of Washington (UW)** recently announced that it has cancelled, at least for now, its "dog lab"—part of a course in human biology required of all second-year medical students. The lab is supposed to teach students cardiovascular function. Students cut open the chests of live dogs, observe the effects of various drugs, and then kill the dogs by removing their hearts. The university's decision came after some two years of efforts by the Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) to call attention to the ethical and scientific flaws of the dog lab. The group contacted medical students and encouraged them to voice their objections to the lab—with the result that for the last two years, some ten percent of the students in the course have boy-

cotted the dog lab without penalty. The professor teaching the course, Dr. Allen Scher, was quick to assert that pressure from students, animal advocates, and the public was not the cause of the dog lab's cancellation. Said Scher, "A whole bunch of reasons made it seem like it just wasn't the thing to do this year." One of those reasons was likely the ban on the selling of pound animals in King County last December, making it more difficult and expensive for UW researchers to obtain dogs for use in the lab. The lab's future is uncertain; it could be reinstated at a future date, despite Scher's acknowledgment that "there are always a number of ways to teach anything," and that missing the lab won't hurt this year's students (In fact, of the 127 medical schools in the country, more than one-third don't use live animals to teach physiology). Readers are urged to demonstrate support for a permanent end to UW's dog lab. Write to: Human Biology 540 Course Committee, Allen Scher, Ph.D., Dept. of Physiology and Biophysics SJ-40, School of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.

■ **The First Annual Celebrity Vegetarian Banquet** was held on October 1 in Beverly Hills, Calif. to simultaneously honor World Vegetarian Day and Mahatma Gandhi's birthday. The event was created and catered by Gentle World, a central Florida-based "intentional community" who threw the party to, in their words, "inspire those who are inspirations to others"—namely, the celebrities, who are viewed as role models in our society. Gentle World orchestrated a 34-item meal, featuring a wide array of completely vegan delicacies (free of all animal-derived products). The meal illustrated to the 140 people present that eating vegan food *can* be a gourmet's dream, and need not be viewed as a primitive "roots n' shoots" kind of affair. The guest list was star-studded, but due to the combination of late invitations to celebrities, their hectic schedules, and the Los Angeles earthquake that very day, some who wanted to attend could not. Among those who *did* attend were Drew Barrymore, Sheena Easton, Danny Glover, Earl Holliman, Casey and Jean Kasem, David Rappaport, Alan Thicke, and Gretchen Wyler. Dr. Michael Klaper of Gentle World gave a powerful "no apologies" health talk on the necessity of a vegan diet in the creation of "a peaceful world free from hunger and disease".

—Thanks to Eliot Rosen

## NEWS SHORTS



Photos by Billy Boyd

■ **The Letterman Army Institute of Research (LAIR)**—located on the Presidio Army Base in San Francisco, California—continues to be a target of peaceful protest and civil disobedience actions by the group Vigil for Animals. In our October 1987 issue, we reported on activists' ongoing efforts to obtain current information on animal research at LAIR under the Freedom of Information Act. On October 13, 1987, four animal rights activists were arrested by military police for walking onto LAIR grounds with signs and stationing themselves on the front steps of the facility. Meanwhile, facing squads of MPs at the base's entrance, about 50 supporters leafleted, collected signatures on petitions, and maintained a vigil. The vigil disbanded after a few hours, when police told the protesters that the four arrestees would not be released until the demonstration ended. At press time, charges were still pending against two of the arrestees, who requested formal hearings. The October 13 direct action was taken because LAIR hasn't complied with its own regulation #AR70-18, which calls

**Top: The warning: leave or be arrested. Bottom: A pre-paddy wagon search.**

for release of materials documenting their animal research to "both the scientific community and the public". LAIR hasn't issued an annual report on its animal research since 1982—figures for that year indicate that 4,973 animals were used in 44 experiments, at a cost to taxpayers of some \$5.3 million. LAIR is just one of many Defense Department facilities using animals in "studies" of ballistics, germ and chemical weapons, and laser radiation. For information on future actions at LAIR, contact: Vigil for Animals, P.O. Box 18134, San Francisco, CA 94118; (415) 221-0210.

—Thanks to Deetje Boler



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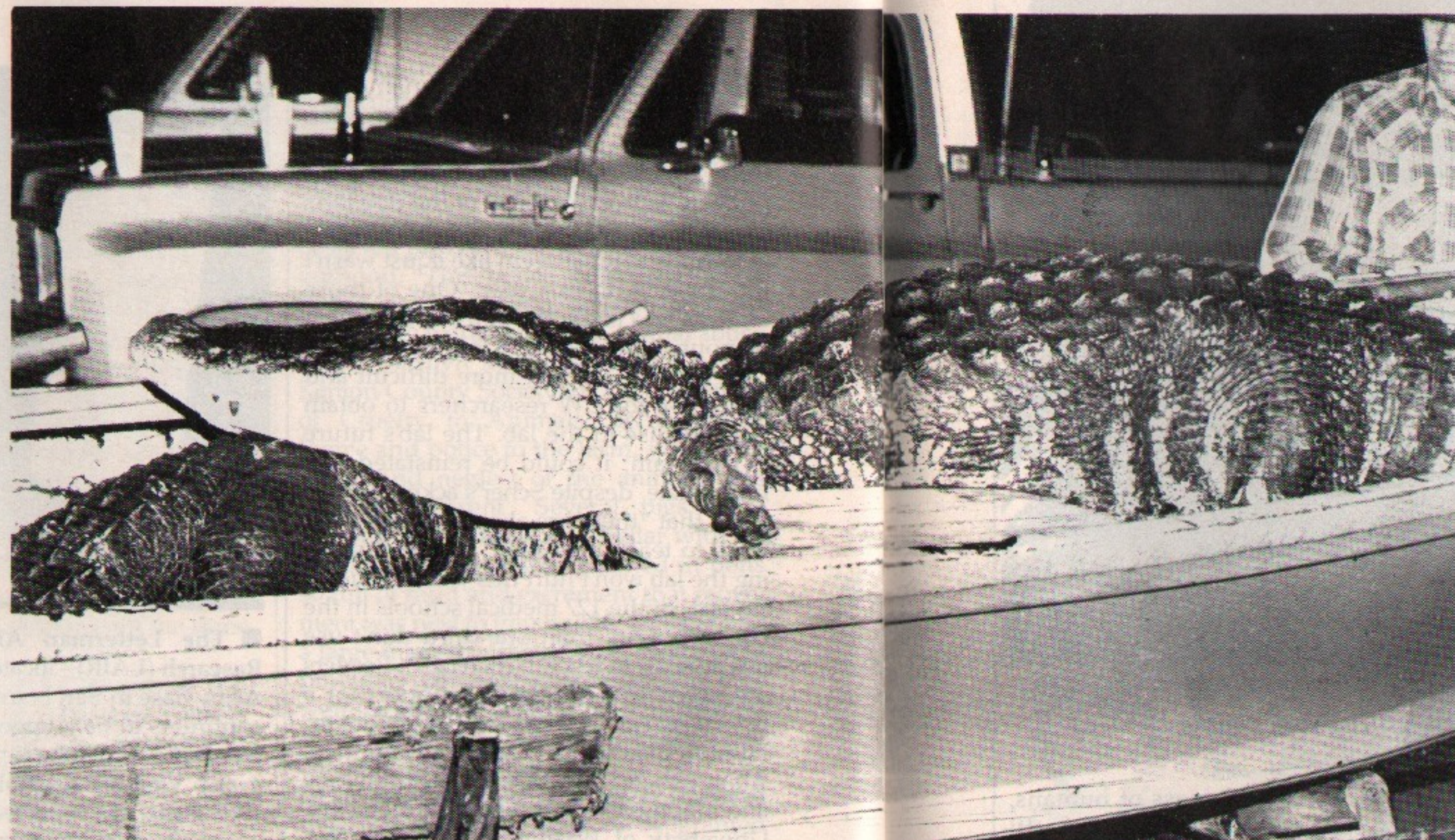
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# ALLIGATORS AND PEOPLE:

## When Two Populations Collide

BY KATHY S. PRINDLE



In conflict or competition with humans, nonhumans are invariably the losers. These alligators were killed in an "experimental harvest" sponsored by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

In 1973, Sherman A. Minton, Jr. and Madge Rutherford Minton advised readers of their book *Giant Reptiles* that "the nearest thing to a dinosaur that anyone can see alive in the wild today is an alligator...but one had not better postpone the opportunity too long. These big reptiles are rapidly going the way of the dinosaur."

After surviving on earth for nearly 200 million years, alligators—one of the dominant reptiles of the Reptile Age—faced extinction in the early 1960s due to extensive hunting and poaching. In 1969, the Federal government placed alligators on the Endangered Species List. The population rebounded so well that in 1977 alligators were reclassified from "endangered" to "threatened by similarity of appearance" in Florida, Louisiana, and Texas, the states which encompass most of their range. In June of this year, alligators in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and South Carolina were also reclassified. The new designation allows for strictly regulated hunting.

Alligators inhabit freshwater ponds, swamps, marshes, streams, bayous, slow-moving canals, and lakes—including golf course lakes—and are extremely valuable to the wetland ecosystem. As predators at the top of

the food chain, they prey on rodents and other animals who could damage marshland vegetation. Most importantly, though, using their mouths, claws, and tails, they create dens or "gator holes"—depressions that stay full of water throughout the rainy season. During dry seasons or extended droughts, these dens may be the only source of water, helping to keep vital food chains intact by providing a haven for insects, fish, frogs, turtles, and other wildlife.

Following an April to May breeding season, the female alligator builds a mound-shaped nest of mud, leaves, and rotting organic material in which she will lay from 25 to 50 eggs. She closely guards the nest during the nine-week incubation period, until the nine to ten inch babies hatch. They'll remain with her for one to three years, but due to predation by other wildlife (such as herons, snakes, turtles, and larger alligators), most will not reach maturity. Survivors will grow approximately a foot each year during their first five years, then somewhat more slowly thereafter. During a lifespan of 20 years or more, males grow to approximately thirteen feet in length, females to approximately eight to nine feet.

Strictly speaking, alligators are not territorial, although large males may

defend a given area, particularly during the mating season. Females are generally loyal to a specific location, but males tend to roam, often covering several miles within a year's time.

Young alligators dine on insects, crustaceans, tadpoles, fish, and other small animals. The usual diet of large alligators consists of birds, turtles, snakes, fish, and small mammals such as muskrats, opossums, and raccoons. Occasionally, they will eat calves, pigs, and deer.



### "Nuisance" animals

Unfortunately, alligators don't differentiate between wild and domestic animals, and each year many unwary, careless, or curious dogs and cats are killed. Neither are humans immune from attack. Although 13 people were bitten in unprovoked attacks by alligators in 1986, Florida has averaged five attacks yearly for the past 15 years, and a total of five deaths. Attacks are actually quite

rare, but, as stated by Dennis David, coordinator of the statewide alligator management program, they "receive much media attention, thus giving the perception of being commonplace."

Alligators who pose an immediate threat to the safety of humans, companion animals, or livestock are deemed "nuisances". Before 1977, those alligators were relocated to remote, unpopulated areas by Florida game commission staff. But the species' reclassification enabled the game commission to kill alligators, and nuisance control shifted from relocation to slaughter. The commission put forth several arguments to justify its change in policy:

\*It was claimed that a problem alligator in one location would still be a problem in another—remaining potential threats to humans venturing into remote areas.

\*With all suitable habitat at carrying capacity, there was no biological need to "restock", according to David.

\*Increases in both human and alligator populations were generating more complaints than the commission could adequately handle on its budget. Rather than hiring more personnel, the commission launched a six-county pilot program in which they contracted with private trapper-agents to kill alligators. Under the terms of the contracts, the state received a percentage from the sale of hides—making the program "self-sufficient".

Under the nuisance program, individuals within each of the commission's administrative region are licensed to handle problem alligators. Complaints are received by phone, and a game commission officer interviews the caller to determine the extent of danger presented by the alligator. If there is a legitimate threat, a permit is issued to a contracted trapper-agent to destroy the alligator. The state keeps 30 percent from the sale of the alligator's skin, and the trapper gets the remaining 70 percent plus all of the profits from the meat. The average nuisance alligator is seven feet long with a total gross value of about \$300. Out of an estimated population of 500,000 to 1,500,000, approximately 3,000 nuisance alligators

*Although alligators can thrive in a less than optimal environment, the Florida Everglades is a perfect home for the ancient species.*

are killed annually.

Next year, the game commission plans to allow strictly controlled sport and commercial hunting of alligators. However, this is not in response to an increase of attacks predicted to occur due to the growing alligator population. Although hunts might reduce the number of alligator attacks on humans in the long run, David explains that "philosophically, the intent of a management program is not to 'thin' the population to eliminate attacks. Initiation of a harvest is to develop the sustained use of a renewable natural resource, which, in the case of alligators, may also provide economic incentives to preserve their wetland habitat."

In fact, wetland destruction may be the biggest threat facing alligators. In the past decade, Florida has lost nearly 12 million acres of wetlands and currently drains or fills an estimated 80,000 acres each year. Between 1970 and 1980, Florida's population jumped from 6,791,418 to 9,739,992—a 43.4 percent increase. With 800 people moving into Florida each day and an anticipated population of 14.6 million by the year 2000, wildlife habitat will continue to be swallowed by urban sprawl as people are lured to the state by an inviting climate, plentiful job opportunities, and a relatively low cost of living. Urban development, in turn, leads to a conversion of wetlands to cropland. Phosphate mining, the state's third-ranked industry, just behind tourism and agriculture, also significantly contributes to the loss of wetlands. This burgeoning human population and diminishing wildlife habitat has put humans and the potentially dangerous reptiles on a collision course. But there are steps we can take to lessen the impact.

### Educating the public

A basic understanding of the species and an awareness of the actual dangers they pose are necessary in order to dispel the horror movie portrayals and headline-grabbing media hype that color many people's perception of alligators.

Noted University of Florida alligator researcher Kent Vliet, featured in the 1986 National Geographic special "Realm of the Alligator", states that they are generally not dangerous

*Continued on next page*



Continued from previous page

animals, but "unfortunately, they are well-equipped to do great harm." He points out that "the potential interactions between alligators and people in Florida in a year must number in the tens of thousands, if not millions. Yet, there are usually only four or five bites a year."

Greg Holder, a Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (FGFWFC) wildlife biologist who occasionally works with alligators, says that many people ask him point-blank if he's afraid. "I tell them I'm probably more afraid about driving home this evening than being around alligators, because if you look at those statistics, the statistics certainly indicate that jumping in my vehicle this evening is a much greater risk." He adds, "Many people become extremely concerned when they're around the water, and they certainly have a right to be. I don't want to downplay that, but it certainly needs to be put into perspective."

At Pelican Bay, a planned community in Naples, Florida, Westinghouse Communities' president Byron R. Koste believes a greater alligator population exists there now than when the company first bought the land. He takes pride in the fact that no problems have occurred between the community's human and alligator residents, and attributes this to two things. First, residents are provided with an ongoing education program. They learn not only the "do's and don'ts" pertaining to alligators, but also are offered nature studies and trips through the development's estuarine system via an electric tram and boardwalk, as well as hikes and boat trips. Second, since his company develops whole communities rather than subdivisions, long-term planning goes into creating an integrated park and residential system.

"We try and be smart," says Koste. "Where there are residences close to water bodies, we are careful how we treat the banks so that it's not a natural place for the animals to crawl up, right into the home. You need to keep respectable distances so that you don't have the canals that a lot of Florida has in the back of every house. That's an accident waiting to happen."

