

TWILIGHT FOR THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT • HELPING FERAL CATS

The ANIMALS' AGENDA

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF ANIMAL RIGHTS & ECOLOGY • MAY 1989

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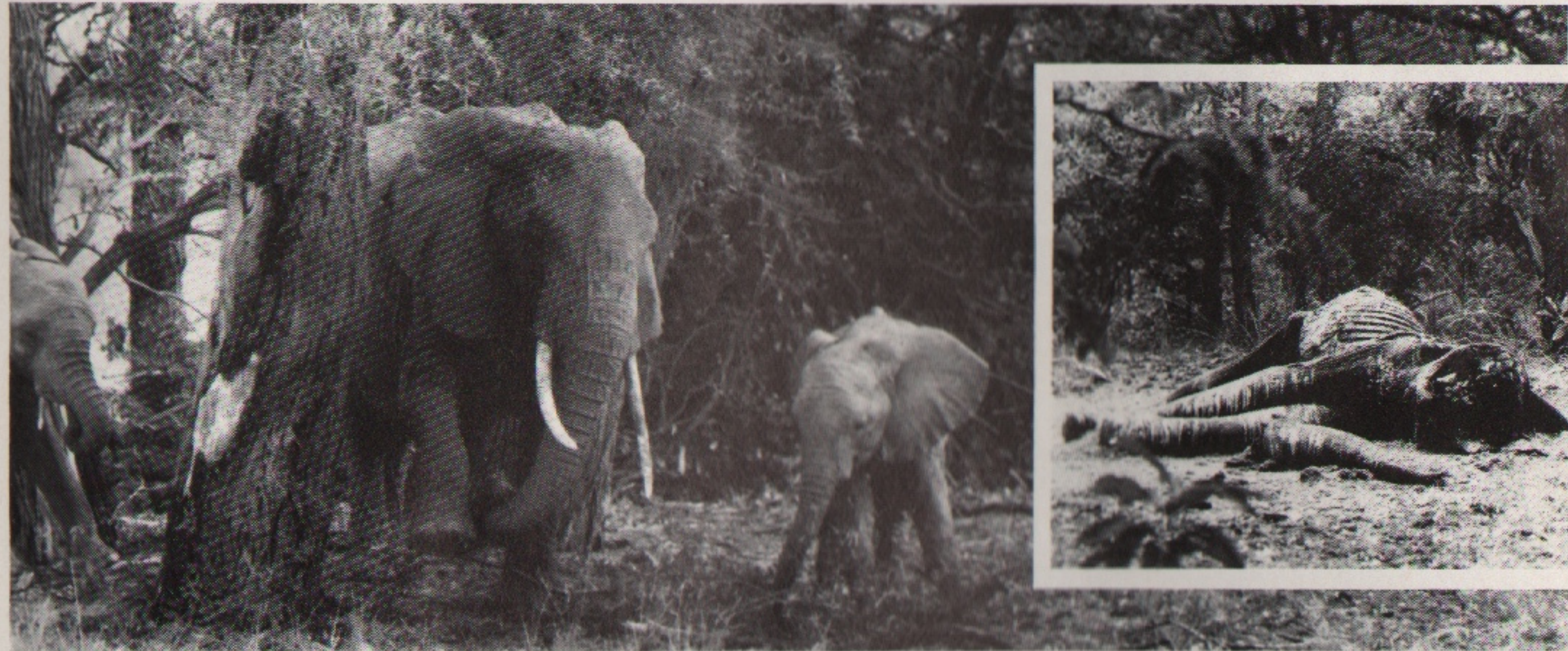


VARMINTS

A New Understanding of Unpopular Species



In a Few Years, The Only Elephants Left Will Be in Storybooks.



Exaggeration? Hardly. Unless effective action is taken soon, the African elephant, one of the gentlest and most majestic creatures on earth, will become extinct within four or five years.

The figures are staggering. Since 1979 alone, nearly ONE MILLION elephants—three quarters of Africa's wild elephant population—have been wiped out, and today, with the older male "tuskers" gone, an alarming number of females and juveniles are falling under the poacher's gun. For what? To satisfy the international market's growing thirst for ivory. In fact, approximately 30,000 elephants will be slaughtered this year just to provide trinkets for the American market. Baubles like bracelets. Chess sets. And most ironic of all, elephant figurines.

Because ivory—like furs—doesn't grow on trees. And to get ivory—even a tiny amount—an elephant must die. It's as simple and terrible as that.

There Is a Solution

The African elephant can and must be saved, but for that to happen the ivory trade must end. That's why Friends of Animals is

working at all levels to halt the commercial trade in ivory. Everywhere. And for good.

Internationally, we are seeking to include the African elephant on Appendix I of CITES, the endangered species treaty. Our aim is to achieve elephant protection at the October 1989 CITES convention in Switzerland. This would stop all legal and most of the illegal trade in ivory.

On the local level, we're asking YOU to become a "pachyderm protector," and to approach jewelry and gift shops requesting that they discontinue all trade in ivory. Friends of Animals will send the merchants you enlist our new "Pachyderm Protector" decal to display on their windows and help alert the public. And you can use the information kit we'll send you to contact local papers and television stations so that they, too, can spread the word about this tragedy. **BUT ACT NOW! BECAUSE BY TOMORROW, MORE THAN 200 ELEPHANTS WILL HAVE NEEDLESSLY DIED.** Write to: Friends of Animals Campaign to Save the African Elephant, National Headquarters, P.O. Box 1244, Norwalk, CT 06856. Or call (203) 866-5223.

**Friends
Of
Animals**



**National Headquarters
P.O. Box 1244
Norwalk, CT 06856**

Attention: Priscilla Feral, President

(This appeal was made possible by a generous contribution from Regina B. Frankenberg.)

YES! I'd like to help you save the great African elephant. Please enlist me as a **PACHYDERM PROTECTOR**, and send me your elephant decal, a petition for the U.S. Government to include the African elephant on Appendix I of CITES, a Merchant's Voluntary Commitment form, and a year's subscription to Act'ionLine, FoA's magazine. And for a donation of \$25 or more, I'm also to receive an "elephant protector" T-shirt, 100% cotton, in four-color screen.

Here's my donation to help you carry on the effort!

☐ \$500 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 \$ _____ Other _____

(All donations are tax deductible. However, according to current IRS regulations, the value of your T-shirt, \$6.00, may not be deducted.)

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Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

My T-Shirt size is: _____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL (Unisex sizes) (#2002)

THE ANIMALS' AGENDA

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the ANIMALS' AGENDA

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PAGE TWO

Be Kind to Animals— and Animal Shelters, Too

Don't forget that "Be Kind to Animals Week" begins on May 7th this year. According to the American Humane Association, the official sponsor of the "celebration" since 1915, more than 3,500 animal shelters across the United States are expected to participate.

The 1989 theme of BKA week is "Adopt a Pet from Your Local Animal Shelter"—a worthy recommendation for the general public, but for animal rights activists, who more often than not have more animals than they can easily handle, our suggestion is to spend some time during BKA week on some work for your local animal shelter. Or, if you've never been involved in shelter activities, you may simply wish to spend some time becoming acquainted with shelter personnel. These people deserve kindness, too, and some understanding of the dreadful burden of responsibility they deal with daily.

Too many times, animal rights activists forget to address the tragic consequences of dog and cat overpopulation in their activities and literature. They leave that issue to the "welfarists," in favor of more sensational or exotic topics. But the millions of dogs and cats who will die this year in shelters for want of enough homes, and the millions more who will die much worse deaths on the streets, in backyards, and around garbage dumps—of hunger, exposure, disease, or injury—deserve our attention every bit as much as laboratory primates or marine mammals. It's the life that matters, and the suffering—not the species.

Circulation improvements

Readers who may have encountered subscription problems in the past will be glad to know that steps are being taken to improve service. New procedures are being implemented in our data processing center that will speed up the entry of new subscriptions and gift orders. Gift acknowledgments will be mailed more frequently, and, come December, the holiday subscription gift program should be free of the delays and difficulties experienced during years past.

We thank our new circulation director, Peter Hoyt, for establishing some order out of the chaos of his department, and we apologize profusely to subscribers who have been annoyed or inconvenienced in the past. Some problems may still arise and, when and if they do, we hope we can count on your understanding and patience.

Sometimes when things go wrong with subscriptions, it isn't our fault. Orders come in with illegible or incorrect addresses; people don't respond promptly to renewal notices, and so their service lapses; and the postal service can always be counted on to lose or damage a percentage of the thousands of magazines mailed out each month. It is likely, too, that you will receive one renewal notice after you send in your check, since the renewal system is automated with mail going out at bulk rates (which assures slow and irregular delivery). If you receive a second renewal notice after you have sent payment, it's probably a good idea to let our subscription service know. And if you're moving, send in a change of address as soon as possible to P.O. Box 6809, Syracuse, NY 13217-9953.

Directing address changes, subscription orders, and complaints to our Monroe, Connecticut, headquarters will delay processing. Please contact the Connecticut office about subscription matters only if something remains unresolved after it has been sent to Syracuse for handling.

On violence

A few readers took issue with our statement opposing violence in January's *Page Two*. "Wouldn't you have supported the assassination of Adolph Hitler?" While we acknowledge that there are always exceptions to any rule, it is our conviction that a general policy of nonviolence will take us much farther than a philosophy in which a worthy "end" is used to justify any means.

Many thanks to supporting foundations

Special thanks are due the Ahimsa Foundation, the DTS Charitable Foundation, and the Johanna and Maria Fraenkel Trust for 1989 grants to The Animal Rights Network, Inc., publisher of The ANIMALS' AGENDA, for its general charitable purposes.

—The Editor

Vegetarian Fanaticism

For the most part, I find The ANIMALS' AGENDA very informative, and I greatly appreciate your efforts. I am very disturbed, however, at the self-righteous attitudes of fanatic vegetarians.