The tragic death of a snorkeler (skin diver) attacked by an alligator in Wakulla Springs, Florida, in July, prompted many to question the safety



*Urban sprawl, which continues to gobble up wildlife habitat throughout the world, may be the biggest threat facing alligators today.*

of the state park system. Such well-publicized but isolated incidents often elicit some outcries for a large-scale slaughter of the reptiles, a response that concerns many wildlife biologists who fear that the public might come to unduly hate alligators and take a vigilante-style approach toward them.

Ney C. Landrum, Director of the Division of Recreation and Parks, feels that the potential for attacks in Florida's state parks is not likely to reach an alarming degree. He states

alligators' natural wariness of humans, but also to the game commission's efficiency in removing problem alligators before they do serious harm. Ironically, nuisance control may also serve to protect alligators from humans. As Dr. Vliet explains, "Without such programs, the public would think they had no protection from these animals and soon would demand stronger methods of alligator control."

Unfortunately, the public might also be reassured by the limited hunting

**"It strikes me as tunnelvision to assume...that there cannot be any popular support for preservation of marshlands unless alligators are designated a game species to provide more sport for people whose recreation it is to kill wild animals."**

that "with rare exceptions, such conflicts can be prevented through such measures as public education, signage, and other visual devices and effective enforcement. Of course, all of these measures presuppose a certain amount of caution and common sense on the part of park visitors."

### Nuisance control

**T**hat there are an incredibly low number of attacks on humans each year attests not only to

season. People in general don't consider the thousands or millions of potential encounters that pass by without incident, but they vividly remember the television and newspaper accounts of the little boy who was the object of a tug-of-war between his frantic mother and a large alligator (the mother barely won). How will people remember Wakulla Springs? For its inherent beauty, or for the image of a snorkeler dangling

*Continued on page 56*

ADVERTISEMENT



## Kids and animals -- a winning combination?

Adults often assume that children have a natural affinity for, and curiosity about, animals. The truth is, children need to be taught the humane way to share the Earth with other living creatures.

Unfortunately, children are frequently given "double messages" by the very people seeking to provide humane insights. Children learn that some animals, such as dogs and cats, are "good," while others, such as rats and mice, are "bad." They are given the idea that animals exist for human use -- to be eaten, experimented upon, raised for their fur or hunted for sport. Attitudes like these set the stage for animal cruelty and neglect, problems that are all too familiar to those concerned with animal stewardship.

The ASPCA's Humane Education program teaches children and adults to respect all living creatures and to appreciate their place in the world. We do this through hands-on classes for elementary school children, humane issues seminars for high school students, and teacher training workshops. We distribute information on humane issues and responsible animal care, and serve as a resource for concerned parents and educators.

If you would like information on how you can help promote humane education in your community, please contact the ASPCA Education Department.

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## THE MEDIA CONNECTION (III)

## In the Name of Humanity

BY PATRICE GREANVILLE

Could the medical and scientific knowledge derived from wartime Nazi experiments on Jewish and Russian prisoners—naturally involuntary subjects—ever be considered legitimate? During World War II, German doctors conducted gruesome experiments on Jewish inmates, with the research almost invariably marred—besides the monstrous ethical aspects involved—by the crudity of the methods employed, the ideological biases that permeated their design, and the frivolity and redundancy of the projects.

Some prisoners were used for research into "field surgery"—i.e., the handling of bullet and shrapnel wounds under battlefield conditions. Others were subjected to extremely painful burn and tissue-grafting experiments, in addition to genetic studies of dubious formulation. Of course, in the deathcamps life had become cheap, and the rights of some humans practically non-existent.

The Nazi Reich didn't only victimize Jews. Leftists of all stripes, Soviet p.o.w.s, gypsies, and other "inferior" races also received brutal treatment. Thus, Nazi doctors tried to probe the secrets of hypothermia by immersing hundreds of Russian prisoners in ice-water tanks. The experiments were designed to help downed German pilots survive the frigid waters of the North Atlantic. Decades later—and to the consternation of many—some of these data turned up in the U.S. and other Western nations during the development of open-heart surgery, as it became known that by drastically lowering the body temperature, surgeons could reduce oxygen needs for extended periods of time, which is crucial for this type of intervention.

Why this bit of grim history? Because the logical parallels are so compelling. Except for speciesist biases, there is really no difference between what Nazi doctors were doing and what animal researchers still do routinely. The Nazi experimenters committed their crimes in the name of love and loyalty to the German Reich and the "herrenvolk"—master race—it purported to represent. Biomedical researchers do what they do to animals in the name of love for humanity—the dominant power on Earth. The motives may be broader, but the underlying exploitative logic, based on force, not consent, is the same.

## The opposition materializes

Doubts about the morality of vivisection ("A-V") societies were among the first to organize in the budding humane movement of the late 19th Century. Perhaps it was the mind-boggling unfairness and arrogance of it all, the callousness shown to obviously sentient creatures (amply documented by forays into the researchers' own "sacred" quarters), that made people stand up against these practices. Their pleas, however, often redolent of an outdated Victorian sentimentality, ran counter to the temper of the times.

Modern science, delivering miracle cures and a torrent of new creature comforts and security, was a formidable foe to criticize. The anti-vivisection forces were vanquished, and were to remain so for half a century.

The situation began to change during World War II. As research projects multiplied in response to a major federal commitment to basic biomedical knowledge, the "pound seizure" issue started to get prominent public attention. Dogs and cats were among the species desired in increasing numbers, and scientists turned to local pounds as an inexpensive and convenient source of supply. They met with surprising resistance. Literally and figuratively, a raw nerve had been touched, and, before long, numerous laws restricting the availability of dogs and cats began to pop up across America. Recognizing a serious threat to the future of animal experimentation, the scientific community decided the time had come for a professional public relations job to quell the "rabble-rousing". The upshot was the creation, in 1946, of the National Society for Medical Research (NSMR), the forerunner of today's Foundation for Biomedical Research (FBR), established in the late 1970s. Both groups were charged with fostering public understanding of the needs and achievements of animal experimentation. The NSMR, riding the popularity wave enjoyed by science, and a strong, optimistic economy, had little trouble putting its side of the story across. By 1948 various polls indicated that 85 percent of the public favored providing unclaimed pound animals for research.

## The FBR: keeper of the faith

With the rise of the more aggressive and philosophically sophisticated animal rights movement in the late 1970s, the task of keeping public opinion firmly on the side of researchers has become more complex. Accordingly, the FBR and its associated lobbying group, the National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR), have concentrated their efforts on the production and distribution of mass propaganda materials such as pamphlets, films, videotapes, and position papers, while working energetically to organize and form alliances with local, state, and national medical societies. From the beginning, the FBR has enjoyed the support of animal-breeding firms (Charles River labs executives played an active role in the FBR's creation), major biomedical institutes, universities, and pharmaceutical companies. By late 1985 the FBR had produced two films, "Caring for Life" and "Will I Be All Right, Doctor?", and was aggressively promoting them for use in speaking engagements and media promotions. "Will I Be All Right, Doctor?"—a typical package—features children whose lives have been spared by techniques supposedly developed through animal studies. Not satisfied with this, the organization has been encouraging heart-transplant survivors and incurably-ill patients to

speak out on behalf of animal research.

According to the FBR, virtually all modern therapies have been developed through animal experimentation. Immunizations against polio, smallpox, and mumps; broad-spectrum antibiotics; analgesics and anesthetics; intravenous feeding and blood transfusions; radiation therapy and chemotherapy; kidney dialysis; microsurgery to reattach severed limbs; treatment of stroke and brain-damaged accident victims; open-heart surgery; and scores of medications to control epileptic seizures, gastrointestinal diseases and hypertension—this is just a partial list of the FBR's claims for animal research.

In addition to the above, the FBR, which in a way owes its existence to the vitality of the new animal rights movement, spends a great deal of time monitoring animal groups, developing "intelligence" on its leading constituents, coordinating legislative work at the local and national levels, and recommending strategies to the research community on a variety of areas from the handling of animal advocates' demands and "threats", to morale problems among lab personnel, and negative publicity.

The research community's concerns are well-grounded. Critics of animal experimentation have made considerable strides in recent years. By late 1986, more than a hundred bills had been introduced at some level of state or local government restricting the use of animals, and legislation creating and regulating new animal care committees (though virtually defanged at the outset) is starting to show promise. The practice of pound seizure has suffered a tremendous erosion of public support, having been eliminated in many areas of the country.

The best way to keep track of the FBR is, of course, through its own publications. Among these, the *FBR Newsletter*, the *NABR Alert*, and the *CIRA Newsletter* (Center for Information on Research with Animals), deserve special attention. A subscription to the *FBR newsletter*, a quarterly, costs \$25. The *CIRA Newsletter*, also worthwhile, costs \$35 a year. Order from: FBR, 818 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 303, Washington, DC 20006; tel. (202) 457-0654. The New York office, dedicated to media relations, is located at 40 West 57th Street, Suite 1900, New York, NY 10019; (212) 977-9481.

## Lab Animal magazine—the commercial connection

*Lab Animal*, established in 1972, with a circulation of about 15,000, is the biomedical community's semi-official commercial organ. A typical issue carries features on clinical, theoretical, and technical aspects of research, plus news about upcoming conferences and events of interest to the profession. The ad copy, touting a multitude of animal research devices—rodent "guillotines", animal restrainers, cages, diets, therapeutics, washers, instruments, and a wide assortment of purpose-bred animals—is an

education in itself. Of late, reflecting the controversy surrounding vivisection, the magazine devotes considerable space to news and articles on tactics and strategies designed to "contain" pro-animal advances. This publication is an absolute must for those engaged in A-V work. *Lab Animal*: 65 Bleeker Street, New York, NY 10012; tel. (212) 477-9600. Annual subscription is \$25.

Incidentally, the Sept. 1987 issue of *Lab Animal* carries an intriguing ad for a new publication, "The Animal Rights Reporter". Describing itself "as a new monthly newsletter [tracking] the growing animal rights movement, protests, boycotts, legislative pressures and other activities", ARP promises details on scheduled meetings along with leadership profiles. A subscription, clearly geared to corporate pocketbooks, is \$195. Write to: Perception Press, Suite 9, 1000 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036; tel. (202) 331-3360.

**Other biomedical sources** Activists might consider keeping track of the following organizations and publications (many free to professional members): (1) American Psychological Association, 1200 17th Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20036; (202) 833-7555. Publishes monthly *The APA Monitor*. (2) Association of American Medical Colleges, 1 Dupont Circle, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20009; (202) 828-0400. Publishes *Journal of Medical Education*, a monthly; \$30 a year. (3) The American Association for Laboratory Animal Science, 70 Timber Creek Drive, Suite 5, Cordova, TN 38108; (901) 754-8620. Publishes *Laboratory Animal Science*. \$10 an issue, \$60 a year. Lots of audiovisual materials for rental. (4) *FARSighted UPDATE*, published by IIFar (Incurably Ill for Animal Research); contact Steve Carroll, Exec. Dir., Box 56093, Tucson, AZ 85703; (602) 682-5749. (5) American Heart Association, National Center, 7320 Greenville Ave., Dallas, TX 75231; (214) 750-5300. Publishes *Circulation Journal*. (6) *The American Psychologist*, 1200 17 Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036; (202) 833-7600. Monthly, circ. 52,000, \$18 a year. (7) National Head Injury Foundation, Box 567, Framingham, MA 01701; (617) 879-7473. Publishes quarterly newsletter. (8) Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814; (301) 530-7075. Publishes *FASEB Newsletter* (monthly), \$55 a year. Also legislative summaries (weekly) and a feature service. (9) American Medical Association (AMA), 535 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610; tel. (312) 645-5000. Publishes a variety of journals but "JAMA" (*Journal of the AMA*) is the one to get. Free to members. (10) National Foundation for Cancer Research, 7315 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 332-W, Bethesda, MD 20814; (301) 654-1250. Lots of pamphlets, brochures and other materials, most of them supportive of animal experimentation. (11) American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), 930 N. Meacham Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60196; (312) 885-8070. Publishes the twice-monthly *Journal of the AVMA*, free to members; otherwise \$70 a year. Also, *The American Journal of Veterinary Research*, a monthly, \$105 a year.



Charlton Heston on Animal Research

"There are some who say animals should not be used in medical research. From my contacts with the knowledgeable members of the research community, it has become clear to me that this is incorrect. It is our duty to make advances against the diseases that threaten our lives."

*Doubts about the morality of vivisection are nothing new. Anti-vivisection societies were among the first to organize in the budding humane movement of the late 19th Century.*





# Farm Animals and the Feminine Connection

BY KAREN DAVIS

*They have been bred to docility, tractability, stupidity, and dependency. It is literally meaningless to suggest that they be liberated.*

—J. Baird Callicott

Callicott is talking about farm animals—cows, pigs, sheep, and chickens—although his comments could have been written by a 19th Century racist or sexist to describe women or blacks. Now, as in the past, “Women and animals remain parts of nature to be controlled and subjugated,” Gene Corea reminds us in *The Mother Machine*. And Aviva Cantor, in “The Club, the Yoke, and the Leash” (*THE ANIMALS’ AGENDA*, January/February 1985), notes that the basic strategies men use in the oppression of animals operate similarly in the oppression of women and minorities. Even so, men have traditionally admired and even sought to emulate certain kinds of animals. However, they have not traditionally admired or sought to emulate either women or minorities. The analogy between women/minorities and animals overlooks what could be the more crucial comparison—that between women/minorities and farm animals.

Together, these three groups represent a way of life that our Western culture looks down upon. They summon forth images, to use Callicott’s phrase, of things that are “unnatural, tame, and confined.” Such things we are urged to regard disparagingly as “feminine.” By contrast, we admire, even as we set out to destroy, things that are “natural, wild, and free.” These things accord with the “masculine” spirit of adventure and conquest idolized by our culture. The contrast can be vividly seen in our literature. Whereas in Herman Melville’s *Moby Dick* the hunters of the great white whale conceive of their prey as an awesome, godlike being, in William Golding’s *Lord of the Flies*, the little boys view the nursing sow, whom they violently rape with a spear, as an object of disgust.

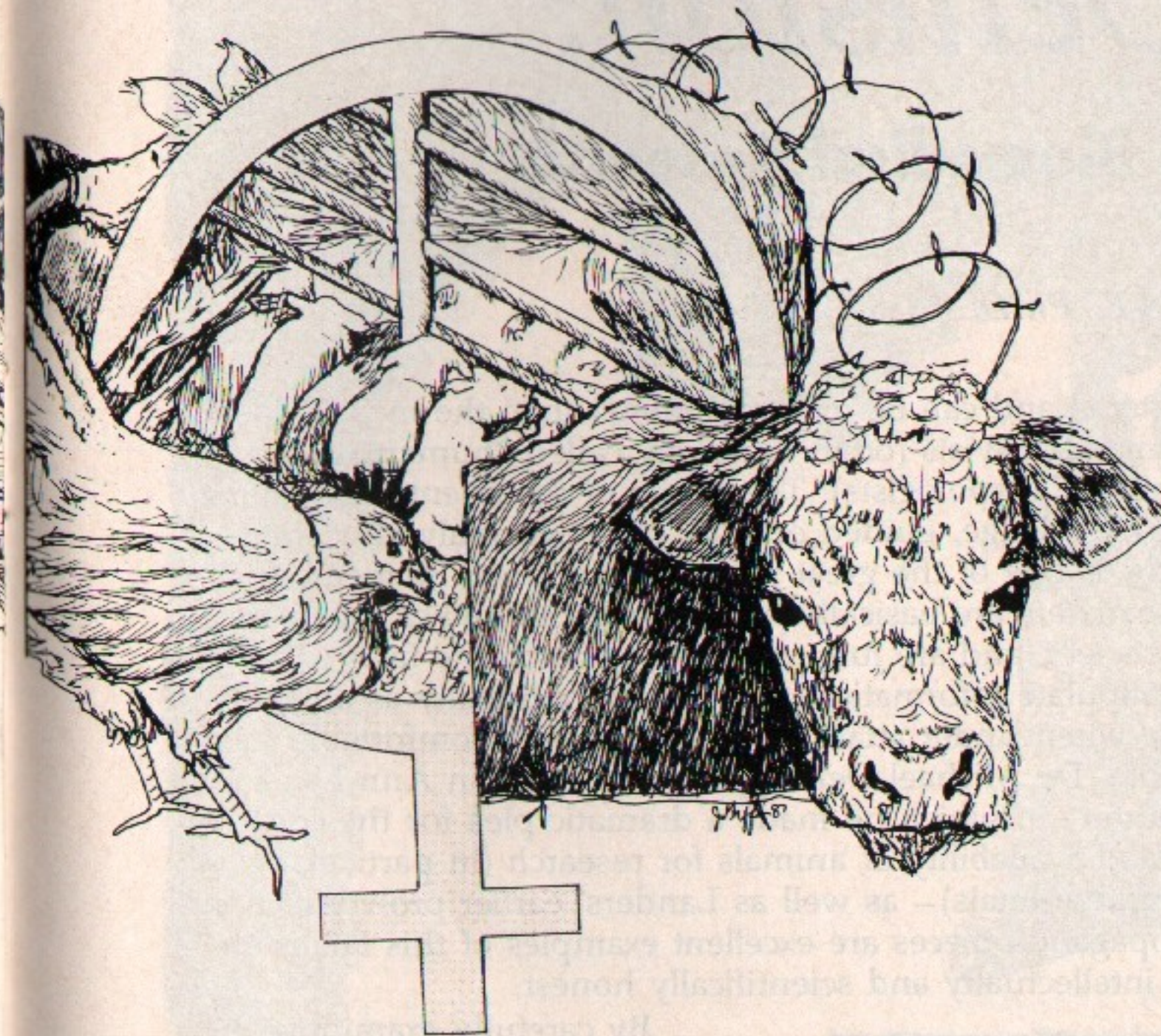
Occasionally, a particular animal gets promoted as being “very much like us.” Usually what this means is that the animal exhibits some quality or qualities corresponding to the human male order of experience or idealized existence. Think about it. How often do we hear an animal touted as being “very much like us” for expressing qualities which pertain to the feminine part of our nature? One has only to look at the amount of support generated over the past 20 years to save “things natural, wild, and free,” compared to the amount generated to liberate “things unnatural, tame, and confined,” to see where our cultural preference actually lies.

A recent exchange in *THE ANIMALS’ AGENDA* (June 1987) highlights the issue. In answer to a woman who requested that farm animals be given equal coverage with whales, the editor, while not unsympathetic and promising more farm animal coverage, pointed out that whales are “a high priority with both animal advocates and environmentalists.” Because of the tremendous effort such groups have made on behalf of these “intelligent, amazing, and benevolent creatures,” the world community is now inclined to regard the killing of them as wrong. The “Editor’s Note” concludes: “Given that, if we can’t



protect the whales, what chance do we have of protecting the chickens of the world?”

It seems, however, fair to ask what chance there can ever be of protecting the chickens of the world if, in fact, their only defenders view them as less than “a high priority.” Animal advocate and eco-feminist Harriet Schleifer has suggested an answer. In “Images of Death and Life” (*In Defense of Animals*), she says that when animal advocates hedge on the issue of food animals and vegetarianism, “The public comes to feel that the use of animals for food is in some way acceptable, since even the animal welfare people say so.” Existing public attitudes which regard farm animals as inferior beings, little more than human-made commodities whose liberation would be “literally meaningless,” are thus upheld by the “liberators” themselves. What Schleifer refers to as “the myth of the ‘attainable goal’”—the argument that “the public is not ready to deal with” the farm animal issue—may indicate an embarrassing stumbling block within the animal rights community. It could imply the need to rationalize a residue of culturally-conditioned indifference towards, and prejudice against, creatures whose lives appear all too slavishly, too boringly, too stupidly female. Feminist writer Susan Griffin’s evocation in *Woman and Nature* of the “bovine mind dozing and dreaming, who lays open her flesh, like a drone, for the use of the world” expresses precisely the opposite of what our culture considers an optimum, worthwhile experience (though we consider it to be perfectly well-suited to servile, utilitarian existence). In any case, we regard conscious, logical reasoning as the only valid sort of “mind.” Evidence that chimpanzees possess such a mind is a primary reason why many are now insisting that they should be granted “human rights.” Human rights for chimpanzees? Yes. Human rights for chickens? Meaningless.



—Jean Griffin

## Macho ecology

Recognizing that there is a connection between our culture’s perception of women and minorities and its perception of farm animals could lead animal advocates to be much more passionate in their efforts on behalf of farm animals. The need to do so may now be more crucial than ever. Otherwise, farm animals stand ready to get run over by a new band wagon—“deep ecology.”

Deep ecologists regard animals, including the human animal, as part of the biosphere as a whole. Not only do sentient be-

*We now have the opportunity of choosing to become ecopersons—beings for whom the great challenge is not to imitate predators or primitive peoples, nor to become practitioners of myth, be it ancient or new.*

ings have ethical and spiritual value in their eyes, but so does what the Western mind routinely considers as nonsentient—plants, water, soils, etc. Deep ecologists reject the piecemeal, one-step-at-a-time approach to liberation in favor of a holistic one, thereby presenting a much-needed challenge to the discrete, reductionist logic and morality upheld by Western culture. These are some of the more attractive features of deep

ecology. But there are unattractive features also. A macho mystique infests the deep ecology movement. In celebrating “things natural, wild, and free,” deep ecologists are prone to extol “the healthful,” “recreational,” even “spiritual” benefits of hunting, fishing, and meat-eating, when such things are done with what Bill Devall and George Sessions in *Deep Ecology* refer to as the “proper attitude.” A rallying cry is heard in Paul Shepard’s *The Tender Carnivore and the Sacred Game*. In Shepard’s view, ecotopian man, proudly reasserting his genetic heritage, “by definition is a hunter and gatherer.”

While deep ecologists recognize John Muir and Aldo Leopold as forerunners of the movement, it is Leopold’s teachings that provide primary guidance. And no wonder. Unlike Leopold, Muir did not hunt or fish. He considered the human desire for meat a “depraved appetite” and the human adult’s desire for milk a sign of immaturity. Muir hated violence and refused to make it a part of his own wilderness experience. For all this, he is patronized in the deep ecology-oriented biography *The Pathless Way*, by Michael Cohen, for “lack of insight into violence” and failure to grasp “the significant bond forged between hunter and hunted, when a man became part of the flow of energy in Nature.” In repudiating hunting, Muir “chose to ignore the meaning of this essential and perhaps mystical activity of man.”

Not surprisingly, many proponents of deep ecology cannot find an ethical niche for farm animals. As Callicott explains, “[Aldo] Leopold to all appearances never considered the treatment of brood hens on a factory farm or steers in a feed lot to be a pressing moral issue. He seems much more concerned about the integrity of the farm wood lot and the effects of clear-cutting steep slopes on neighboring streams.” While Callicott’s comparison of farm animals to tables and chairs is no doubt extreme, it nevertheless focuses upon a prevailing attitude in deep ecology. For this reason, animal advocates should be cautious about the deep ecology movement. Just as deep ecology can add a needed dimension to the concept of animal rights, so should the animal rights movement try to inspire the deep ecologists with the clear vision that comes through a truly humane perspective. One thing is certain: macho ecology should not be awarded a place. Aldo Leopold may not have considered the treatment of brood hens on a factory farm or anywhere else to be a pressing moral issue, but we all can and should.

Rather than stressing ritualized hunting, fishing, and consumption of animal flesh food as essential to “human” health and wholeness as some deep ecologists do, we should be representing qualities of mercy and compassion and the desirability of treating other living beings as we wish to be treated. Instead of looking to hunter-gatherer societies for our modes of conduct, we should be looking to our best selves. I have yet, by the way, to encounter a single deep ecologist who would care to be the “sacred game” in a hunt. It seems, “man” will run only with the predators. We now have the opportunity of choosing to become ecopersons—beings for whom the great challenge is not to imitate predators or primitive peoples, nor to become practitioners of myth, be it ancient or new. The great challenge, in the words of Tom Regan, “is to take what we’ve been given and to rearrange it and to make something new out of all those things.” Let us begin, then, by getting farm animals once and for all off the global assembly line and put them where they belong—at the forefront of our global ethic.

Karen Davis teaches English at the University of Maryland.



# Data and Delusion:

## The Myth of Objectivity in Biomedical Research

BY JOHN McARDLE, Ph.D.

*All groups of humans have their own characteristic biases and mythologies about themselves and others. They may be ethnic, religious, social, or professional in origin, or be based on some other shared perception or experience. Although often unspoken and unrecognized by those who hold them, erroneous biases and beliefs can exert a powerful influence over individual and group behavior.*

Those who support the pro- and anti-vivisection philosophies are no exception to the above observation. This is perhaps best illustrated by examining the classic images of scientists created in Hollywood. In the movies, researchers are commonly portrayed as being either like Madame Curie, dedicated to the search for knowledge and truth, or a mad Dr. Frankenstein. Despite claims in some of the literature distributed by both sides of the animal experimentation issue, neither stereotype represents the reality of biomedical research in the United States today.

As a society, we have tended to place physicians and biomedical researchers on pedestals, from which they enthusiastically received our support and worship. In fact, most researchers are not particularly altruistic or virtuous. Neither are they sadistic, yet cruelty to laboratory

animals—resulting from ignorance, indifference, or insensitivity—is commonplace in biomedical research facilities.

Other common denominators within the closed, privileged society of the biomedical experimenters and their supporters include the unwritten and usually unacknowledged biases and assumptions that influence decisions on which laboratory animals are used, and the future direction and funding of biomedical research. As animal advocates become more aware of these factors, it will be easier to understand the complex interactions within the biological and medical research communities, to react effectively to the inherent resistance to change and hostility of the experimenters towards those who challenge their status quo, and to more easily critique research protocols and publications.

One of the first lessons learned in dealing with the biomedical research establishment and its associated industries is that they often choose to ignore objectivity and truth. They are not above grossly misrepresenting factual

material and can be more emotional than the most strident humane activists (often derisively called "humaniacs" by biomedical apologists). The image of the scientist searching for knowledge, guided only by objective analysis of the facts, is one of the great myths of our time. Biomedical researchers are basically no different than other members of society, and are just as likely to stretch the facts, manipulate information, and act as irrationally as anyone else when under attack or in defending a comfortable way of life. Dr. Michael DeBaake's recent letter in Ann Landers' column—in which he made a dramatic plea for the continued availability of animals for research (in particular, pound animals)—as well as Landers' earlier pro-vivisection propaganda pieces are excellent examples of this failure to be intellectually and scientifically honest.

By carefully examining the many areas of biomedical research that involve the use of laboratory animals, a consistent pattern of inherent biases is routinely observed. Their effect on the validity of the experiments ranges from mildly confounding to a complete negation of the results.

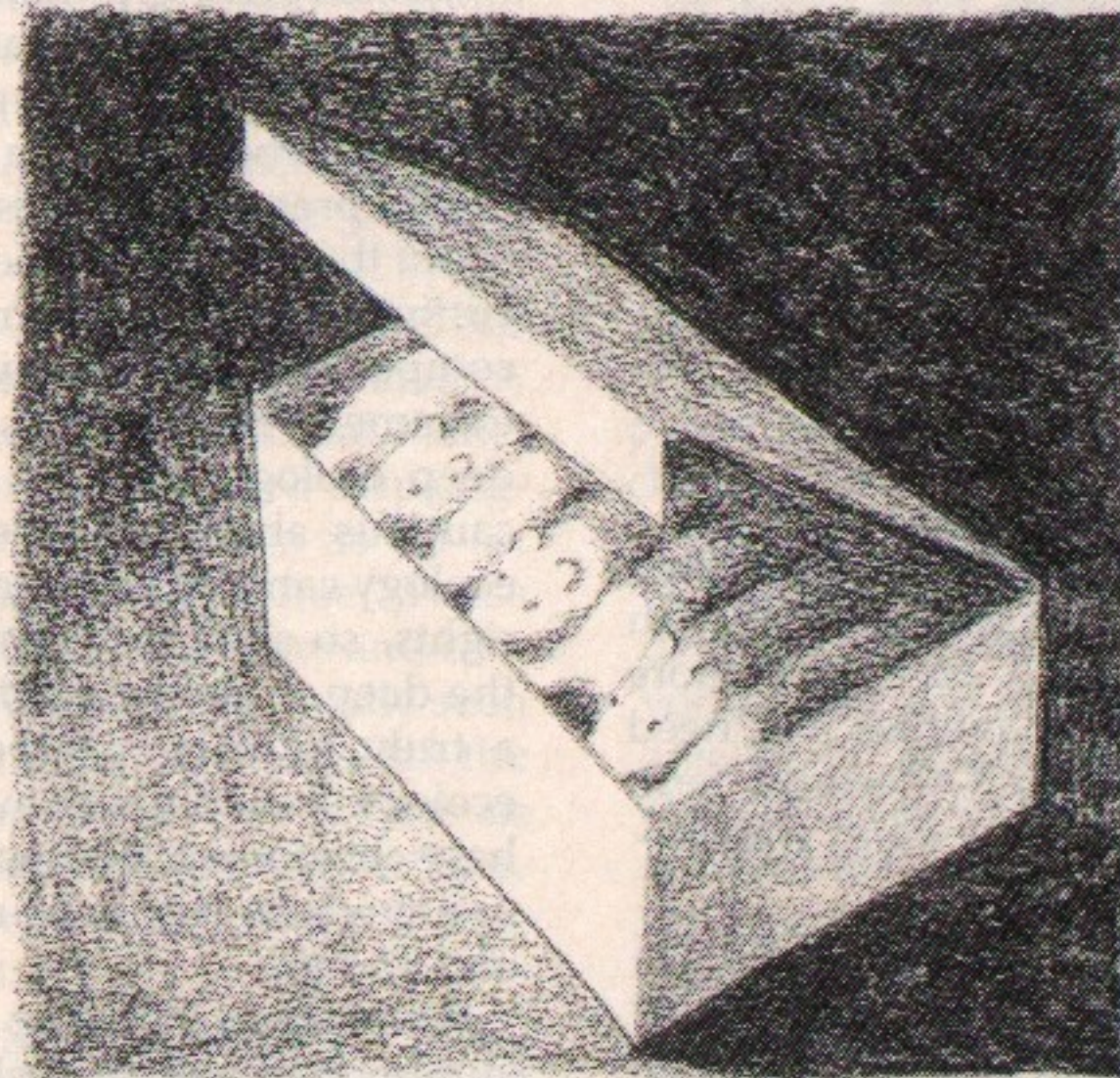
### Reductionism

The experimental responses of a laboratory animal or a portion of his or her body may be so over-generalized that they no longer have any resemblance to biological