In early adulthood, I became a vegetarian and remained so for eight years. However, as I got into gardening, I began to relate to plant life—to wonder if a carrot felt its death when ripped from the ground, or if the plant felt pain when a tomato was pulled from it. I also realized that while weeding my garden, I was killing thousands of other plants to cultivate my vegetables for food.

Is the killing of plants really any different from the slaughter of pigs, cattle, chickens, etc.? Is it any more humane to grow vegetables in unnatural conditions and contaminate them with chemical fertilizers and insecticides than to confine veal calves and force feed them antibiotics and steroids. Should our compassion for life on this planet be limited only to those species that can cry out in pain?

I'm not crazy about the facts, but, in nature, anytime any animal eats, other animals or plants die. Humans are part of this system and should be allowed the same privileges as any other species. Whether we kill plants or animals is irrelevant—in either case a lifeform dies. I don't feel that what we eat is as important as how we raise and kill food. My concern is with cruel practices of factory farming. Although I continue to contribute regularly to animal rights groups, I am offended every time I receive something proclaiming, "Meat is Murder!" So is gardening.

I know a lot of animal rights people and not one of them is vegetarian.

—Nina Jesse Jones
Colchester, CT

Editor's Note: While we don't know enough about plant sentience to make any categorical statements, there are a number of physiological indicators that suggest plants have a lower capacity for suffering than do animals. All vertebrate animals, including fish, have complex central nervous systems that react strongly to stimuli that produce a sensation of pain in humans. Other phyla, such as crustaceans, lack a central nervous system, but nevertheless react to and attempt to escape noxious stimuli. The evolutionary purpose of pain is to warn an organism of a dangerous situation so that it may be avoided. Since plants have little or no means of escaping noxious stimuli, there would appear to be no survival advantage for developing a pain response. One might deduce, therefore, that plants do not feel pain.

Now, even if plants were capable of suffer-

LETTERS

ing as much as animals, a vegetarian diet would reduce the gross level of plant suffering, because we consume fewer plants when we eat them directly than when we consume them indirectly through animal products. Many pounds of plants are required to produce a pound of animal flesh. The conversion ratio of beef, for example, is about eight to one.

Having said that, however, we do appreciate your sensitivity to plants. We don't like to kill them either, but it seems to us that, given the choices before us in this imperfect world, one does much less harm in eating a carrot than a cow. While a life is lost either way, the absence—or at least the uncertainty—of a capacity to suffer in the former as opposed to the obvious sentience of the latter clearly points the way to the more moral dietary path. You may be interested in knowing that it is possible to avoid killing for food by choosing to eat only the fruit of plants, but few people are prepared to adopt such an extreme diet.

Edo period (1603 to 1867), when the Shogunate government ruled the whole archipelago, the fifth Shogun, Tsunayoshi (1680 to 1709) banned cruelty to animals. He made a shelter for stray dogs, and even tried to stop people from boiling shellfish. He devoted his life to the salvation of creatures, without success. On his deathbed, he left a will to continue his work. With all his political power, however, it was impossible to rescue all the creatures. Without the understanding of the nation, nothing can be done. I learned from his failure that it is not necessary for us to have tremendous power to save animals. We can change the world gradually but steadily without giving too much offense to those who are not yet aware of the truth.

—Keiko Tsukamoto
Toyonaka-Shi, Osaka, Japan

Follow Your Heart

John Robbins' article on pigs (January 1989) was as sensitive and professional an article as I could imagine. It was informative and full of compassion, yet lacking any of the "hysteria" that can tend to work against a sensitive issue. A few days after reading it, my little boys' first magazine arrived in the mail: *Ranger Rick*, published by the National Wildlife Federation. It featured an article about children raising pigs for state fairs. It mentioned their being lovingly groomed and cuddled and fed by youngsters in the hope of raising a winner. And guess what the prize was for the pigs' good-natured cooperation? They get eaten. Now, there's a twisted value to hand to your child! The article was illustrated with a young girl lovingly holding a pig who was clearly a pet. It is high time we wake up and honor some of the natural feelings that are our birth-right, instead of teaching this sort of blind denial. Thanks to your magazine, people will relearn that it's OK to follow their hearts—not just society's rules.

—Dionne Pia
Monroe, CT



More Letters Page 57

Reforms from on High Don't Guarantee Success

I am quite amazed at the quality of your magazine, and it surprises me that so many people work for the sake of animals in various ways. I'm afraid the situation in Japan is far behind.

Let me tell you something about our history of animal welfare. In the seventh century, Emperor Temmu, influenced by Buddhism, prohibited the whole nation for eating four-legged animal meat. The Japanese became fish "vegetarians" until the Meiji restoration, when the Western style of living was introduced. And in the

The "Pet Theft Act" of '88

In the February 1989 *Animal Newline*, our organization's interpretation of and position on the Pet Theft Act of 1988 (S.2353) was misrepresented. ISAR did not interpret the bill's language to mean that pounds and shelters "shall sell" to dealers those dogs and cats who are not adopted. The danger of S.2353 was that it would have further legitimized pounds

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and shelters as sources of animals for experimentation. ISAR urges committed advocates not to accept meaningless reform bills such as the proposed Pet Theft Act of 1988 as solutions to major issues. When one stands for something, one won't fall for anything...

—Nancy Anne Payton, Vice President
International Society for Animal Rights
421 South State Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

The brief article regarding the Pet Theft Act failed to explain the bill and the problems inherent with it. The purpose of the bill was to ban the sale of dogs and cats at auction. Surprisingly, though, the bill never even mentioned auctions. Instead, it told dealers where they should obtain random source dogs and cats, and it specifically sanctioned pound seizure. The ASPCA strongly supports the concept of the Pet Theft Act and will continue to work with other humane societies and Senator Ford's office in an effort to get a less convoluted bill enacted which will do what it is intended to do: ban the sale of dogs and cats at auctions.

—Elinor Molbegott, General Counsel
American Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
441 East 92nd St.
New York, NY 10128

What Gives Us the Right?

What gives you the damn right to protest cancer research?...I know rabbits, monkeys, and dogs are cute, but what about an equally cute eight-year-old girl dying of leukemia?...I know that using animals for research is cruel, but what gives [you] the damn right to incite hooligans to break in research facilities. Your magazine does that—incite[s] hooliganism and [makes] law-abiding citizens who eat meat, hunt, or even buy animal skin products feel like criminals, which they aren't...You are [expletive] lucky this is a nation known for its tolerance for bastards like you. Do not make fun of the 41st President of the U.S., George Bush. May you live long and prosper, for someday you will be exiled from this nation.

—Michael S. Choi
Bell Canyon, CA

The Great January Debate

It was heartening to read such a well-written and rational article as "The Path to Anti-Vivisection" by George Cave and

Dana Stuchell (Comment, January 1989), but sad to be reminded, once again, of the internal criticisms that serve no purpose but to weaken our movement.

While the scientific arguments against vivisection can be very powerful, particularly those which prove the numerous instances when animal-based research has had a devastating effect on humans, the moral and ethical arguments are still fundamental to our cause.

—E.M. Ahlston, President
Australian Association for Humane Research
P.O. Box 779
Darlinghurst, NSW 2010
Australia

I liked the article "Animal Rights: The Suicide of a Movement" by Javier Burgos (Comment, January 1989). He is so right when he says animal experimentation is a human health issue and not one of animal rights. Because of the animal rights movement—which should stay out of the vivisection issue—vivisection has increased in massive numbers, only to fill the pocketbooks of the medical and pharmaceutical empire. Meanwhile, the health and economy of this nation has declined and continues to do so.

—Ben Matthews
Ventura, CA

Javier Burgos' article was an unfortunate exercise in intolerance. Vivisection is indeed pseudo-science at best—fraudulent, if you like—and prone to outrageous claims of human benefit. But Burgos' raving my-way-or-no-way approach seemed more of a pathetic tribute to fanaticism than a call to embrace his "scientific argument" theory. His rabid

thumping of the Ruesch ideology was reminiscent of the angry young leftists who formed their firing squads by gathering in a circle and opening fire. An intolerance of diversity within a movement is the only suicidal threat evident in "The Suicide of a Movement."

—Vicki Miller
Mt. Albert, Ont., Canada

The expose of medical fraud and the promotion of ethical behavior towards nonhumans are both vital in fighting vivisection. But we mustn't forget the third and equally important path: we must make it economically unprofitable and impractical to go on with animal experiments.

The worst thing we can do is for one animal group to tear apart another legitimate animal organization. We will save the opposition much money if they don't need to hire agents to infiltrate our ranks and cause contention because we will be doing it for them.

—Flavia Sayner
Mesa, AZ

The anti-vivisection movement should be concerned with human and animal welfare alike. No amount of animal experimentation will ever reveal the secrets to human disease or, more importantly, the necessary requirements for a healthy existence. The well-known causes of human disease—primarily self-induced—are cumulative, of varying impact, and are nontransferable to the experimental animal. What vivisection does is elicit similar symptoms in the animal "model" to those of the human condition—not the actual disorder. Even with symptomatic treat-

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FUR-FREE AMERICA!!

It's happening now. The tide is finally turning for the fur industry. Last year, for the first time in 15 years, fur sales were flat, and fur profits actually declined, as overstocked furriers were forced to slash prices. This fur season, the downward spiral has continued.