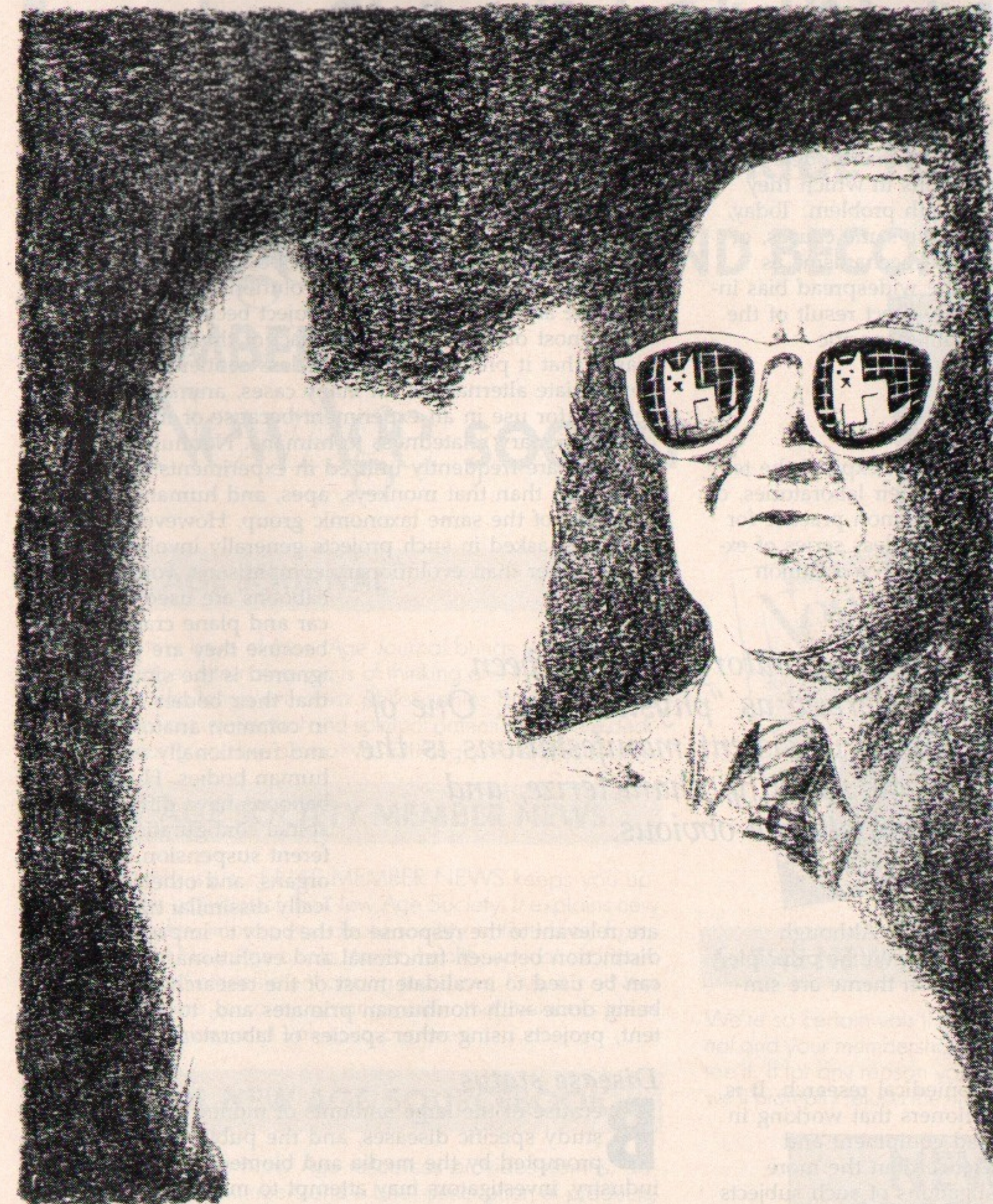
reality. An experimental psychologist in Canada once claimed that he could freely extrapolate data from laboratory behavioral and surgical manipulations between all species of mammals, because the different animals all had the same neurotransmitters. Thus, the evidence of species specific behavioral patterns, millions of years of evolutionary divergence, and both anatomical and physiological differences were dismissed as insignificant by reducing all of the species to simple "bags" of similar chemicals.

Sad but true, it is relatively easy to secure funding of laboratory studies of aggression that have little or no meaning to either humans or nonhumans, while scientists wanting to study aggression in natural, free-ranging populations of the same animals cannot find financial support.

Perhaps one explanation for the tendency to reduce biology to a study of parts of animals or animals divorced from their natural environments lies in the training biomedical researchers receive. These individuals seldom



— Illustrations by Walt Taylor



have comprehensive backgrounds in the biological sciences, such as courses in animal behavior, botany, ecology, or evolutionary theory. Do they really understand the behavior and biology of the animals they are using? Randall Lockwood of The Humane Society of the United States often relates an experience he had while a member of the faculty in a psychology department. Late one night, he received a frantic telephone call from one of the experimental psychology graduate students, who thought one of his laboratory cats was seriously ill with a respiratory infection. When Dr. Lockwood arrived at the animal room, the student picked up the "sick" cat and said, "It's having trouble breathing—can you hear that loud sound?" This budding specialist in feline psychology did not know that cats purr.

### Treating animals as machines

A corollary of biological reductionism is the failure of some biomedical researchers to recognize or appreciate that laboratory animals are not simply machines or little boxes that produce varieties

of data. Once consideration of animals is reduced to this level, callousness and insensitivity to the animals' pain and suffering can easily follow. The single experience that contributed most to my personal rejection of vivisection involved a foreign post-doctoral student whose experimental animals were dying from neglect. When I discussed this problem with his supervisor, one of the most distinguished scientists in the department, I was told to "let all of the animals die and when he loses his data, he'll take it more seriously." The analogy to machines can have its most serious expression in the field of biomechanics. Some researchers in this discipline completely reduce the animals to a series of levers, pulleys, and mathematical equations.

### Invasiveness

As the term is used by animal rights advocates, an "invasive" experiment includes any physical, chemical, or behavioral procedures or circumstances involving a laboratory animal that causes him or her to suffer. Researchers often fail to appreciate that—in addition to the experimental procedures—the handling, housing, transporting, breeding, and feeding of an animal can cause

both physical and mental pain and suffering. All higher vertebrates are completely aware of their surroundings, and know what is happening to them. Unless housed under behaviorally and environmentally optimal conditions, experiments using live animals are always suspect from a humane point of view.

### Inter-specific extrapolations

For most uses of laboratory animals—whether in educational demonstrations, product development and safety testing, or in non-clinical basic biomedical research—there is a general inability to directly apply information derived from one species to another. Laboratory animals are frequently used as surrogates for humans, although they may be irrelevant to the specific problems under study. As originally conceived, animal models were used to investigate infectious agents to which the animals shared vulnerability with humans, such as diphtheria, tuberculosis, and polio. Since they are no longer needed for that specific purpose, as infectious diseases can now

*Continued on next page*



## The Myth of Objectivity in Biomedical Research

Continued from previous page

be studied in cell and tissue cultures, animal models have consequently been shifted into situations in which they only mimic the human disease or health problem. Today, animal models are seldom subject to the same causes, or have the same symptoms or biological mechanisms as their supposed human analogues. The widespread bias introduced by bogus animal models is a direct result of the failure to recognize the problems of inter-specific extrapolations.

### Repetition

In their efforts to secure research funds, expand the territorial boundaries and influence of their laboratories, or simply maintain their jobs, it is a common practice for biomedical researchers to generate an endless series of experiments—by devising minor variations on a common theme, redefining previous work, subdividing one problem into multiple parts, or manipulating new techniques and equipment to answer old questions. With the exception of experimental psychology and substance abuse/addiction studies, exact duplication of research projects is relatively rare. However, the level of similarity is often such that the experiments are essentially redundant. Although replication of research results is a valid scientific principle, redundancy and variations on a common theme are simply bad science.

### The white-coat syndrome

There is a status hierarchy in biomedical research. It is the belief of many of its practitioners that working in a laboratory, using sophisticated equipment and precise measurements, is better science than the more traditional, non-mechanistic investigations of such subjects as ecology and ethology. Yet, those with the broadest experience in the biological sciences are often the least likely to engage in experiments involving laboratory animals. The pro-laboratory bias has been characterized as "physics envy". One of its most persistent manifestations is the need to quantify, characterize, and manipulate the obvious.

### Quantitative status

This is a subset of the white-coat syndrome, in which it is believed that the tools used for quantification or statistical analysis impart status to their users. This most often relates to the type of computer, calculator, or diagnostic machine employed in each laboratory. In scrutinizing some animal experiments, animal advocates should question whether earlier research is being repeated in order to use new laboratory toys.

### Evolutionary status

Another subtle status distinction made by researchers depends on the species of animal selected for use in experiments. Gradations of this status range from bacteria, protozoa, invertebrates, lower vertebrates, higher

vertebrates, domesticated mammals, and primates. The highest status is reserved for those who conduct human clinical research. When nonhuman primates were cheap and readily available, investigators routinely used them in projects for which other options were more suitable. In large part, this reflected the anthropocentric attitude that the closer one gets to humans evolutionarily, the more fundable and status-laden the project becomes.

The most obvious negative impact of this evolutionary bias is that it prevents the use of less sentient and more appropriate alternatives. In many cases, animals are selected for use in an experiment because of their degree of evolutionary relatedness to humans. Nonhuman primates are frequently utilized in experiments for no better reason than that monkeys, apes, and humans are all members of the same taxonomic group. However, the questions asked in such projects generally involve functional rather than evolutionary comparisons. For example, baboons are used in car and plane crash studies because they are primates; ignored is the simple fact that their bodies have little in common anatomically and functionally with human bodies. Humans and baboons have different spinal configurations, different suspension of internal organs, and other anatomically dissimilar traits which are relevant to the response of the body to impact forces. The distinction between functional and evolutionary similarity can be used to invalidate most of the research currently being done with nonhuman primates and, to a lesser extent, projects using other species of laboratory animals.

### Disease status

Because of the large amounts of money allocated to study specific diseases, and the public hysteria prompted by the media and biomedical research industry, investigators may attempt to make their individual research programs "relevant" to the currently popular human affliction. For the past few decades, this role was played by the Federal government's "war" on cancer. It is unclear how many billions of tax dollars and millions of animal lives have been wasted on useless or entirely unrelated cancer research using laboratory animals. More certain, however, is that the "war" has been both a tactical and strategic failure with regard to cancer patients, but a financial boon to universities and individual researchers. We are now in the early stages of a new "war"—with A.I.D.S. being the current excuse to support marginally relevant research projects.

Whether you are an active animal advocate, or just a concerned citizen confused by all the pro-vivisection propaganda emanating from the biomedical research industry, you can objectively examine and understand the biases that characterize most animal research. The factors discussed above can act as your guide.

Dr. McArdle is Scientific Director of the New England Anti-Vivisection Society. He received his Ph.D. from the Department of Anatomy at the University of Chicago.

*The pro-laboratory bias has been characterized as "physics envy". One of its most persistent manifestations is the need to quantify, characterize, and manipulate the obvious.*

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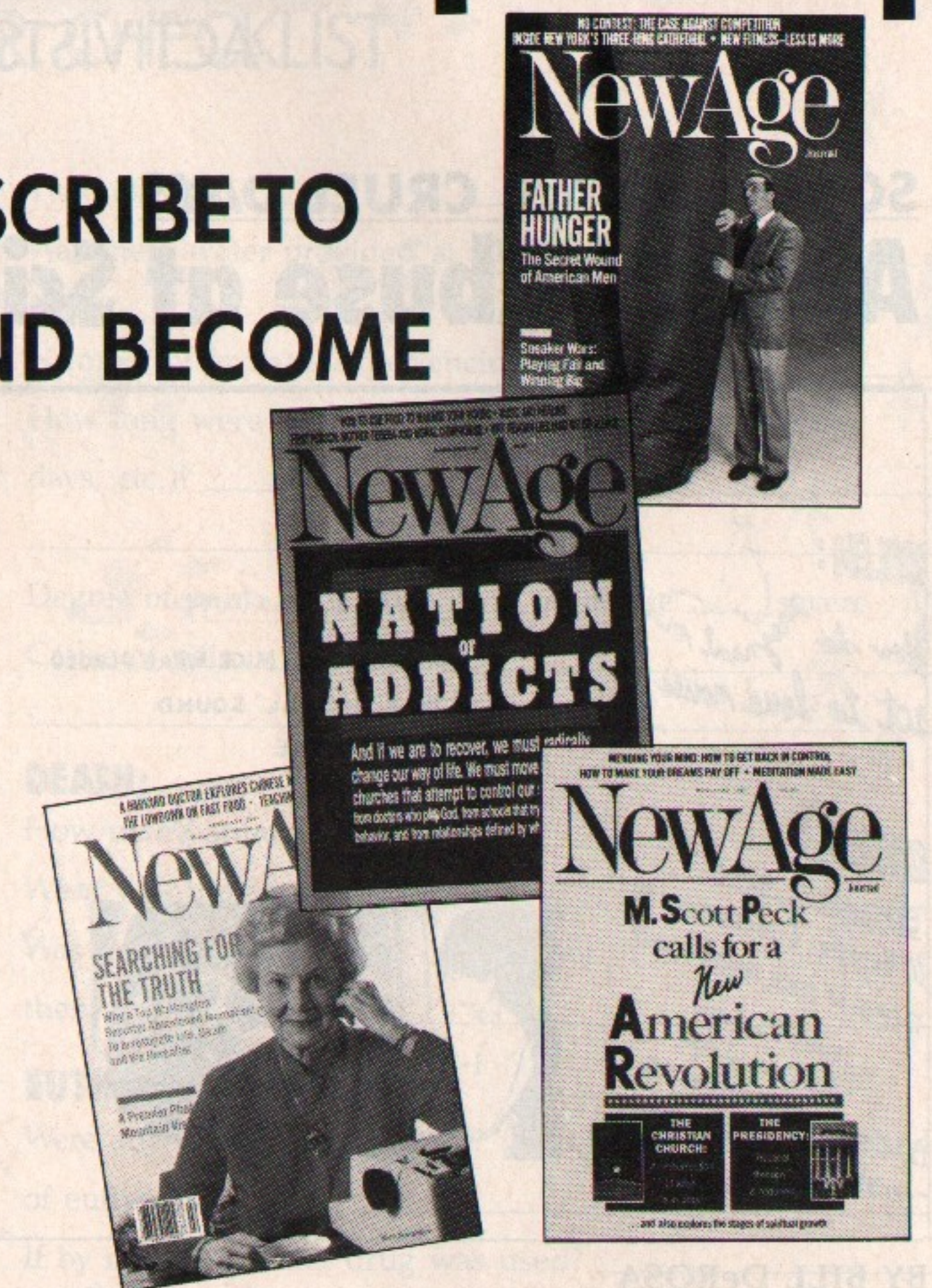
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SCHOOL DAYS, CRUEL DAYS

# Animal Abuse at Science Fairs

**PROBLEM:**  
How do pregnant mice react to loud noises?

**PROCEDURE:**  
**EXPERIMENTAL GROUP:**  
(1) EXPOSED 6 PREGNANT MICE TO TAPPING OF PENCIL IN ECHO CHAMBER.  
TIME: 5 minutes  
DURATION: 13 days  
(2) EXPOSED 6 PREGNANT MICE TO ACROBELL BELL IN ECHO CHAMBER.  
1 minute

**CONTROL GROUP:**  
6 PREGNANT MICE WERE PLACED IN A NORMAL SOUND ATMOSPHERE.

**CONCLUSIONS:**  
**EXPERIMENTAL GROUP:**  
(1) 3 pregnant mice their young when pencil tapping and bell.  
(2) One mouse as a result bell.

- Rodents Spun in High Speed Centrifuge
- Sodium Chloride Poured into Freshwater Fish Tank
- Chopped-Up Frog Displayed in Petri Dish
- Deadly Lead Compounds Fed to Rats

Science fair experiments are often presented in a poster display. This project involved severe stress to pregnant mice subjected to loud noises in an echo chamber. One mouse became deaf, some aborted their fetuses, and others ate newborn infants.