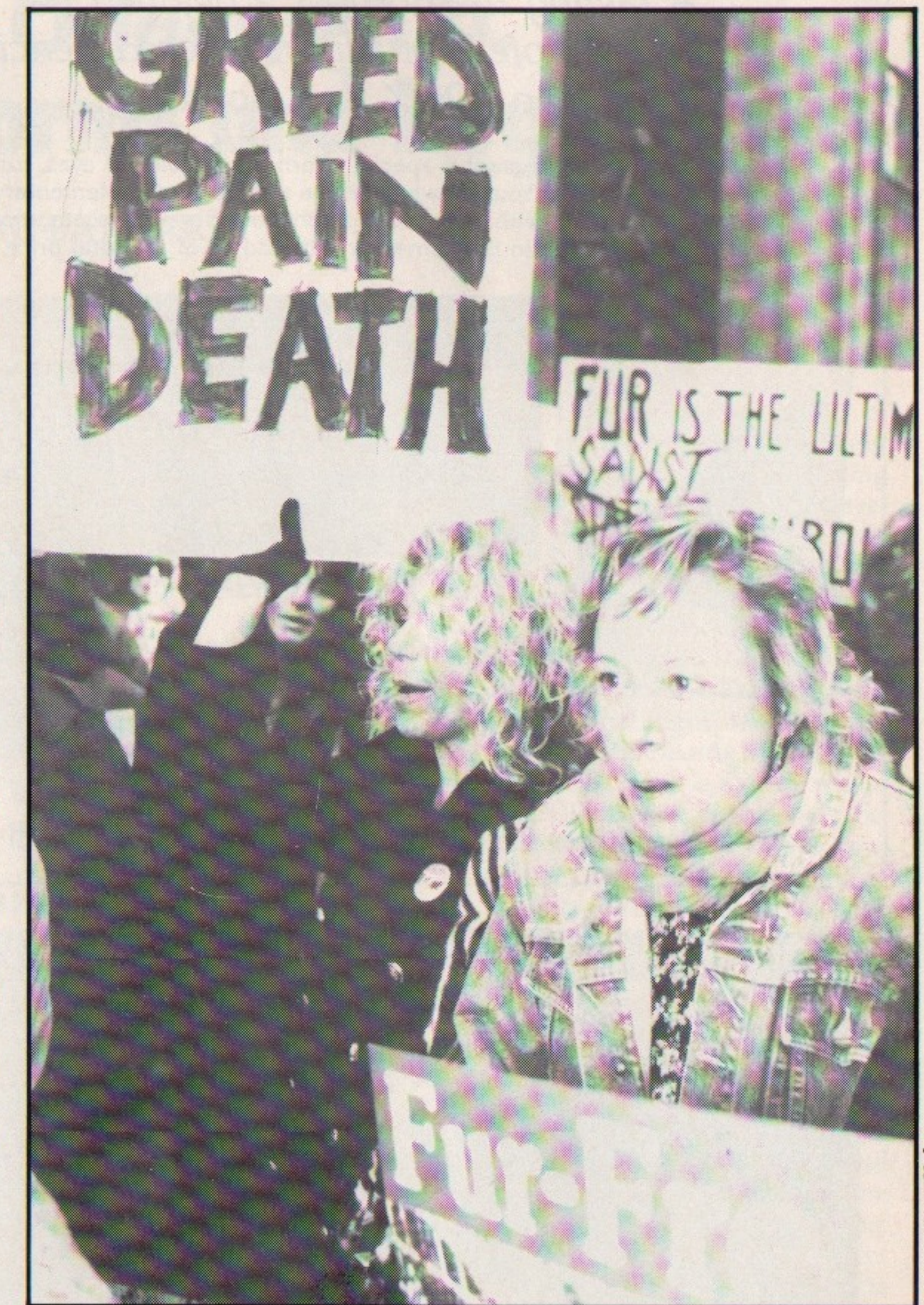
Trans-Species Unlimited's efforts are paying off. Three years ago, when there was no visible anti-fur movement in this country, our **Campaign for a Fur-Free America** began. Now, as a result of TSU's nationally-coordinated program of continuous, aggressive direct action, outreach and education, coupled with a new anti-fur advertising campaign, anti-fur activism is at a record level and growing constantly. In November, our **Fur-Free Friday** march in New York City with Bob Barker brought out over 2000 people—the single largest anti-fur protest ever to take place anywhere in the world. On the same day, other TSU offices and local grass-roots groups in 67 locations throughout the country organized simultaneous demonstrations and marches as part of our campaign.

And that was only the beginning. In New York City, the fur industry's capital, TSU has held weekly demonstrations and confrontations with fur-wearers throughout the fur season. Chicago, Philadelphia and even Harrisburg, Pennsylvania have also come alive on the fur issue.

As a result of this high level of visibility and activity, media coverage of the fur issue and our **Campaign for a Fur-Free America** has exploded, with literally millions of mainstream Americans being bombarded almost every week with the message of compassion for fur-bearing animals. American attitudes toward fur are being totally transformed.

Now TSU is gearing up for yet another important anti-fur protest. Please join us if you possibly can in New York City:

Fur Expo Protest
Wednesday, May 17th, Noon
Penta Hotel, 7th Ave. and 33rd Street



Christopher Kehoe

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE THE ACTION IS!

Trans-Species Unlimited is a national, grass-roots organization dedicated to the total elimination of animal exploitation. Although we operate on a budget a fraction the size of most national groups', we have led the way in victories for animals due to the unrelenting perseverance of our few staff members, the dedicated commitment of our hundreds of volunteer activists, and the loyal financial support of our contributors. **But we still need more help to continue and expand our important work for animals.** From the Cornell Cat victory to the pigeon shoot campaign to our nationwide anti-fur protests, TSU is making it happen for animals. **Make history with Trans-Species Unlimited by sending in your contribution today.**

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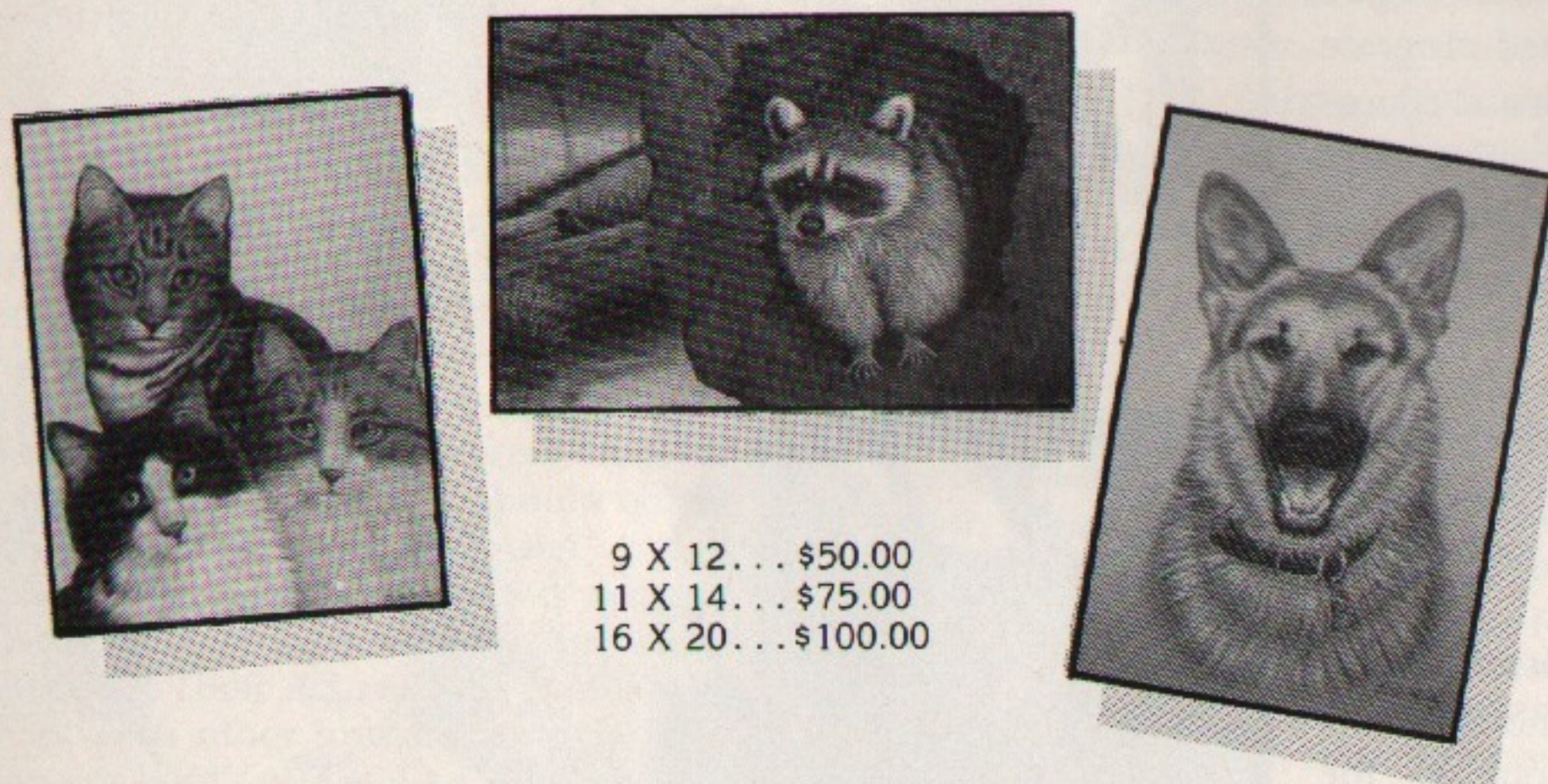
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ORIGINAL PORTRAITS

by Ruth McCarty

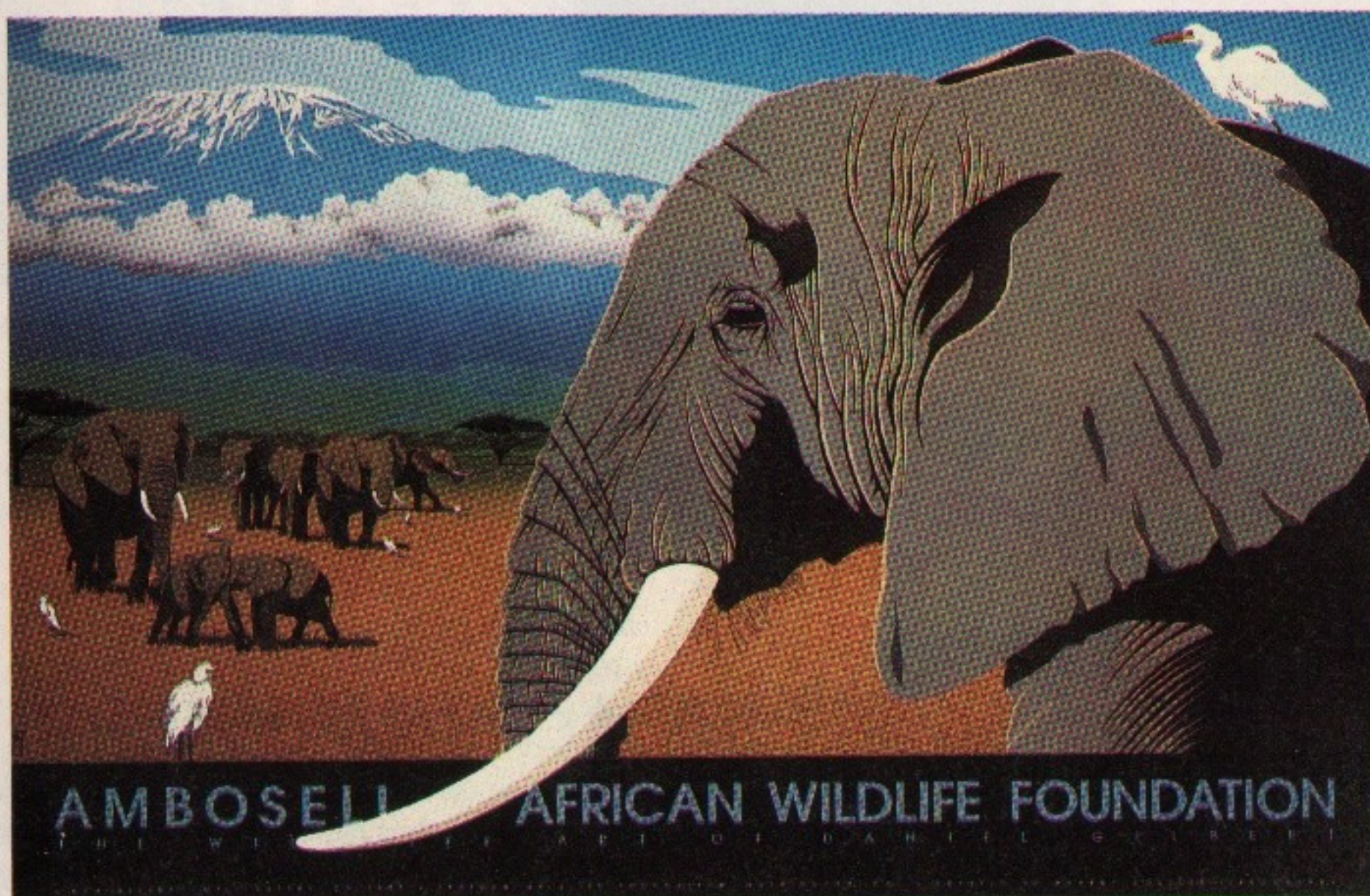
*A lasting memory of a beloved pet
drawn professionally in colored pencil
on 100% rag board.*

Send clear 35mm photographs; special information (color of eyes, fur, etc.) and check or money order. Your drawing will be matted in complementary colors and sent to you along with your photographs in 4-6 weeks, postage paid. (For each additional animal in the same portrait, add 1/2 of the total price.)



9 X 12... \$50.00
11 X 14... \$75.00
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Ruth L. McCarty • 629 Crestview Drive • Corunna, MI 48817



The African Wildlife Foundation has commissioned internationally acclaimed wildlife artist, Daniel Gilbert, to create this poster honoring the majesty of Kenya's Amboseli National Park. For your tax-deductible contribution of \$25 or more, AWF will send you one of these high quality prints (the third in a series featuring African Parks). Your generous gift will help ensure the survival of Africa's treasures.

To receive your AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION • AMBOSELI poster, please send your gift of \$25 or more (shipping and handling included) to:

AWF AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20036

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

LETTERS

Continued from page 4

ment, the data collected is consistently misleading and always potentially harmful if applied clinically, because animals are remarkably dissimilar from humans—biochemically, biomechanically, and emotionally. The bottom line is that only humans are appropriate subjects for effectively achieving ethical and valid results through careful clinical research and application of preventive measures.

But vivisection is big business. What it lacks in substance, it makes up in profit, promising salvation with miracle cures if only more monies are forthcoming. This monstrous medical lottery will never provide a payoff for the overtaxed and overly generous "benefactors."

Animal "rights" is not the only issue; in addition there is the extent to which human "wrongs" have resulted in the escalation of disease. By failing to address and correct our errors in living, we provided the pathway over which the lost tribes of biomedical research wander aimlessly through the vast wastelands of pharmacomania—the expansion of vivisection evolved from this madness. Animals don't smoke, drink alcohol, take drugs, or pollute the environment. We must no longer use them as "scapegoats," avoiding responsibility for our own health.

—Les Stewart, D.D.S.
Last Chance for Animals
18653 Ventura Blvd., Suite 356
Tarzana, CA 91356

The conflicting views of TSU and SUPPRESS reflect an obsession over the question of whether or not vivisection has ever produced any useful information. In fact, this debate is irrelevant. Even if there has been useful knowledge gained, it is too little to warrant further investment in vivisection, since the same resources could be used far more productively in preventive measures. Thus, we can argue effectively for total abolition on scientific/factual grounds alone; and we can do so even if some useful knowledge has been gained.

Medical intervention is the least important of the four determinants of health and illness or injury, coming far behind lifestyle/environment and heredity. The notion that the clinical application of animal-based data is a major threat to human health is as false as the vivisectionists' claim that its application is a major boon, and for the same reason: it is not a major factor at all. Individual lives may be profoundly affected by medical intervention; but on a national level, intervention plays a very small role.

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INTERVIEW

Barbara Orlans, Ph.D. On Research Reforms and Regulations

BY NEAL BARNARD, M.D.

Though the ranks of animal defenders have been swelling for some time with scientists from many disciplines, Barbara Orlans is—as far as we know—the only one to arrive via the National Institutes of Health, long the bastion of animal experimentation in the United States. Dr. Orlans received her Ph.D. from London University in 1956, and though her research career has been distinguished, she is best known as an animal advocate. Founder of the Scientists' Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW), Dr. Orlans, a vegetarian, is recognized for her work to eliminate dissection in primary and secondary schools, to prohibit harmful experimentation on animals in science fair projects, and to reduce levels of animal suffering in all areas of research. Dr. Orlans recently resigned from SCWA, but she continues to serve on the scientific committee of the Animal Welfare Institute and is actively involved in a number of projects.

Although she is not philosophically opposed to all animal experimentation, Dr. Orlans' ethical perspective as a scientist is enlightened, and her insights on many subjects are of considerable value to animal rights advocates.

How did the issue of animals in education first come to your attention?

In the late 1950s, as a recent immigrant to this country from England, I was working at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and was invited to go to a local science fair. I was appalled to see youngsters from the age of 12 onwards doing crude, highly invasive, and completely improper work on small mammals. Several projects I found very disturbing. A 12- or 13-year-old had put a guinea pig inside a shoe box and blown cigarette smoke in until the animal died. And that was supposed to show that smoking is bad. This was quite within the rules of the science fair! It was a great shock to me to see that this sort of work was receiving official sanction. Another project at the same fair involved centrifug-



Christine has had a major influence on my life. Thus started my career in animal welfare work.

In 1969, I went to the exhibition of finalists at the Westinghouse Talent Search. There was one exhibit involving a 17-year-old who had removed the eyeballs of five sparrows. She was blinding them in order to test their light perception. I was really shattered by this—by being brought face-to-face with the institutionalization of inhumaneness. The youngster was awarded a \$250 prize for blinding birds! That night, I went to the theatre to see Jason Robards in *King Lear*. As you may recall, there is a scene where the Duke of Gloucester has his eyes put out with a red hot poker. I was profoundly distressed; I had a terrible time with it. I still do actually, in thinking back on it. Those were very important events to me, and they set me on a very firm course.

Exactly what was that student trying to do?

In addition to being blinded, the birds were starved to try to make them respond to a reward of food. She put them in the main passage of a Y-shaped maze. In one arm of the Y was light, and in the other was darkness. If the bird walked towards the light, it would get food. If it went to the dark chamber, it received an electric shock punishment. She had trouble getting the birds to do anything; they didn't want to move. Initially, she had starved them for 24 hours, which is quite common in psychology projects, to induce them to move towards the reward of food. She kept increasing the length of time of starvation. In the end, she starved them for several days; and her conclusion, as reported in her project, was: "If you starve birds to 60 percent of their body weight they are likely to die." Three of the five blinded birds died from starvation.

Does bad education spawn bad research and bad research careers?

Definitely. These youngsters are learning that they can do highly invasive projects on animals for trivial purposes. Over their forty or so years of existence, science fairs

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INTERVIEW



Dr. Orlans with her husband and their two sons.

Continued from previous page

have surely had a deleterious effect on the standards of professional scientists. Teenagers are started off on the wrong track of believing that anything goes in the name of science.

There are two major competitions in the United States: the Westinghouse Science Talent Search, and the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). Both of these nationwide competitions are administered by Science Service [1719 N St. N.W., Washington, DC 20036]. After the sparrow-blinding episode and the tremendous protests we launched, Westinghouse completely revised its rules to ban all vertebrate animal projects except observational studies. In a telephone call, the director of Science Service revealed how angry he was about these reforms. Unlike Westinghouse, the ISEF has retained rules that allow untrained youngsters to inflict pain and death on highly sentient animals. For instance, the rules specifically sanction surgery on animals by teenagers, the administration of toxic substances, and other invasive things. A person who had a key role in setting up these rules was the executive director of the National Society for Medical Research. That organization, which is now folded into the National Association for Biomedical Research, had always fought reform legislation. With these rules, which continue with slight modifications to this day, ISEF cannot achieve acceptable humane standards. Science fair rules that prohibit animal pain and death are needed.