BY BILL DeROSA

Surely, one might say, the above headlines speak of the deeds of some escaped psychopath on a cruelty spree. Or perhaps they refer to the latest work of a university biomedical research team. The truth, however, is that all those atrocities—and more—were committed by elementary and secondary school students in recent science fairs around the country.

The science fair has become an institution in the United States. The International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), the largest of them all, is now in its 39th year. This year's ISEF is expected to attract 700 high school participants. Over 350 regional fairs are affiliated with the ISEF, and there are thousands of other science fairs held every year at regional, state, local, and individual school levels.

The nature and scope of animal abuse that occurs in science fair biology projects is shocking. Animals are forced to endure amateur surgery, injection of harmful drugs, exposure to dangerous substances, nutritional deprivation, and a variety of other manipulations. According to Dennis Boulton, a science teacher at Traner Middle School in Reno, Nevada, these kinds of projects do not go unrewarded. "To me, the incredible thing is that not only are there so many invasive projects, but the most inhumane ex-

periments often seem to win the prizes." As an example, Boulton cites a project at a recent science fair in his area that involved the injection of the herbicide paraquat into chick embryos; the embryos were allowed to hatch, resulting in chicks with a host of severe birth defects. This project won first prize.

Boulton and other opponents of invasive science fair projects hasten to point out that problems with science fairs extend beyond animal abuse. In most cases, invasive projects are of questionable educational value because they merely demonstrate results that are already known or obvious. Moreover, science fair projects that cause pain and death have the effect of desensitizing young people to the needs and interests of animals. Students learn that to be successful researchers they must turn off their feelings of compassion and cultivate a callous, use-oriented attitude toward their "subjects". Such an attitude, developed at an early stage, will have lifetime ramifications in the ways people treat and think about animals.

There are several steps that can be taken to reduce the level of animal abuse in science fairs:

1. Call or write Science Service, Inc. (1719 N Street N.W., Washington, DC 20036; 202/785-2255) to obtain a copy of the current ISEF rules. This organization administers the ISEF, which has traditional-

ly been one of the most inhumane science fairs in the country. The official rules of the ISEF explicitly condone invasive experimentation on vertebrate animals—including surgery, nutritional deprivation, and the force-feeding or inoculation of toxic substances. The only restriction placed on killing animals used in projects is that it should be done under "proper supervision". Of particular concern is the fact that the regional science fairs affiliated with ISEF are required to follow these rules. After reviewing the rules, contact Science Service again to protest guidelines that reflect a lack of respect and concern for animals.

2. Visit science fairs in your area to observe and document invasive projects that may be on display. Use the "Science Fair Checklist" that appears on the opposite page to record your findings. The next ISEF will be held on May 8-14, 1988, at the Knoxville Convention and Exhibition Center in Knoxville, Tenn—if you plan to visit, be prepared for some resistance. According to Dr. F. Barbara Orlans, Director of the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare, security is very tight and photographs are usually not allowed. It is usually easier to obtain evidence of abuses at regional, state, and local fairs which may be held anytime from February through May. To find out about science fairs in your area, contact the ad-

Continued on page 51

## SCIENCE FAIR CHECKLIST

Official name of the fair \_\_\_\_\_

Location of fair \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Project title \_\_\_\_\_ Project number \_\_\_\_\_

Student's name \_\_\_\_\_

School name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade level \_\_\_\_\_

Location of school \_\_\_\_\_

### EXPERIMENT:

Project Objective \_\_\_\_\_

Number of animals used and species \_\_\_\_\_

Source of animals \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the experiment \_\_\_\_\_

What kinds of procedures were performed? Was there surgery? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the procedures cause psychological distress? If so, explain. \_\_\_\_\_

Were drugs or chemicals used? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_

What symptoms did the animals show (for example: hair loss, blindness, inability to walk, abnormal behavior)? \_\_\_\_\_

Quoting from the student's project report, describe how the animals' condition changed over the duration of the experiment? \_\_\_\_\_

What were the student's conclusions? \_\_\_\_\_

Was an award won? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_

### HOUSING AND MAINTENANCE:

Size of cages \_\_\_\_\_

Was the housing appropriate to the species? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe any inadequacies \_\_\_\_\_

Where were they housed (home, school, vet's office, laboratory, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

Type of food \_\_\_\_\_

Was there water provided at all times? \_\_\_\_\_

### PAIN:

Number of animals experiencing pain \_\_\_\_\_

How long were they in pain (seconds, minutes, hours, days, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

Degree of pain: \_\_\_\_\_ mild \_\_\_\_\_ moderate \_\_\_\_\_ severe

Cause of pain \_\_\_\_\_

### DEATH:

How many animals died? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the cause of death? \_\_\_\_\_

Was death instantaneous? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, how long did it take them to die? \_\_\_\_\_

### EUTHANASIA:

Were any animals euthanized? If so, what was the method of euthanasia? \_\_\_\_\_

If by injection, what drug was used? \_\_\_\_\_

Who performed the euthanasia? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was it performed? \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPERVISION OF PROJECT:

Supervisor's name \_\_\_\_\_

Degree(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Faculty position \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

How often did the supervisor see the animals? \_\_\_\_\_

Was supervision adequate? \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

### GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE PROJECT:

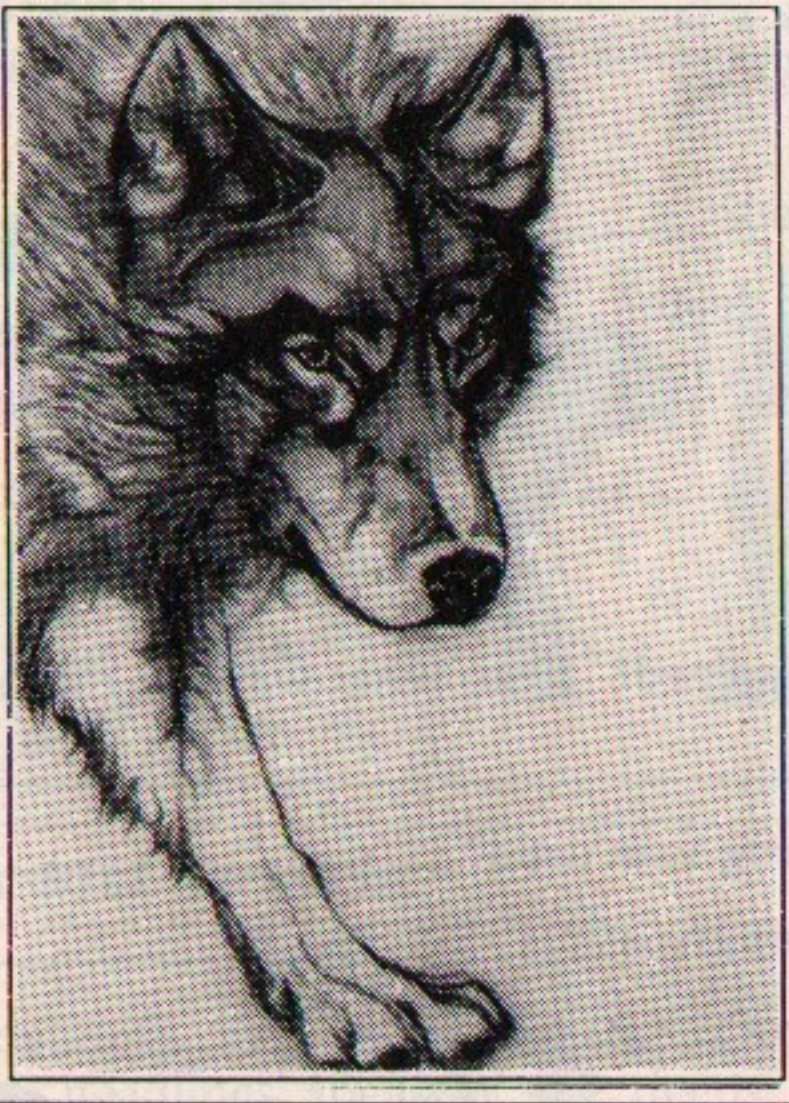
Try to obtain photographs of the student's exhibit, a copy of the student's project abstract, a copy of the science fair program, and the science fair's rules on the use of animals. Send a copy of the completed form to: The National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education, P.O. Box 362, East Haddam, CT 06423.

Form developed by F. Barbara Orlans and Kim Bartlett



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## Amazing Graze

Continued from page 17

The livestock industry itself is largely to blame for its problems with "pests" because they have killed off the predators that once kept their numbers in check. Ranchers and government agents have poisoned rabbits, kangaroo rats, squirrels, pocket gophers, and other rodents *en masse*, often with air drops of poisoned grain. Plagues of grasshoppers and locusts are symptoms of overgrazing, as are excessive numbers of aphids, harvester ants, and certain kinds of beetles who are fought with massive doses of dangerous insecticides.

In sum, when all is said and done, there are actually very few animals who aren't considered enemies of the grazing industry. In fact, very few animal species haven't been adversely affected by either overgrazing or range management—from soil microbes to salamanders, from geese to grizzly bears, and even dogs and their human companions. Steve Gallizioli, who as the Research Chief of the Arizona State Game and Fish Department could not be accused of being oversympathetic to animals and the environment, echoes a point we heard earlier: "The grazing of domestic livestock on Western rangelands has probably had a greater adverse impact on wildlife populations than any other single factor."

### Domestic range animals are also victims

While not intensively confined for their entire lives as are factory-farmed animals, range livestock experience harsh and abbreviated lives. Cattle are usually turned out onto the range in the spring or summer (depending on the location) and must then fend for themselves. Because most Western rangelands are overgrazed, range livestock have to cope with many of the same problems as wild animals. As I write this in Tucson, hundreds of cattle on nearby overgrazed rangelands are dying of starvation.

Along with "natural" hardships, range livestock also suffer at the hands of their owners. Cattle are branded with hot irons, dehorned, castrated, mutilated in the ears and necks for identification, and knocked around in transport. They are injected, dipped, and sprayed—and even fed—with various insecticides, fungicides, fumigants, antibiotics, hormones, and growth stimulants. Bred to be slow,



eat a lot, and gain excessive weight, the cow is, in a sense, an experimental animal—the ongoing subject of modification and manipulation to increase productivity and resiliency with the lowest possible expense. On top of all this, most public lands cattle operations are geared toward producing yearling heifers and steers ("feeder cattle") to send to the feedlots for fattening prior to slaughter.

It is clearly the grazing industry, not the grazing animals themselves, who are to blame for degrading the Western landscape.

### Free the public lands

Thirty thousand welfare ranchers have a stranglehold on our common public domain—almost half of the West. As members of the public, we are not bound to support their destructive public lands grazing industry simply because they are cowboys and ranchers—heroes of American mythology. As animal rights activists, we have even less reason to support their brutal animal production business. It's high time we put an end to it, and tell them to get off our public lands.

Lynn Jacobs is a freelance writer and Earth First! activist who lives in Tucson, Arizona.

Lynn Jacobs has put together a 64-page publication entitled "Free Our Public Lands!" which is entirely devoted to the issue of livestock grazing in the West. "Free Our Public Lands!" can be obtained free of charge by writing to Lynn Jacobs, P.O. Box 5784, Tucson, Arizona, 85703.

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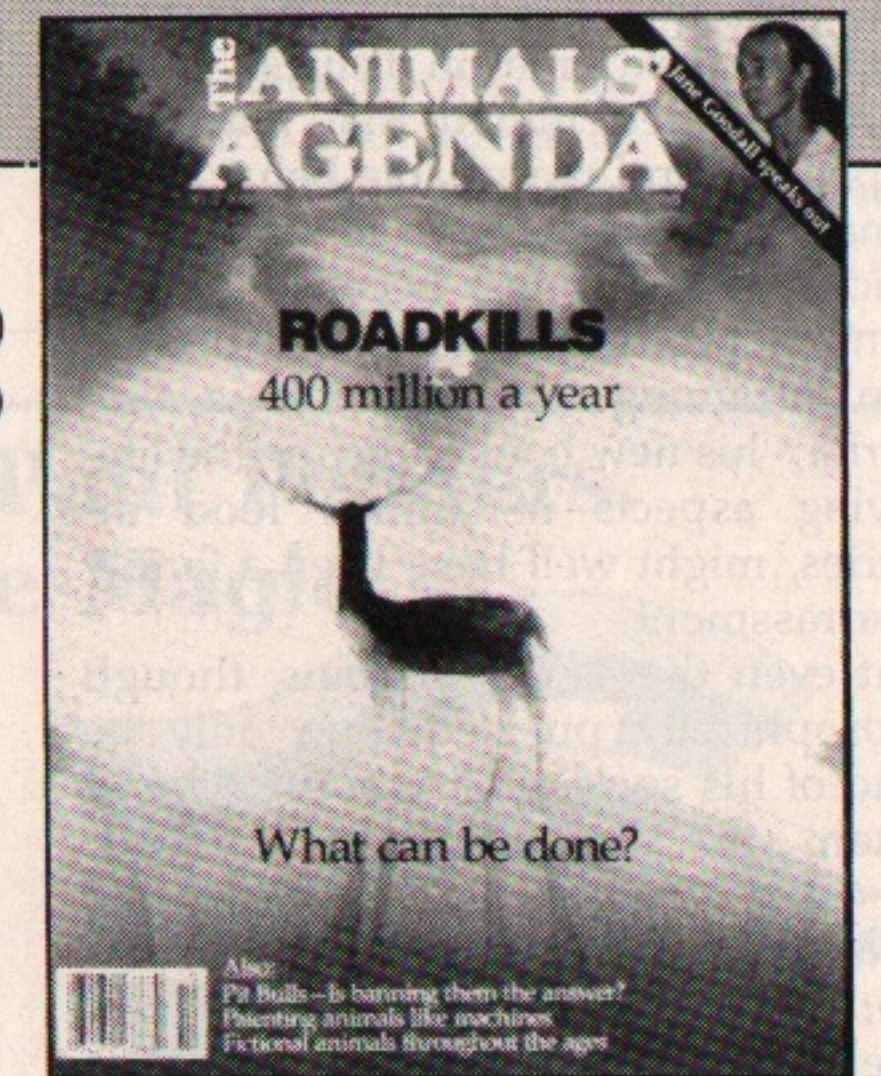
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# Agribusiness Exposed

## Diet For A New America: How Your Food Choices Affect Your Health, Happiness and the Future of Life on Earth

By John Robbins  
Stillpoint Publishing, 1987  
\$10.95 paperback, 423 pages

With a product that appeals to the large majority of those who can afford it, Baskin Robbins, Inc. has come to top the ice cream industry in sales and wealth. In a short time, its years as among the largest ice cream companies will have exceeded its number of flavors. Indeed, its 31 choices identify Baskin-Robbins to even those of us who shun dairy products.

As the only son of Irv Robbins, the company's co-founder, John Robbins was groomed to direct this ice cream empire. Even among the class of would-be successors to fortunes, John was making out pretty well. What more could any heir dream of than a family enterprise whose product could satisfy his tastebuds so thoroughly. And make no mistake about it, at the Robbins' they took their ice cream seriously. One could say they even went to extremes. Never ready to forget the source of their wealth, the Robbins family swam laps in, of all things, an ice-cream-cone-shaped pool in their backyard.

But even among a family which often went to such extremes in its lifestyle, the family had determined that John had stepped beyond reasonable behavior as he matured. His decision to stay out of the ice cream business because it relies on animal products is just the beginning of an intriguing story. *Diet for a New America*, his new book indicting the life-denying aspects of animal food industries, might well have been a family embarrassment.