The structure of the ISEF competition is that students from age 14 to 18 compete—first at the local level, then regionally and, finally, nationally. The fairs are held annually from January through May. With funds from General Motors, they publish abstracts of the finalists in a book called *Abstracts of the International Science and Engineering Fair*. I advise people to get a copy of the book to review the projects, even though they're presented in glossed over terms and sanitized form. In the last few years, the book has covered such experiments as a high-school student giving insecticides to pregnant mice, and another student inducing arthritis in small mammals. It's all down in black and white.

Is there reason to be optimistic?

Yes. One of the good things in the last few years has been that students are starting to protest the overemphasis on dissection in the high schools. Jenifer Graham, of course, is a prime example of a young person who stayed with her personal conviction that it is wrong for her to participate in frog dissection. She holds that she can learn about anatomy without killing animals. She has been responsible for a fine new state law in California that provides for conscientious objection to dissection. Over the next few years, I think we will see many states following the lead of California. People like Jenifer are making their voices heard. And their objection is a very sound one, because almost all biology—and certainly all biology at the secondary school level—

can be learned without the suffering or death of a single animal.

The humane movement ought to be ready to help these students. They need to know they can call on the services of people who will come to their defense and speak to school officials. A hotline to provide assistance to students who object to dissecting or experimenting on animals was established in February. It is run by Patricia Graham, Jenifer's mother. Pat will help students understand their rights, provide understanding and encouragement to students who are traumatized by the prospect of dissection or animal experimentation, provide information on alternatives, and offer legal assistance if needed. Students can phone toll-free: 1-800-922-FROG.

It is bizarre that secondary schools don't make provisions for these students. Even with medical schools, I only know of a few that really insist that the students participate in dog labs.

In one of our local schools, students have to dissect frogs in the eighth grade, fetal pigs in the ninth grade, cats in the eleventh grade, and the advanced placement students in the twelfth grade have to dissect dogs. To my mind, none of this is either necessary or sound education. Many alternatives exist and should be used. Because of this current overemphasis on dissection, many youngsters are turned off from a career in the biological sciences. So we're losing the very people we really need as doctors and scientists—those who are the most compassionate.

Can anything be done to achieve a more humane orientation on the part of teachers?

Teachers and students need practical suggestions for laboratory projects that teach fundamental principles of biology but do not involve harming or killing animals. My first book, and many of my subsequent writings, have been devoted to promoting alternatives. I think a tremendous national educational effort is needed within the science teacher community at their conventions and in-service training sessions. There are many fine biology teachers who are doing a good job; we need to give them more information on acceptable laboratory projects that don't involve harming and killing. We've got to provide practical advice and humane alternatives. In biology education, there ought to be more study of human physiology. Also, there should be more emphasis on living rather than dead things, and on healthy living organisms rather

INTERVIEW

than on pathological states. Computer simulations can be useful in weaning away some of the die-hard teachers who think dissection is essential. We also need more stringent rules at the ISEF and stronger national guidelines on student use of animals among the professional biology teacher associations.

What legislative proposals are needed?

State laws—even stronger than the California one—are needed to allow students to exert their conscientious objection to any animal lab and be provided with an alternative. State laws can also be useful in prohibiting the infliction of pain on vertebrate animals by elementary and secondary school students. A few states have such laws, but not enough. Student use of animals is best dealt with on the

state level.

On the broader front of Federal legislative needs for animal experimentation in general, I would like to see strengthening of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs), pain classifications brought into public policy, and greater protection given to nonhuman primates used for laboratory purposes. I also think we need to address the source of dogs and cats used in research.

How are the IACUCs functioning now? The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations mandating them at all research facilities have not yet been implemented.

All the research institutions funded by the NIH and other agencies of the Public Health Service (PHS), and many that do not receive such funds, have already established IACUCs—some 1100 research institutions in toto. The IACUCs are given the task of reviewing proposed experiments to see whether provisions of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and PHS policy are being followed. I think they are of prime importance. Some are really doing a good job of reviewing protocols for humane concerns. Other committees are performing a rubber-stamp job—not being conscientious or having sufficient concern for the humanness of the experiments. There is a need for much more involvement of representatives from the humane community in these committees.

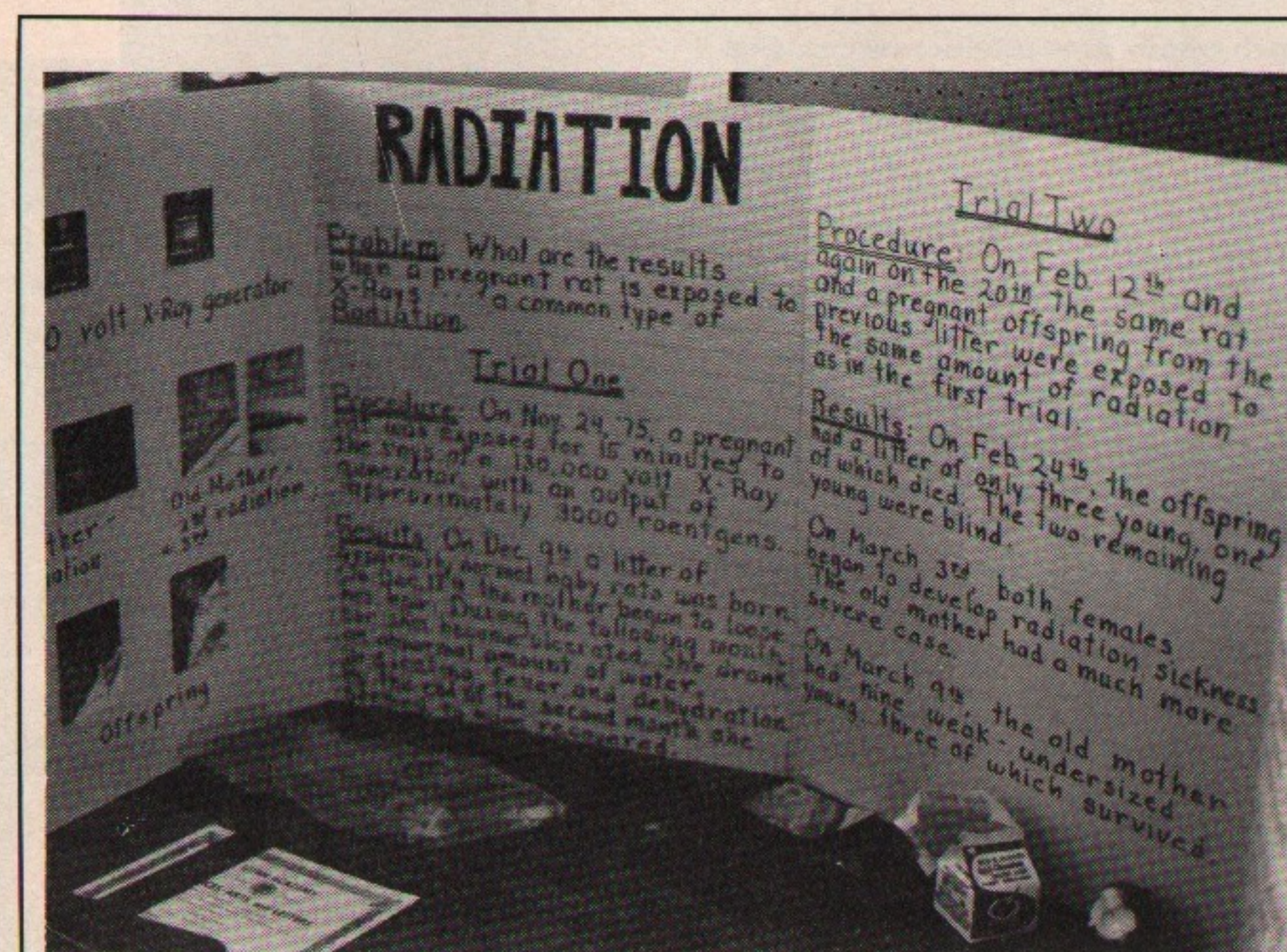
How can people get involved?

It's difficult, because the institutions do the selecting. Unless they have confidence in you, you are unlikely to be invited to be a committee member. So it's a matter of getting yourself known and trusted. There are avenues open, such as through AWI [P.O. Box 3650 Georgetown Station, Washington, DC 20007], which maintains a roster of persons willing to serve on these committees. Their names are provided to institutions on request.

Do you find it useful for people to attend IACUC meetings or obtain the records of the meetings? A related question is how often that's possible.

I think the invoking of state "sunshine laws" [laws that provide public access to meetings of public agencies] has had a salutary effect in some cases, but a deleterious effect in others. Where there have been positive results, it has generally involved committees that have been lax in their review of experiments, and where the community has learned that some inhumane projects are going on. On the other hand, use of the sunshine laws has

Continued on next page



A Science Fair Sampling of Experiments

These experiments were conducted by ninth to twelfth graders as projects for the 1988 International Science and Engineering Fair. The quotations are from the students' own accounts of their projects, all of which involved some harm to animals.

♦ 45 hairless mice were subjected to several weeks of ultraviolet irradiation. As a result, the animals showed "pronounced skin lesions" and "deep dermatosis." The student reports that he has extended the project for another 20 weeks to see if he can get the lesions to become malignant.

♦ 37 rats were exposed to cold for long period of time until all the animals developed high blood pressure and their hearts and adrenal glands became enlarged.

♦ A beginning biology student attempted to demonstrate the deleterious effects on behavior of various hallucinogenic fungi and drugs on three successive generations of hamsters.

♦ A student demonstrated the already known deleterious effects of anabolic steroid hormones. As a result of prolonged administration of these steroids, the mice showed "enlarged male sexual organs, peeling of the skin, and hair loss."

♦ Other projects included a demonstration of the well-known effects of vitamin deprivation, and the toxicity of tin and aluminum. Several projects demonstrated that birth defects can be induced by feeding the animals toxic substances during pregnancy; another "proved" the harmful effects of junk food on small mammals; and one showed the well-known damaging effects of cholesterol on rabbits' hearts.

INTERVIEW

WALKATHON FOR
LAB ANIMALS

You can help raise money to finance and develop non-animal alternatives for lab research.

Last year's walkathon financed continued work on polio-vaccine tests without monkeys.

PAIN: MORE THAN FLESH AND BLOOD CAN BEAR

SAT., MAY 6 at 11 am
72nd & Riverside Drive, NYC

For Information and sponsor forms:

Call (212) 242-0390
or 628-0959

AMERICAN FUND FOR ALTERNATIVES
TO ANIMAL RESEARCH (AFAAR)
175 W 12 St., #16G, New York, NY 10011

Continued from previous page

sometimes stifled the effectiveness of the review procedure. Some committees have reacted by doing their protocol review by telephone, for example, instead of having actual meetings. This is bad because the review process is then likely to be less thorough. The whole point of protocol review is that a group of people will sit down and openly discuss whether or not projects are in compliance with national policy.

Do such committees produce records that could be of use to people who are investigating what institutions are doing?

The records of the committees are usually not open for public inspection. I'm sure that great fights will continue on this. I would like to see studies assessing the effectiveness of these committees, just as studies have been made of the Institutional Review Boards governing human experimentation. Scholars have come up with some very telling information on human experimentation committees—about how many protocols they have reviewed, how many have been modified, and how many they have disapproved.

"I would like to see strengthening of IACUCs, pain classifications brought into public policy, and greater protection given to nonhuman primates used for laboratory purposes. I also think we need to address the source of dogs and cats used in research."



If one could take a sample of the animal review committees, it would be possible to get an idea of how the review mechanism has contributed towards higher standards for animal care and use. But I think we're a long way from there being any acceptance of such a study among the institutions.

Is there widespread use of scales of invasiveness, or harm, for classifying experiments?

The idea behind an invasiveness scale is a simple one. It is that experimental procedures are classified according to whether or not animals are used, and, if they are used, then how much pain is inflicted—either no pain, mild pain, moderate pain, or severe pain. At the lowest end of the scale are procedures that do not involve using animals at all—call these category A. At the highest end

Continued on page 52

American Horse Protection Association

The only nonprofit organization dedicated to the welfare of horses, both wild and domestic



Since 1966, the American Horse Protection Association (AHPA) has been dedicated to the protection and survival of wild and domestic horses. Each year AHPA investigates cases of cruelty and mistreatment at horse shows, substandard riding stables, horse auctions, slaughterhouses, race tracks, and wild horse roundups.

You Can Help.

Become a member of the American Horse Protection Association. AHPA depends entirely upon the support of its friends and members, and it is only through their help that AHPA can continue to carry out its vitally important work.

Members receive our quarterly newsletter which will keep you informed of issues affecting the welfare of horses. In an emergency, Special Alert Bulletins are sent to let members know what they can do.

AHPA is a resource for information concerning the humane treatment and care of horses. If you want to know how you can help fight horse abuses in your community, or if you have a question about the care of your own horse, AHPA would be more than happy to assist you.

American Horse Protection Association, Inc.
1000 29th Street, N.W., Suite T-100, Washington, D.C. 20007
(202)965-0500

YES... I want to become a member of AHPA to help fight for humane treatment of wild and domestic horses.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

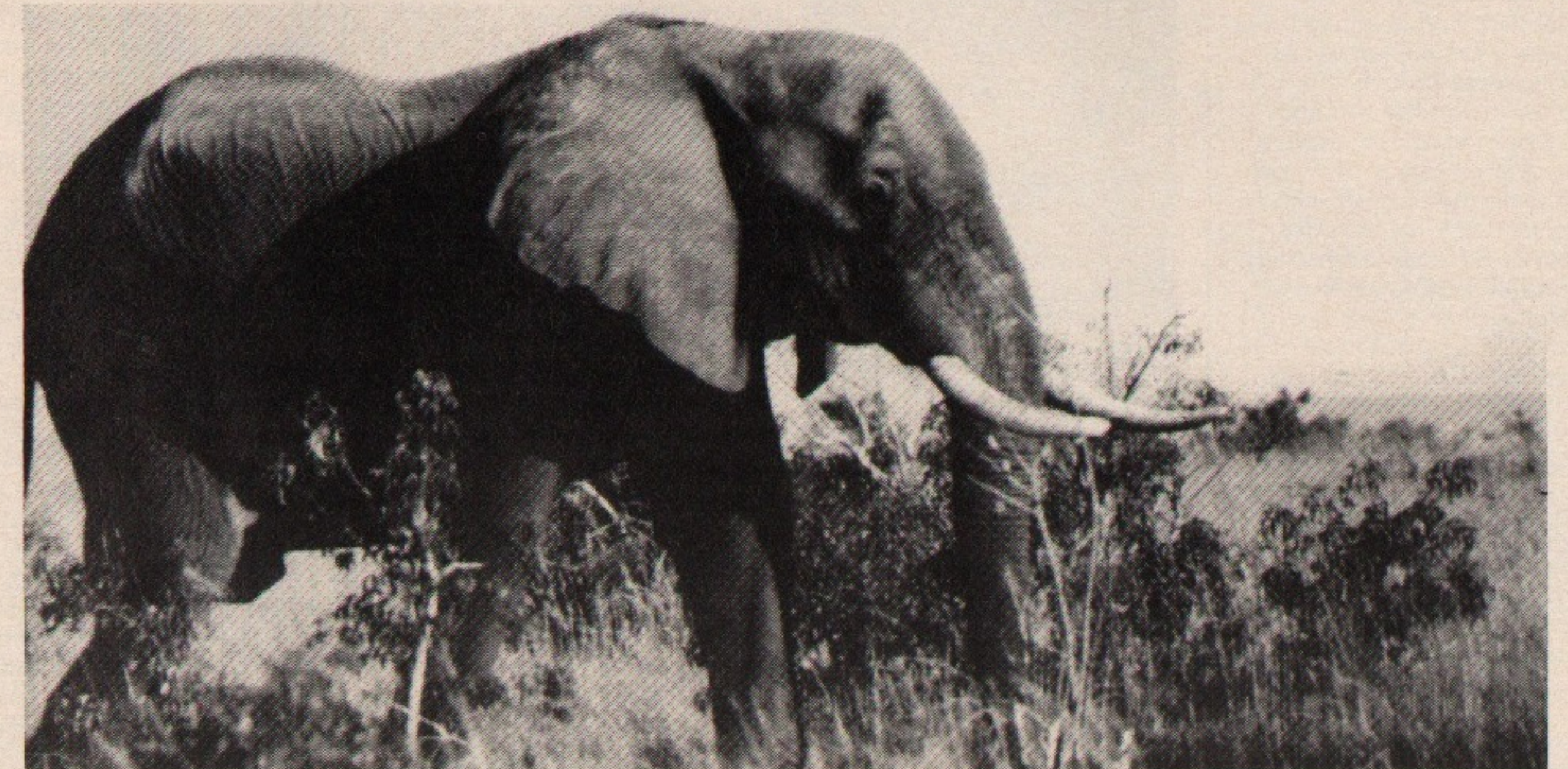
☐ \$500 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50
☐ \$25 ☐ \$15 ☐ Other

Name _____

Street _____

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THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT:
This Decade's Dinosaur?

Throughout Africa today, the number of elephants is being rapidly depleted through poaching. If the current rate of slaughter continues unchecked, Africa's remaining 500,000 elephants will be extinct by the year 2000! And poachers will not stop their gruesome work as long as there is an insatiable market for ivory trinkets, jewelry and carvings. The billion dollar a year ivory trade encourages poachers to bypass all laws and attempts at conservation.

The Elephant Protection Act of 1987 was granted \$5 million to fund elephant conservation efforts in Africa, but the bill does not grant the African elephant the all important "endangered" status that would result in an international ban on all ivory trade. As long as the elephant is designated only as "threatened," trading in ivory will continue.

PLEASE!

Join the ASPCA and other humane groups in the following actions:

Boycott all ivory.

Don't buy it and don't accept it as a gift.

Pressure stores not to sell it.

Bombard President Bush with letters to the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC:

Urge him to support endangered status designation of the African elephant.

Ask for United States support of the 1989 CITES proposal to put the African elephant on Appendix I, which would ban international trade in ivory.

ASPCA

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
America's First Humane Society
441 East 92nd Street
New York, New York 10128

NETWORK NOTES

New at the B.C. Zoo

According to LifeForce, the Stanley Park Zoo is selling some members of its menagerie, as the Vancouver Parks Board plans to convert the zoo and aquarium to hold only captive native species—many of whom freely roam the park already. Other species to be included, like narwhals, have never been successfully kept in captivity. For details, contact LifeForce, Box 3317, Main Post Office, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6B 3X6.

Social Allies

The Green Party of Canada has adopted planks opposing vivisection, factory farming, and "animal exploitation in general." ♦ The Social Responsibilities Roundtable of the Minnesota Library Association has endorsed the "Shame of Fur" campaign of the Humane Society of the U.S., and joined the Earth Island Institute's tuna boycott.