But even the senior Robbins, though philosophically puzzled, can only be proud of his son's quality book. Simply written and scrupulously researched, *Diet for a New America* may be the vegetarian's analogue to Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. Robbins, while not presenting any particularly original ideas about how animal industries affect life on Earth, convincingly weaves together the important aspects of that industry as no writer has done before.

His expose begins with today's most productive farms—those gobbled up by "agribusiness oligopolies". Robbins tells us that "farm" animals, before being turned into "food", were individuals with specific desires and emotions. Instead of fulfilling those needs, industrialized animal production systems de-beak, tail-dock, cage, confine, and castrate as routine husbandry methods. While focus-

ing on those aspects of animal agriculture rather than making an abolitionist argument against the use of all animals for food, Robbins nevertheless unmasks those who claim to produce less-inhumanely raised animals. He comments, "...that almost all the poultry currently sold in the United States as 'natural or organic' come, unfortunately, from chickens whose living conditions are hardly better than the industry norm."

Conditions aside, animals raised in a drug-free environment do have some appeal with die-hard meat-eaters familiar with accounts such as Robbins'. Drug use is serious business on today's farms—where Robbins says "the worst drug pushers" do business. To limit disease in the crowded conditions in which factory-farmed animals live, farmers serve animals a concoction of tranquilizers, hormones, growth stimulants, and antibiotics. Unfortunately, animals are not only repositories for those drugs, but also for the pesticides (many of them deadly even in trace amounts) so freely sprayed on the

## Animals and Islam

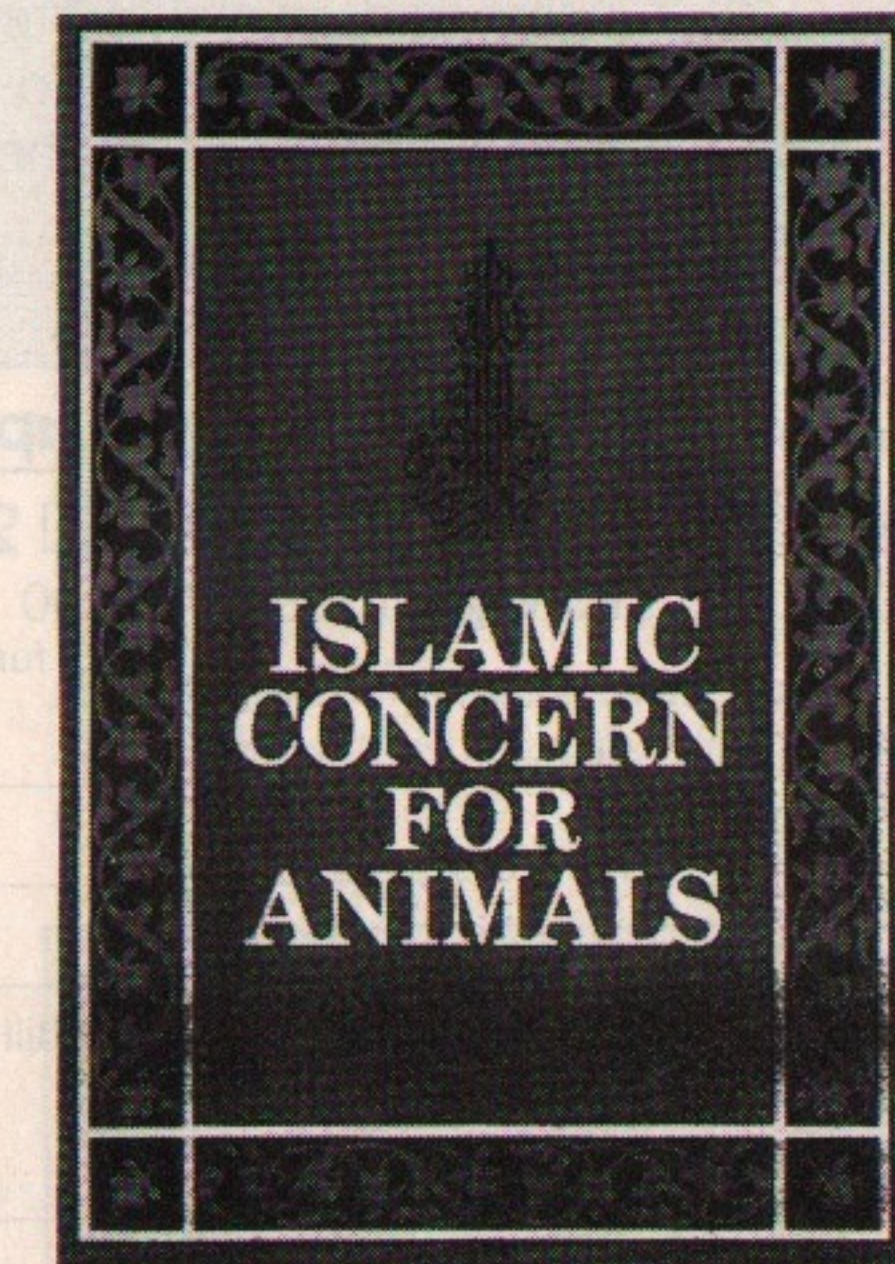
### Islamic Concern For Animals

By Al-Hafiz B.A. Masri  
The Athene Trust, (3A Charles St., Peterfield, Hampshire GU32 3EH),  
1987 (simultaneously in English and Arabic), 5.95£

This book, written by a fundamentalist Islamic theologian, examines the issue of animal rights from an Islamic perspective. The author has the right credentials to write a book of this nature: Masri served, until his retirement in 1968, as the Imam (religious head) of a large mosque and Islamic center in England. Incidentally, the title Al-Hafiz means that he has memorized the entire Koran (Holy Qur'an).

The book intermingles a factual account of animal suffering with religious injunctions against it. The first chapters lay out the theoretical foundations in terms of Islamic teaching on the relationship between humans and (other) animals. The later chapters apply these principles to specific areas such as vivisection, factory farming, and hunting.

Quoting from the Koran, Al-Hafiz Masri begins with the assertion that "Man is the apex of creation." Following his fundamentalist beliefs, he argues that this is true because of the "psychic potential" in humans—namely the ability to dif-



ferentiate between good and evil. Masri then states that Man is God's viceregent on Earth. But the human claim of superiority over other species is circumscribed

crops fed to them. The higher humans eat on the food chain, the more concentrated and varied is their inorganic feast. One particularly obscene expression of this principle is that estrogen fed to animals has led to premature puberty in boys and girls throughout the world.

But Robbins makes a tremendously compelling case that it is more than inorganic elements captured in animals that threaten human health. He has compiled a wealth of information linking high-fat, high-protein, and low-fiber diets to heart disease, cancers, arteriosclerosis, osteoporosis, and other degenerative diseases. He points out that even Frances Moore Lappe, for all her good work in promoting vegetarianism, bought into the "protein scam" by instructing vegetarians to practice "protein complementarity". Robbins' evidence against animal products is damning, but seldom heard because of the stranglehold that tradition and the meat, dairy, and egg industries have on nutrition information. Undoubtedly, their propaganda machines

by moral limitations in the exercise of their power. As the Koran puts it: "Certainly, We created man in the best make. Then We reduced him to the lowest of the low."

The Islamic view is that unless a human follows "the path of righteousness", his moral status is degraded even lower than that of the animals. "Verily, the vilest of all creatures... are those who do not use their rationality." In the Koranic worldview, "All creatures are like a family of God: and He most loves those who are the most beneficent to His family."

This notion of family is elaborated upon by many examples. The animals and humans are supposed to worship the same God: as the Holy book puts it, all beings celebrate Allah (God), every bird sings its prayer and psalm to Allah. In fact, God even communicates directly to the animals: "And the Lord revealed to the bee, saying: 'make hives in the mountains, and in the trees, and in [human] habitations.'" It is important to realize that the Hafiz, like most Islamic theologians, is a literalist.

The book contains a number of anecdotes from the Hadith (a body of literature describing the life and teachings of the Prophet, Mohammed) which is distinct from the revelations in the scriptures (Koran). One incident described by

the Prophet relates a story of another prophet in ancient history. This prophet was stung by an ant and ordered the ants' nest to be burned. At this, God is supposed to have reprimanded the prophet, "Because one ant stung you, you have burned a whole community which glorified Me." Fortunately for the animals, I suppose, salvation in Islam is by deed, not creed.

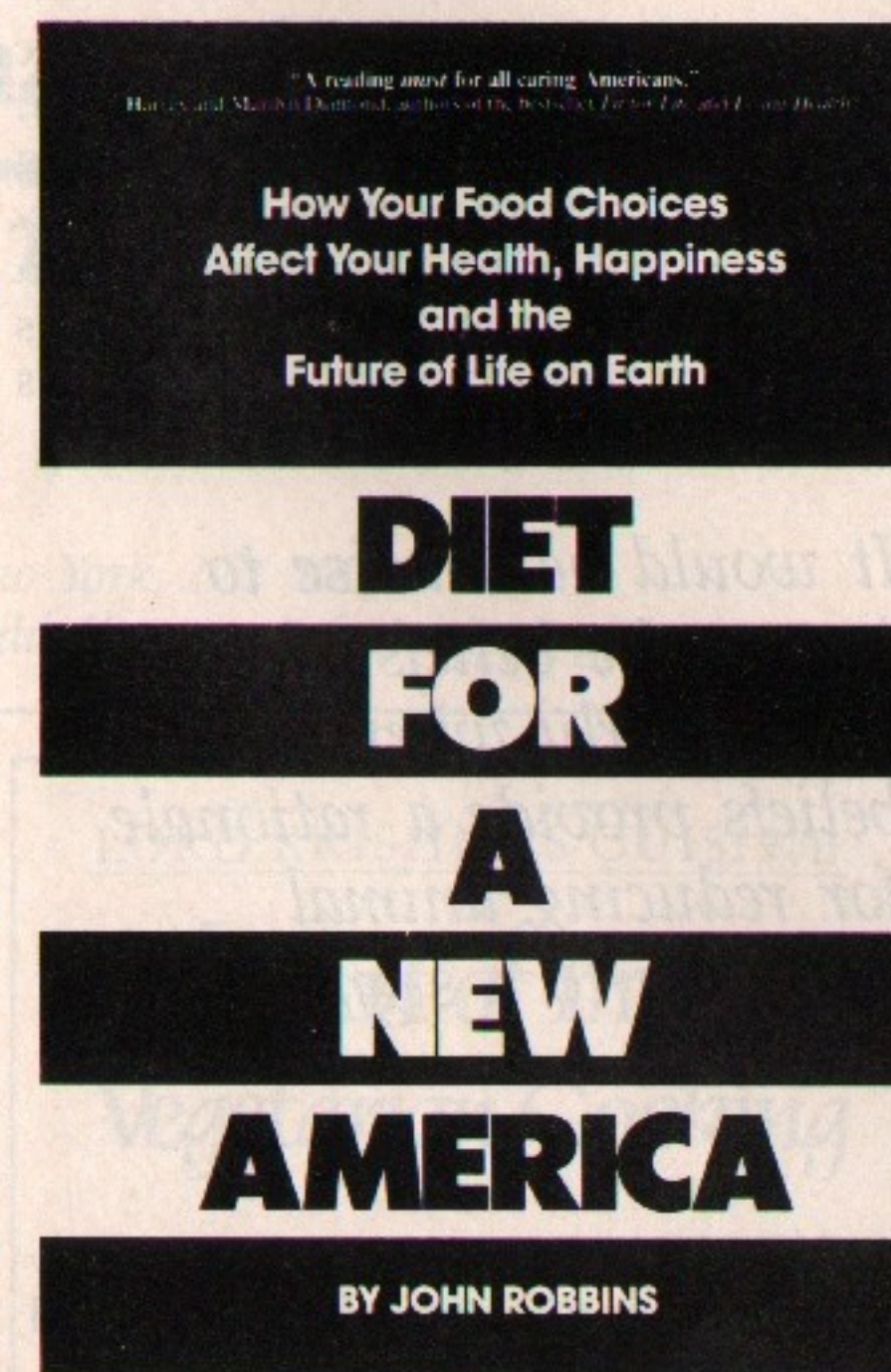
Masri then proceeds to examine in some detail the treatment of animals in modern society and argues that it is against Islamic law. He strengthens his

are as effective in conditioning us to eat animals as they are in raising and killing them.

Robbins' compassion is extended not only toward nonhumans, but also to humans who have become desensitized to the cruelties they perpetrate. He has faith that they can change. In nonhuman animals, Robbins seems to find a model for hope. He comments, "The more I've learned, the harder it has become to avoid the conclusion that animals are capable of a respect and reverence for life that cuts across species boundaries." If humans are not set apart from nonhuman animals, then surely they, too, can learn to respect life.

*Diet For A New America* is the best book on vegetarianism written to date, and as such is a powerful tool for the animal rights movement. Despite what the meat and dairy industries will say, I don't think Robbins wrote this book because he was sick of eating so much ice cream.

—Wayne Pacelle



argument by making analogies to specific injunctions laid out by the Prophet of Islam, for example, one against killing animals for pleasure, another against branding. Sometimes, in order to apply a specific injunction to a modern problem, the Hafiz uses analogy and inference. He concedes that the use of interpretation has been historically controversial in Islamic jurisprudence since it allows self-serving liberties with the spirit and intent of original law. (Shades of the Robert Bork controversy).

Continued on next page

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## REVIEWS

Continued from previous page

However, Masri defends the use of analogical reasoning because the results are obviously not self-serving, and furthermore because they conform to general Islamic principles.

The Hafiz's general conclusions can be summarized as follows. Forbidden on religious grounds: hunting (for pleasure); furs for vanity; intensive factory farming; slaughterhouses (the slaughter of an animal in the presence of another or in circumstances where it may anticipate its death is proscribed); circuses and rodeos; inhumane transportation; disturbing wildlife habitats or otherwise interfering with the ecological balance; experimenting on animals for commercial profit, idle curiosity, or cures for preventable diseases; and genetically engineering animals. Masri makes note of the issue of vegetarianism but states that it is too involved a question to discuss in the current context.

What is the significance of this book? First of all it is important to realize that Islamic fundamentalism is a rising force in a large portion of the world and that

there are no accepted sects in the Islamic world that reject fundamentalism. (Sufism, often regarded as heresy, being a notable exception). Still the question remains: what impact can a well-written book such as this have on societies undergoing radical upheaval? And let us

*It would be unwise to ignore the beliefs of others, particularly when these beliefs provide a rationale for reducing animal suffering to a significant extent.*

not forget the growing Islamic community in the U.S. or the small but influential Black Muslim population.

Unfortunately, I am rather pessimistic—notwithstanding a contentious Imam Khomeini who sometimes preaches

against consuming meat. It is my assessment that believers often settle for ritual over personal sacrifice. Thus a method of "kosher" slaughter, which was supposed to be more humane, has resulted in the mass shipping of live animals to Islamic countries by the West (especially by Australia and New Zealand).

On the other hand, I think it would be unwise to ignore the beliefs of others, particularly when these beliefs provide a rationale for reducing animal suffering to a significant extent. We have to be cautious that we do not ourselves develop an intolerant attitude that recognizes only one "Truth", and then seeks to impose it on the rest of the universe. Converting people to an idea may be less important than modifying their behavior. But if their own beliefs can provide a basis for change, the task may turn out to be much more realistic.

—Gul Agha, Ph.D.