Air Force Deer Kill

Still fighting deer hunting at the U.S. Air Force Academy, recently resumed after an 18-year break, the Rocky Mountain Humane Society (RMHS) has found that nearby homeowners did nothing to keep allegedly overabundant deer off their property, because "such steps are costly." (Enough soap or mothballs to repel deer from a yard all summer costs about \$5.) RMHS also argues that the Colorado Dept. of Wildlife tried to overrun the Academy with deer to justify a hunt. Protest letters may be sent to Colonel Michael Blaisdell, Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force Academy, CO 80840.

Group Changes

The former Center for Environmental Education is now the Center for Marine Conservation. The address remains 1725 DeSales Street NW, Washington, DC 20036. ♦ The Zoo Animal Protection Society has changed its address to 6265 Cardeno Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037; the phone number remains the same: (619) 454-4959. The group is an affiliate of the Fund for Animals.

EDITED BY MERRITT CLIFTON



Mary Golder
Caring for dogs requires an understanding of their needs.

Dog Care

Puppies like a space of their own. Locking puppy crates serve as beds, and can be used to transport dogs even when they've grown. ♦ If you can't easily slip your hand under a dog's collar, it's too tight. Tied yard dogs often suffer from embedded collars that can choke them or cause festering sores that require veterinary attention.

The Fossey Estate

A New York judge struck down the late gorilla expert Dian Fossey's will for lack of witnesses. As much as \$5 million in assets and royalties, willed to aid gorillas, instead goes to her already wealthy mother and stepfather.

Wolf Lecture

For 20 years, the Clem & Jethro Lecture Service has taken domesticated wolves and wolf lore into classrooms, moving generations of school children to write "Save the wolves!" appeals to their legislators. Get details from Box 5817, Santa Fe, NM 87502.

Humane Vets

The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, set up in 1917, runs 57 nonprofit health centers across Great Britain, treating over a million animals per year whose owners can't afford private vets. PDSA House is located on South Street, Dorking, Surrey RH4 2LB, United Kingdom. ♦ Nominations for the American Veterinary Medical Association's 1990 Humane Award are due by June 1. For details, call the AVMA at (312) 605-8070. ♦ Veterinary professor Nedim Buyukmihci has sued the University of California at Davis, alleging he lost a class and a pay raise, and faces discipline, because he had students practice eye surgery on cadavers, terminally ill dogs, or dogs who needed the surgery, instead of maiming healthy animals. Buyukmihci is president of the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights.

On the Silver Screen

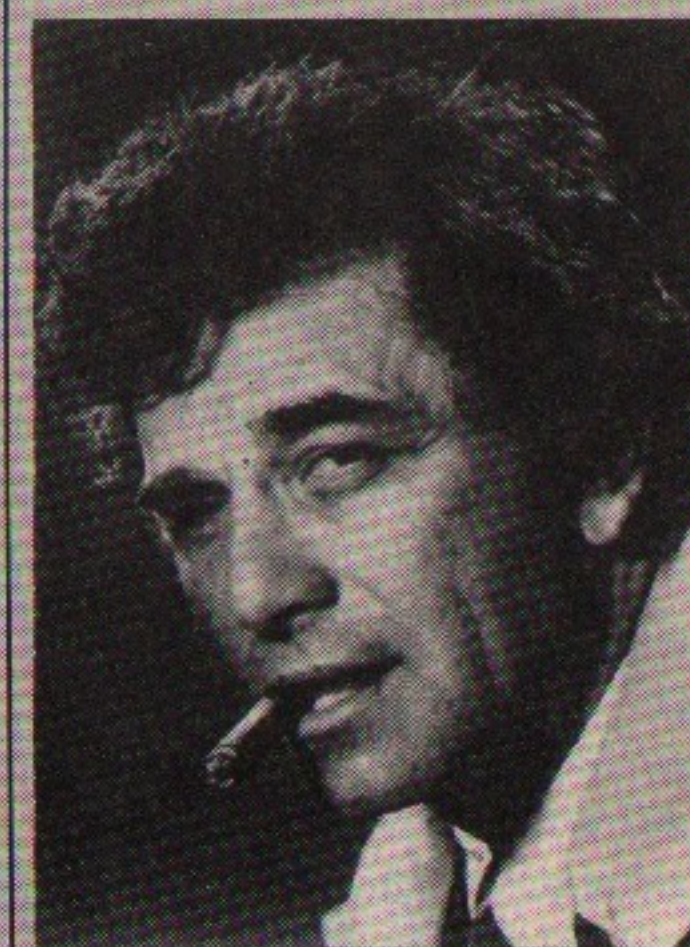
The CBS TV mini-series on Oliver North, airing this month, was filmed in the only known nesting site of the Bell's vireo, of which species only 300 individuals survive. The Orange County Water District allowed the filming under pressure from the California governor's office. ♦ The makers of *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* gave away 6,000 rats specially bred for a single scene.

People

Edna Ann Senecal, 74, still runs the Estherville Animal Shelter at Greenfield, New York, she began 41 years ago. Over 100 dogs and 200 cats share 10 clean, warm buildings. Senecal last had a day off on March 10, 1968. ♦ "Blue-eyed soul" singer/songwriter Laura Nyro made a comeback tour "dedicated to animals and the animal rights movement." Nyro, an anti-fur and leather vegetarian, wrote six top hits of the 1960s and early 1970s. "As a feminist," she says, "I feel a parallel with women's rights and animal rights." ♦ *Columbo* star Peter Falk has persuaded Universal Studios to promote the use of cruelty-free cosmetics on the set.

Upcoming Events

The International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals will present a public program June 24 in connection with its conference in Philadelphia. Special guest speaker will be British Dr. Robert Sharpe. For details, call the American Anti-Vivisection Society at (215) 887-0816. ♦ Farm Sanctuary plans to protest the American Veal Association conference June 12-14 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Call (302) 654-9026 to participate. ♦ April 30 through May 6 is Compassion for Animals Week in seven Massachusetts cities, through the efforts of CEASE and the New England Anti-Vivisection Society. For a schedule of events, call (508) 655-4988. ♦ John Seed and Joanna Macy of Australia's Rainforest Information Centre will be leading "re-Earthings rituals" around the U.S. this summer. For details contact Rainforest Action, 300 Broadway #28, San Francisco, CA 94133. ♦ The National Alliance for Animals' Educational Fund will hold its fifth annual four-day National Seminar on animal issues June 9-12 in Arlington, Virginia. For details write Box 2978, Washington, DC 20013, or call (703) 684-0654. ♦ Texas vegetarian societies plan a meatless chili cook-off in May. For details, call Shirley Wilkes-Johnson at (409) 345-5453. ♦ The Alliance for Animals in Virginia will hold an animal rights symposium in Norfolk on Saturday, May 13. Call (804) 464-5284.



Peter Falk, a cruelty-free campaigner.

ICELAND KILLS WHALES

Don't buy Icelandic Fish!

GREENPEACE

1436 U Street NW • Washington DC 20009 • (202) 462-1177

Join the June 12th demonstrations.

Scout's Honor

While lower levels of the Boy Scouts defended the rabbit and chicken slaughters that took place at a Pennsylvania camp last year, national public relations director Frank Hebb writes, "the incident... should not have happened. For 78 years, as part of our training, we have demonstrated the sixth point of the Scout Law, 'A Scout is kind. He does not hurt or kill harmless things without reason.' We have reminded our membership about our moral obligations and will continue to do so."

Welfare Ranching

Earth First! led two big protests against stock grazing on public land at the Denver Stock Show Parade and the show itself in mid-January. Ranchers lease grazing rights for about a fourth of what they'd pay to lease private land, while erosion caused by overgrazing, fencing, and anti-predation measures are major threats to wildlife.

Worthy Projects

Greenpeace, the Fishing Vessel Owners Association, and the National Marine Fisheries Service are cooperating to find ways to keep orcas away from North Pacific cod trawlers. The orcas seem unafraid of fishermen's bullets and explosives. ♦ The Animal Medical Center of New York received the Delta Society's 1988 International Model Program Award recently for training social workers and veterinarians to counsel people who have lost companion animals. ♦ Mike Cohen offers a 25-page *Earth Kinship Trailguide* free. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope, c/o the National Audubon Society, Sharon, CT 06069.

Put the Heat on Iceland

The U.S. is host to this year's International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting in San Diego in June. Because Iceland ignored an IWC resolution passed last year calling on that country to cease its "research" whale hunt, a coalition of animal protection and environmental groups organized a boycott of Iceland's fish products. According to the leading Icelandic newspaper, the boycott has produced losses to the fishing industry from U.S. and West German markets of \$50 million, triggering a thaw in Icelandic popular opinion on the whaling issue. Two resolutions are pending in the Icelandic Parliament calling for at least a three-year ban on whaling. Demonstrations will be held in many cities on June 12th, opening day of the IWC meeting, at Burger King, Wendy's, and other restaurants that serve Icelandic fish. To help organize a demonstration in your area, contact Greenpeace for a free demonstration kit. Write to the Iceland Whale Campaign, Greenpeace, 1436 U St. NW, Washington, DC 20009; or call (202) 462-1177.