*The reviewer is a scientist at Yale University and founder of the Cambridge Committee for Responsible Research.*

## REVIEWS

### Vegetarian Culinary Arts

#### Lord Krishna's Cuisine: The Art of Indian Vegetarian Cooking

By Yamuna Devi

799 pages; \$29.95; Hardcover, Illustrated

Bala Books, 1987. 268 West 23rd St., New York, NY 10011

Can be ordered directly from publisher (add 10 percent for shipping).

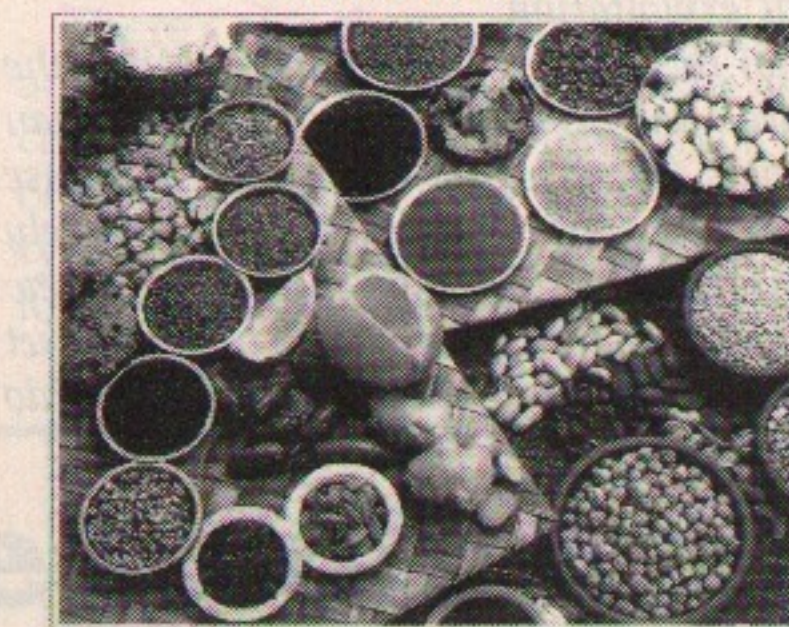
For the past two years, Yamuna Devi has worked ten hours each day editing a manuscript that took her seven years to write. The work, entitled *Lord Krishna's Cuisine*, is the most comprehensive cookbook ever compiled on the art of Indian vegetarian cooking. The book has received rave reviews by *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and *The Philadelphia Enquirer* which postulated that the "cookbook may become the vegetarian bible . . . may be to vegetarians of the '80s what *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* was to omnivores of the '60s and '70s."

About 80 percent of India's inhabitants are vegetarians, and their cookery has developed into a high art. Yamuna's 900-page opus emerged from ten years of travel throughout India, during which time she collected and classified the book's 660 regional recipes—some of which date back thousands of years. "True Indian cuisine is nothing like the greasy-spoon, watered-down version we know in the West," she says. "It is an

LORD KRISHNA'S CUISINE

#### The Art of Indian Vegetarian Cooking

YAMUNA DEVI



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elegant yet simple skill: part of the Vedic ideal of simple living and high thinking."

—Steven Rosen

### SCIENCE FAIR

Continued from page 44

ministrative offices of school districts or the local school board.

3. After your visit, contact the committee or individual in charge of overseeing the fair. Present the evidence of animal abuse that you have gathered. Suggest that humane standards be adopted to govern all entries. For a copy of model guidelines for the study of animals in classrooms and science fairs, contact the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education (NAAHE), P.O. Box 362, East Haddam, CT 06423; 203/434-8666.

4. There's a good chance that you will face strong opposition from science fair officials when you suggest that invasive experiments on animals be prohibited.

Don't give up. Since many science fairs are school-sponsored, they are indirectly supported by your tax dollars. It's your right to have a say in how they are run. If you encounter problems, enlist the help of teachers, parents, and children who agree with your position in order to put additional pressure on the fair committee. Contact the local media to help publicize your concerns and efforts. Local humane societies and animal rights groups are also good sources of support.

5. Send a copy of your completed "Science Fair Checklist" to NAAHE. Such data, documenting the widespread nature of the problem, is invaluable in efforts to change science fair standards set by the ISEF and other overseeing committees.

Bill DeRosa is the assistant director of NAAHE, a division of The Humane Society of the United States.

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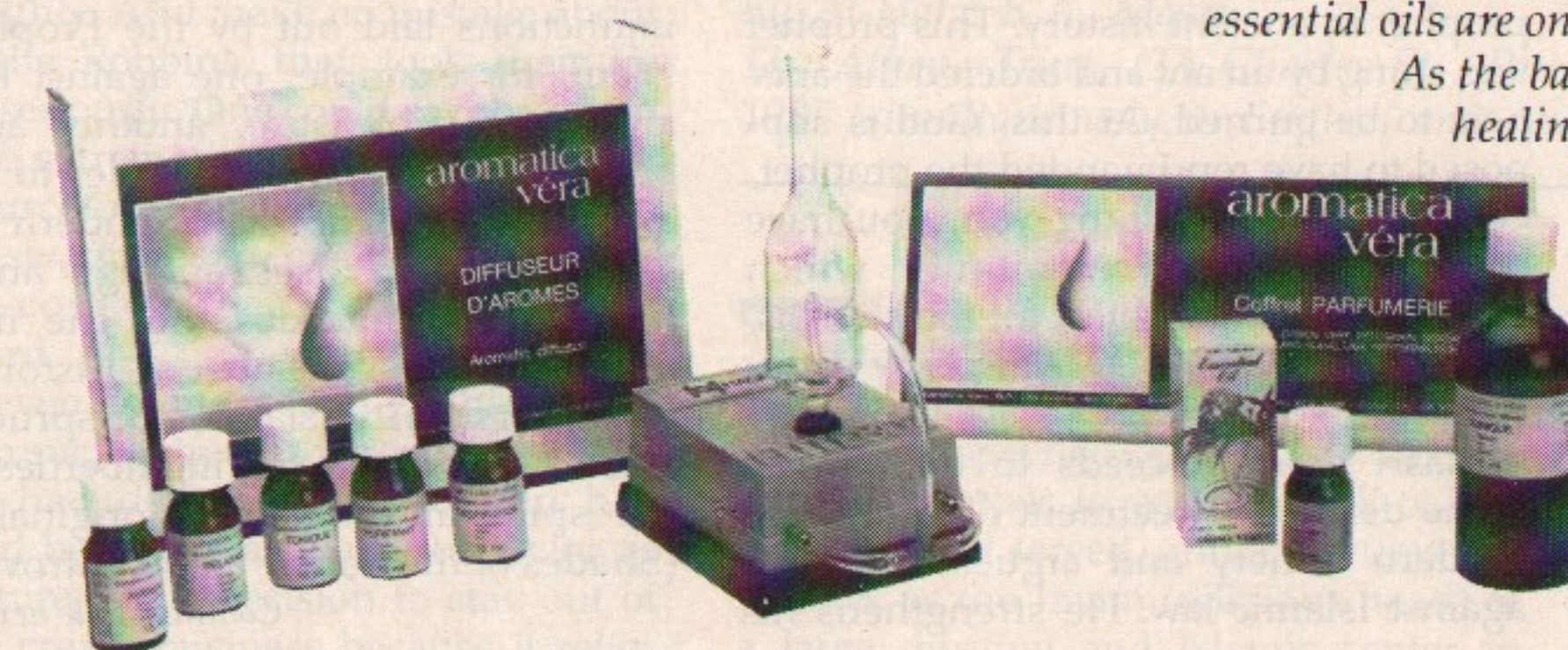
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## LETTERS

Continued from page 3

tions on how to kill animals in a magazine dedicated to animal rights. The ANIMALS' AGENDA wields tremendous power to influence the way the movement approaches ideas and deals with issues. In this case, you've desperately blown it. Despite your disclaimers, the implied message is that it's tolerable to eat animals as long as the slaughtering is done humanely. That's an appalling idea in a movement that preaches vegetarianism and believes that "humane slaughter" is a contradiction in terms.

And finally, you've given an easy way out to newcomers and others still struggling with what is often the final phase of meat-eating—namely, eating shellfish. We doubt that you would ever publish an article instructing readers in the "humane" slaughter of mammals. But by printing "Crustacean Cruelty", you've endorsed a standard of ethics based, once more, on the animal's similarity to human beings. That's called speciesism, even when you find it on the pages of The ANIMALS' AGENDA.

—Bill Mannetti and Marsha Rabe  
Animal Rights Front  
P.O. Box 3307, Yale Station  
New Haven, CT 06520

*Editor's Note: The article was begun with a statement of opposition to the killing of any*

animals for food. We regret that the item lent itself to an unintended interpretation. With the benefit of hindsight and criticism, it is obvious that the context was wrong and inadequate to convey fully the complexity of the issue. Since publication, we have received additional information on the subject. Conflicting scientific data leads us to believe that no failsafe way of painlessly killing crustaceans has been established.

Many animal advocates share your belief that in advocating "more humane" methods of killing, one compromises moral principles. Yet others believe that reducing suffering wherever possible—to whatever extent possible—is also a moral imperative. There is disagreement on that even within this organization. Perhaps the Henry Salt essay "Restrictionists and Abolitionists", which also appeared in the November issue, can shed some light on this controversy. Salt believed that working for reform need not obstruct progress towards the ultimate goal of ending all animal exploitation.

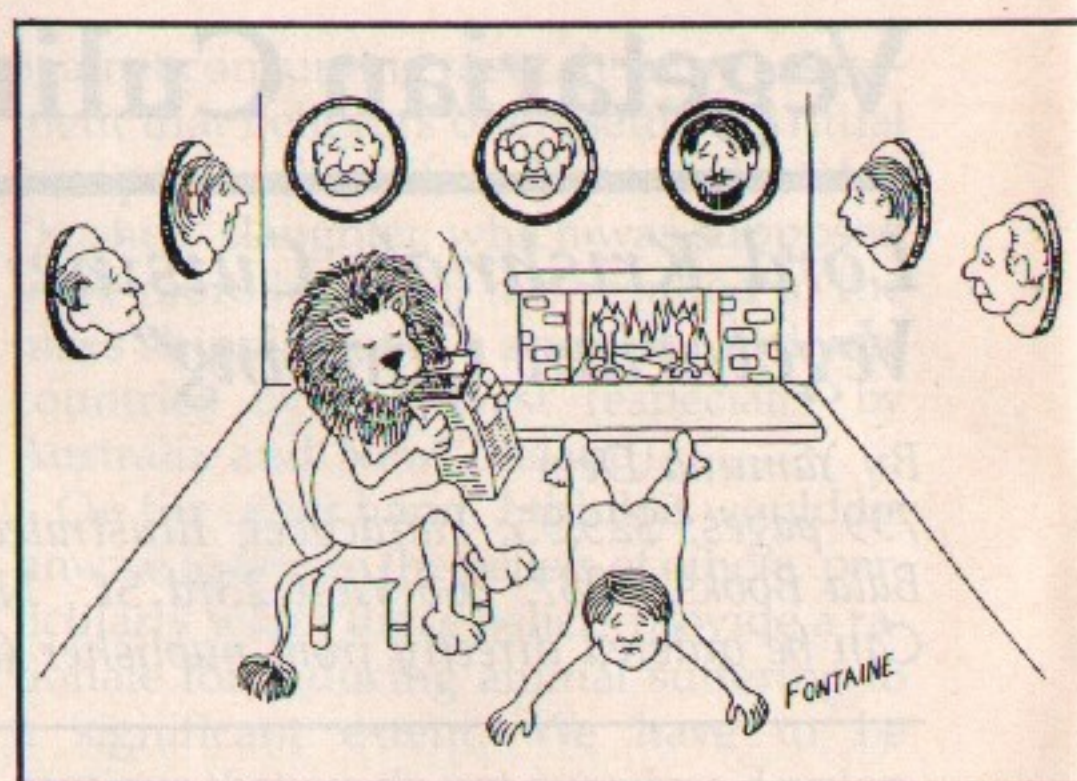
As for the charges of speciesism because the item dealt with killing crustaceans rather than mammals, there would seem to be little use in telling the general public how to "humanely slaughter" cows, pigs, sheep, etc., since few people in developed countries go to the market and buy them live to kill at home like they do lobsters.

### No Slaughter on His Ranch

Recently I was given a copy of your article "Exotics for Slaughter", printed in the July/August 1987 issue. In it Merritt Clifton exposed a deplorable business which is booming at the expense of innocent animals. I was shocked by the apparent disregard some people have towards the sanctity of life for the various, sometimes "exotic" species on our planet. I was even more shocked, however, when I neared the end of the article and found the name of former Fossil Rim Wildlife Ranch owner, Thomas Mantzel, cited as a perpetrator of "exotic hunting preserves".

I acquired Fossil Rim Wildlife Ranch before foreclosure proceedings were filed against it, because I am solely interested in preserving and extending a protected domain for a wide variety of species. Every week, staffmembers are asked by high-paying hunters for access to our lands. And everytime they ask, we give them a firm, emphatic, and impolite "No". It is my intention that hunting of any species will never be allowed on my land.

—Jim Jackson  
New York, NY



### Wants Other Groups Credited

We were pleased to see a mention of our protest against Gillette products in the October 1987 issue (News Shorts). Besides the local PETA chapter, the following organizations deserve credit for helping with the demonstration: Friends of Animals, ARK II, Animal Rights Kinship, Success Against Cruelty, and the Fund for Animals.

PETA-Tampa Bay, like all the other PETA chapters, ceased to exist as of October 31st. We are sorry to see the end of this relationship with PETA, but are pleased to report that our group (as yet unnamed) will continue meeting and working together to help animals.

—Myriam V. Parham and Elena Flanagan  
P.O. Box 17523  
Tampa, FL 33682

### Gifted Ideas

We would like to tell readers of a practice we have engaged in for several years. On special occasions, rather than buying a gift that may prove to be unneeded, we give a donation in the person's name to one of several nonhuman animal advocacy groups. Between birthdays, wedding anniversaries, Christmas, and other special days, this amounts to a fairly large sum of money each year. In fact, this is how we managed to become Sustainers of The ANIMALS' AGENDA. Although this kind of gift-giving is not a staggeringly new idea, it seems not to have been thought of by very many people—judging from the response of those receiving the donations. We also give gift subscriptions to The ANIMALS' AGENDA to our friends.

—Kimberley A. Sturla and  
Nedim C. Buyukmihci  
Winters, CA

May I suggest to your readers that they present their libraries with a subscription

## LETTERS

to The ANIMALS' AGENDA? I just checked with the head of our public library, and she was happy to accept subscriptions to your fine magazine as well as *Vegetarian Times*.

There are a number of us who write letters to our local newspaper, keeping animal rights issues in the public eye. Having pro-animal magazines at the library will also help to increase public awareness.

—Maurine Gordon  
Newbury Park, CA

### Thinks Project X Accusations Unfounded

I believe the producers, directors, actors, and animal trainers of the movie *Project X*, and the American Humane Association (AHA) have been the target of unfounded accusations (see *Review* May 1987, *Letters* and *Newsline* September 1987).

I was privy to the original *Project X* scenario in 1985. Never before had a major studio feature film been produced on the topic of animal experimentation. I learned then, and continue to believe

now that the producers (Lawrence Lasker and Walter Parks), the director (Jonathan Kaplan), and the writer (Stan Weiser) were vitally committed to the animal rights message.

Since the controversy over the training of the chimpanzees erupted, I have endeavored to ascertain if there is any truth in the serious allegations of cruelty which have had a negative impact on the film and will probably discourage the production of future animal rights movies. I would like to comment on the "testimonials" presented at a press conference by those making the allegations.

Animal trainer Karl Mitchell claims that the chimps were beaten by Ron Oxley on Oxley's compound. Oxley has since died and cannot defend himself, but according to those who knew Oxley, he and Mitchell were not friendly, and Oxley would never have permitted Mitchell on his compound.

There's also the so-called testimony by an unnamed makeup man on the set. According to a statement signed by a friend of this man, he had reported seeing cruelty but later changed his story for fear of losing work. I located him, and he denied

that he had seen any cruelty and, further, said that he had been "harassed" by certain people who wanted him to tell untruths.

Bobby Porter, the stunt double who was alleged to have said incriminating things and then resisted signing sworn testimony for fear of reprisals from employers, totally denied all statements attributed to him. He, too, said that he had been "harassed". Porter said that he never saw a blackjack used on the chimps, and that in his 16 years in the film industry he had seldom seen such concern for animals as he saw on the set of *Project X*.

Primatologist Dr. Roger Fouts, by his own account, never personally witnessed the training of the chimps, nor was he ever present on the set of the movie during filming. Wallace Swett, director of *Primarily Primates* (where five of the chimps were retired), stated that the animals showed signs of having been subjected to physical abuse and extreme stress. But he had no substantive knowledge of the chimps' health history prior to their purchase for use in the movie. He referred to incriminating

Continued on page 55

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## A COMPROMISING POSITION:

# Making a Vegetarian Transition Easier for Ourselves and Others

BY VICTORIA MORAN



It's unfortunate but true: ethical arguments can be made against the use of any animal food—meat, fish, eggs, dairy products, even honey. But where does that put newcomers to these ideas—those who want to live compassionately, but not revolutionize their whole lifestyle overnight? It puts them at a wonderful starting point, the point of willingness. No one has to "give up" everything at once, although some people do. Beginning the vegetarian way of life at the place one is right now is perfectly acceptable, especially if the adventure is undertaken with a sense of open-mindedness and flexibility; for example: "Today I've taken veal out of my life and maybe one of these days I'll be a total vegan, but I don't have to be concerned with that now." It's not a cop-out, rather a beginning.

The definition of a vegetarian is one who eats no animal flesh (whether of mammals, bird, or fish), but a vegetarian may consume dairy products or eggs. A vegan is one who has eliminated all animal products from his or her diet. There are all sorts of ways one can become a vegetarian gradually. There is even a book out called *The Gradual Vegetarian*. Written by Lisa Tracy, it examines a variety of quasi-vegetarian and pure vegetarian diets with the intent of guiding readers along gently—as far as they are willing to go. Making a list of what foods are "worst" (which cause the most suffering) is somewhat arbitrary. But if I were to make one, it would probably be in this order: 1) milk-fed veal; 2) factory-farmed eggs; 3) pork; 4) chicken and other fowl; 5) beef; 6) vertebrate fish; 7) crustaceans and shellfish; 8) dairy products; and 9) free-range or loose-housing eggs (available in natural food stores). Such categorizing is open to criticism, however. I put pork before beef because pigs are more often raised in intensive confinement (i.e., on factory farms), but at the slaughterhouse, the steer's life is as precious to him as the sow's is to her. I

placed dairy products near the end—and these were for me, and many other vegans, the last thing to go—yet without the dairy industry, the white veal industry would not exist. And in terms of fish, we're not dealing solely with the killing of the fish themselves, but also with the entrapment of dolphins and sea birds in the fishing nets. Yet, the cliché is right: A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step.

An important thing to remember is that in becoming vegetarian, people are doing themselves a favor—not just the animals. Reading a well-documented, convincing book on the health aspects of vegetarianism is recommended (like *The McDougall Plan*, *A Vegetarian Sourcebook*, or *Eating for Life*). It's easier to make a change knowing that it lessens the chances of atherosclerosis, heart and kidney disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and certain cancers. The closer one comes to a vegan diet, the more striking the benefits to personal health.

It is important, as one approaches vegetarianism, to avoid increasing the amount of eggs and dairy products as a

substitute for meat. Not only does such an increase mitigate the good one is trying to do for animals, it can have an adverse effect on health. In many cases in which erstwhile vegetarians have claimed their health deteriorated while on a meatless diet, they were consuming inordinate amounts of eggs, cheese, yogurt and the like, and were coming down with allergic reactions, digestive complaints, and even the anemia which excessive milk consumption can cause. Many vegetarians opt for a vegan diet at home, but continue to consume dairy products when dining out in restaurants or at the homes of friends.

There are many marvelous cookbooks that are totally vegetarian, and there are substitutes in natural food stores for almost every animal product: soy "milks"; powdered egg substitute for baking; "ice creams" like Tofutti and Rice Dream; soy granules to use in place of ground beef in spaghetti sauces and chili; tempeh burgers and soy hot dogs; and frozen dinners and entrees for the non-cook.

Eating out, one can learn the best restaurants to frequent: natural foods; macrobiotic; those with salad bars; and ethnic choices such as Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Middle Eastern, and Greek. With advance planning, one can order a suitable meal on airplane trips or at banquets. Joining a vegetarian organization (the North American Vegetarian Society, Box 52, Dolgeville, NY 13329, has local affiliates in many cities) or signing up for a vegetarian cooking class can help anyone make like-minded friends and pick up valuable pointers.

There is always the chance that some die-hard vegan will try to hurry along a well-meaning vegetarian with urgings that border on humiliation. He or she may have the best intentions, yet forget that slow and steady progress very often does win the race. There's something they tell recovering alcoholics in Alcoholics Anonymous that applies here: "Easy does it—but do it."

## Letters

Continued from page 53

remarks made by the three Project X trainers who delivered the chimps, but the trainers have denied making such statements.

The only person present on the set who agreed to sign a statement was Paul Mueller, a special effects technician. During the filming, he never spoke up; his concern about the alleged beating did not surface until one year later, after a \$5,000 reward had been advertised.

There was no cruelty witnessed by Matthew Broderick, star of the movie, or by co-star Helen Hunt who is recognized as an animal rights activist. As an actress who has worked in show business for 37 years, I do not subscribe to the theory that actors are afraid to speak out.

On July 20, 1987, I arranged a gathering of people connected with Project X. Present were: Dr. Martin Dinnes, who was in charge of veterinary care for the chimps; chimpanzee trainer Mark Hardin; AHA Hollywood office director Carmelita Pope; two AHA agents who spent 81 days on the movie set; and representatives of other humane organizations. During this meeting, we were free to ask questions and present challenges. At the end, no one believed the Project X chimps had been cruelly treated. I have continued to seek information which might substantiate the serious charges, but have found none. But if evidence to the contrary is shown to me, I am prepared to change my mind.

—Gretchen Wyler  
Studio City, CA

**Editor's Note:** On November 2, 1987, the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation filed a formal request with the District Attorney's office asking that criminal complaints on 18 counts of cruelty to animals be brought against six animal trainers for abusing chimpanzees during the filming of Project X.

As we go to press, Assistant District Attorney Mike Carroll informs us that an investigation is in progress that may result in a civil prosecution for "unlawful business practices" rather than criminal charges, since the one-year statute of limitations on the most relevant charges has passed. The District Attorney has announced that he intends to set up a special department to oversee the use of animals in entertainment.

## Can't Stop Illegal Fur Sales

Leopard-skin coats are being sold to consumers in the U.S. in a catalog made available by a company called Shop The World By Mail (P.O. Box 5083, Cary, NC 27511). Since leopards are on the en-

dangered list, I contacted the World Wildlife Fund and Defenders of Wildlife, but nothing has been done about it. I am frustrated to know that the sale of skins from an endangered species continues with the full knowledge of some of our leading conservation organizations.

If someone knows of a conservation official who will really take action, please let me know.

—Gene Salinas, Vice President  
Beauty Without Cruelty, Alaska Office  
Box 915  
Valdez, AK 99686

**Editor's Note:** Letters urging action might be sent to Clark Bavin, Chief of Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1375 K Street N.W. Room 300, Washington, DC 20005.

## Calling All Wild Horse Adopters

We are currently completing a survey on the inoculation history of wild horses and burros adopted through the Bureau of Land Management Adopt-A-Horse Program. In order for us to fully document our findings, we must study as many records as possible. We are asking

all adopters to mail a copy of the medical history that was given to them at the time of adoption. Also, if the animal was seen by a veterinarian for treatment of any upper-respiratory infection and/or diseases such as strangles, cold, or pneumonia, we would like a copy of the vet's report.

—Barbara Eustis-Pratt  
L.I.F.E. Foundation  
P.O. Box 362  
Onyx, CA 93255

## Roadkills Aren't Funny

After reading the October 1987 article about roadkills, I was disgusted to find an ad for a "humorous gag gift" in the Christmas '87 catalog of Bass Pro Shops. The item is the *Road Kill Gourmet Cooking Handbook*, and the ad reads as follows: "If you've been lookin' for a way to cut down your food bill, this book will surely help. Features recipes like Turnpike Turnover, Bumper Bumblebee Fawn-Do, and Froggy Croakettes." I urge all readers to call Bass Pro Shops' toll-free number, (800) 227-7776, and let them know what you think.

—Ted Kirkpatrick  
Elm Grove, WI

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Andrew Rowan  
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AHPA

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- Doug Moss  
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## ALLIGATORS

Continued from page 34

from an alligator's mouth? When alligators get media coverage, it's usually negative; thus, the public longs for reassurances. It's not too late for the animal rights community to begin taking an active role in promoting a more accurate portrayal of the reptiles. Although no hunting of the species is ideal, at present hunting is limited. There's always a possibility of it being broadened in the future.

### Wetlands preservation

The FGFWFC contends that strictly controlled alligator hunts will help preserve wetlands by providing landowners with an economic incentive to leave their land in a natural state. For example, says Greg Holder, a farmer leasing his 60,000 acre tract to a hunting club at \$5 an acre would receive \$300,000 that year for "just giving somebody the key to their gate for a relatively small investment." Such a profitable option might influence him to leave his land in a pristine condition for the benefit of not only alligators but all wildlife, rather than to drain it to create improved pastureland for his cows. Holder refers to this as "conservation through the harvest."

"I know that's a difficult concept for a lot of people to appreciate," he says. "But, unfortunately, it is a very competitive world out there, and dollars do talk...we're looking for some alternatives to some of the agricultural practices, and trying to provide the landowners more options and ways to manage their property and still make a living." He notes that hunters are a little more eager and able to "pay for their pleasure", but admits that he would like to see non-consumptive

users follow suit. "It seems to me that there should be a market out there for people that are interested in going out and photographing birds, or [conducting] bird tours."

In a January 1988 letter to the editor of the *Tampa Tribune*, Bina Robinson, coordinator of the Coalition to Protect Animals in Parks and Refuges, challenged the notion of hunting as a conservation tool. "It strikes me as tunnelvision to assume...that there cannot be any popular support for preservation of marshlands unless alligators are designated a game species to provide more sport for people whose recreation it is to kill wild animals," she wrote. "While it has been unconscionably slow in coming, the number of people willing to support and even contribute to preserving habitats, solely for the intrinsic value of that habitat and the creatures who live there, has grown rapidly in the past few years."

Working individually and collectively to help non-consumptive users achieve a broad and significant financial impact upon land use may be a viable tactic to invalidate the commission's claim. Activists can also encourage and support efforts to limit wetland development, thereby creating a larger

buffer of safety between humans and alligators. Recently, the Hernando County Commission adopted a measure totally prohibiting development of the county's wetlands—about 57,000 acres. Other counties may be spurred to do the same.

A basic understanding of the species and an awareness of the actual dangers they pose are necessary in order to dispel the horror movie portrayals and headline-grabbing media hype that color many peoples' perception of alligators.

## An integrated approach

Concern for human safety does not necessitate the confinement of alligators to remote areas or zoos—nor does it require their extermination. Coexistence can be maintained through a combination of education, "nuisance" control, responsible development, and wetland preservation.

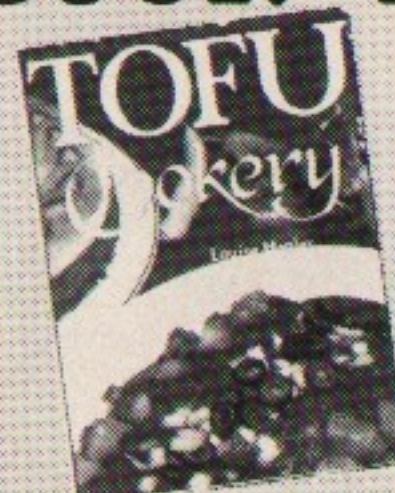
Within the state park system, whose major function is to preserve and maintain habitat for Florida's wildlife, "it will be necessary to regulate human activity in certain areas as much as or more than wild animal activity," says Landrum.

In urban areas, the game commission will continue to remove nuisance alligators as necessary. As Dennis David notes, "The alligator-human conflict will never be resolved, only managed...our efforts are devoted to developing programs which limit these conflicts as much as possible."

If sensible approaches prevail, future generations of people may still be able to see "the nearest thing to a dinosaur that anyone can see alive". And, as now, they will be able to see them in the wild.

Kathy Prindle is a Florida-based freelance writer.

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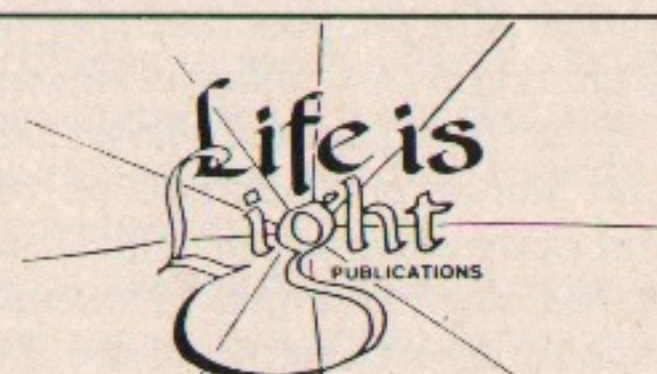
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In the November issue, photos accompanying the News Commentary *Venting Fury at APA* were incorrectly credited. The photo credit should have read: Rhoda Karp/TSU.

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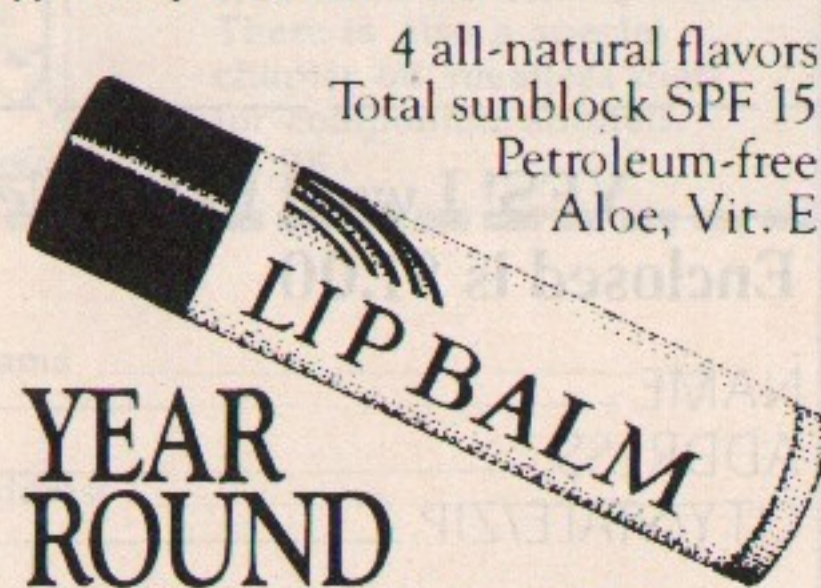
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