New Groups

People Living Ethically with Animals (PLEA) does awareness-raising in central Pennsylvania. Contact them at Box 5126, Johnstown, PA 15904. ♦ New student groups include Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Box 36, NYU Student Activities Office, 21 Washington Place, New York, NY 10003; and the League for Environmental and Animal Protection, c/o C. Levenberg, Bronx High School of Science, 75 West 205th Street, Bronx, NY 10468. ♦ Save Our Strays (SOS) has been founded by veterinarian Joan Foster, whose animal hospital is presently being used to hold and adopt-out homeless animals. New facilities are needed. To help, contact SOS at 1677 Post Road East, Westport, CT 06880; (203) 255-0514. ♦ The United Animal Nations (UAN) is an international umbrella group for humane organizations. For information on joining, write UAN-USA, Box 188890, Sacramento, CA 95818; (916) 429-2457. ♦ The Pennsylvania Legislative Animal Network coordinates humane lobby-

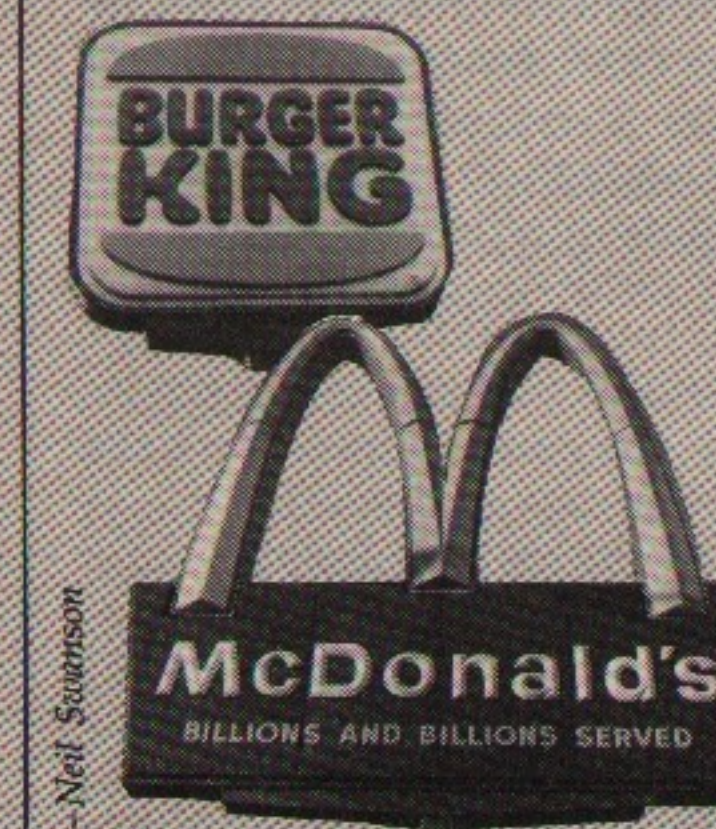
ing at Box 2432, Harrisburg, PA 17105. ♦ Canadians Against Fur debuted with a wave of protest last winter. They're at Box 198, Station C, Toronto, Ontario M4M 3G7. ♦ Community of Compassion for Animals, a sanctuary for former farm and lab animals, needs volunteers, etc. Write c/o 5005 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Suisun, CA 94585. ♦ Speak Out for Animals is involved in educational activism. Join through Box 12159, Boulder, CO 80303.

Gorilla Tours

Gorilla-watching trips led by the African Wildlife Foundation helped cut the poaching toll in Rwanda to one in 1988—by filling the bush with tourists, guides, and guards—but five of the last 150 deceased Rwandan gorillas died from human diseases. For information, write AWF, 1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Hue and Cry

Bumper stickers saying "The Only Good Cats Are Dead Cats," "I Love Cats—Dead Ones," and "I Aim For Cats" have appeared on novelty counters. If you see them, protest to the storekeeper. ♦ Call 1-800-541-3541 toll free to complain about a pigeon-shooting game and other hunting toys in the Orvis Gifts and Clothing catalog. ♦ Replying to letter-writers, Burger King has stated that it doesn't use veal from crate-raised calves, while McDonald's says it doesn't use rainforest beef. In fact, pool auctions make tracing the origin of any beef almost impossible.



Origins of burger meat are difficult to trace.

Obituaries

Save the Animals Fund founder and president Alice Grant died November 20. Grant cared for animal air raid victims in wartime England. Immigrating to California, she led a successful fight to ban euthanasia by decompression chamber. ♦ Returning to a blazing house to save her cat, Henrietta Soulia died of smoke inhalation December 13, with the cat in her arms. Soulia, 61, had already helped 11 people, including nine children, to escape the fire. ♦ Pegeen Fitzgerald, of the Vivisection Investigation League and the Millennium Guild, died recently of breast cancer at age 78. Fitzgerald, who co-hosted a radio talk show with her husband Ed for 42 years, often took in animals from listeners who could no longer care for them, refused to wear fur, and was an outspoken ethical vegetarian who often put up money for full-page anti-vivisection newspaper ads. ♦ Fay Brisk, 1966 HSUS Humanitarian of the Year and 1976 winner of AWI's Albert Schweitzer Medal, died in January. Brisk founded the animal port at the Washington National Airport. In 1965, she traced a stolen dog to a major research lab, helping to win passage of the Animal Welfare Act. At her death, she was working on a book about animals and air transport. ♦ Robert Rienow, founder of the National Resource Defense Council and the first U.S. Nature Conservancy, died in a house fire January 22.

Victories

While the "vegan option" at most campus cafeterias remains peanut butter sandwiches, the Student Animal Rights Coalition has persuaded Yale to offer hot vegan entrees for all lunches and dinners. SARC offers help to other student groups at (203) 436-0889; write c/o Mario Kashou, Box 4180 YS, New Haven, CT 06520. ♦ A 2,300-signature petition presented by Cleveland Amory of the Fund for Animals and Dennis Glassberg of Save Our Animals persuaded the National Parks Service to cut the Fire Island deer hunt in New York to eight days from a scheduled 10.

NETWORK NOTES

Varmints: Animals, By Any Other Name

BY CHARLES ALLEN DEWS

My yellow, long-haired, golden-eyed cat is sitting beside my typewriter as I write this, reminding me how easy it is to love cats and dogs, monkeys and other soft, fuzzy ones. Stripe (he had one on his tail when he was a kitten) is easier for me to love than most humans. You can't count on a human to love you back, and they're far from automatically grateful for your efforts to liberate them. Animals—the nonhuman varieties—have very little or nothing to say about it one way or another. They don't object to your tactics and they never question your motives.

Some animals are tougher to love than others, though. I'll never forget the hot and sultry Central Texas night I was roused from fitful sweaty slumber by what I thought was my right arm going to sleep. It was all tingly. I switched positions and the tingling seemed to move to my neck. It marched down my back. I jumped up and switched on the light. To my shock and horror I had been sharing my hot bed with a strident column of fire ants. Little itchy bubbles began appearing on my arm, my neck, and my back—like a rash of blisters. I would suffer with them for days. The tiny red creatures—completely out of place as far as I was concerned, but nevertheless (gasp!) deserving of my respect—tried my devotion to the animal liberation cause as have no others—ever.

In the weeks that followed, the red multitudes would invade my closet, the kitchen, the sofa, even the john. Can you imagine putting on a fresh t-shirt (probably had "Animal liberation is human liberation" printed on it) before you see it's crawling with fire ants? Maybe you've never met a fire ant. We're not talking here about those namby-pamby little nippers folks have up north. Fire ants are mean. They're non-discriminating. They will take on anything and anyone. They're invaders from the lands further south. Here, they're chasing native animals out of their econiches. I have heard tell of fawns eaten alive by these ants as they wait for their moms—obeying her order to stay still. Some are eaten from the inside out—the ants having invaded their air passages or their gut. Our rare golden-cheeked warblers and black-capped vireos suffer because the ants invade their nest and eat their eggs.

Those of us who are still brave enough to garden out of doors are in constant peril of being overwhelmed by fire ants. Since they marched into my garden—in search, I suppose, of tasty organic tidbits from my kitchen—I've noticed that all the other animals who used to find shelter in my garden are gone. The chameleons are gone. I nevermore see a bird. Even the cat won't set paw in my garden—and I know he would like to. He used to do his part for the garden regularly before *they* came. Now they are in complete possession.

I have struggled with what to do with fire ants. They are alive. They are as full of "the light within" as I am. They have just as much right to live. But I don't want them living with me. I don't want them in my kitchen or in my sofa. I don't want them in my bed. I also don't want to poison



Despite relentless persecution by livestock interests, the coyote manages to survive and has even expanded its range.

—Photos by Dick Randall

them. All I know to do is clean up things that might attract them, try to repel them with natural scents they don't like. (My friend Laura found fire ants in her closet once and discovered that dried mint leaves send them packing.) Sometimes I do stoop to hosing them off the patio so the cat can eat unmolested. I hope they can swim.

Still, if it weren't for fire ants' ever-increasing presence, they might be tolerated by most of us—especially those of us who live in cities. Nowadays most Texans live in cities that seem to be heedlessly growing, like tumors, out into our beautiful wild lands—our outback—evicting animals from their homes. Some don't leave gracefully. And some are much harder to love than others.

Texas is famous for its varmints. My *Random House Dictionary* defines varmint thusly: "1. vermin. 2. an objectionable or undesirable animal, usually predatory, as a coyote, bobcat, etc. 3. a despicable, obnoxious, or annoying person." We are a state of varmints—of every seedy sort. That's why I wanted to do this story. I want to protect even the stickeriest varmints. Heck, I'm one myself.

The songdog

My sweet friends, Patricia, Jeff, and Jason, live with 13 cats in a ramshackle, 1930s Sears and Roebuck pre-fab farmhouse on the eastern edge of Austin. They are surrounded by what used to be rolling prairie that has been overrun with mesquite and juniper. There are three tanks—folks up north call 'em ponds, I think—on the 110-acre parcel of rather rough and tumble property. My friends live there because they love quiet and they love cats. They also have a number of companion cows, a black Spanish billy goat named Pan, and a golden retriever, Hopi. They used to have chickens.

There is an array of other, unnumbered creatures thriving on my friends' property. If you are lucky enough to be invited to pass an evening sitting on their long and broad, slightly whompy-jawed, wooden front porch, you will see, and especially hear, ample evidence of the other folks who live there. One night, when we were all sittin' and digestin', we heard a howl in the not so distant distance. It rose and fell in a cascade of sustained notes. Barks and yips punctuated the strange song. Soon one voice became two dozen.

Pat murmured under her breath something like "damned songdogs!" Jeff just shook his head. Jason leapt off the porch into the dark yard and began calling frantically for Stormy, his favorite cat. I think I chuckled at their consternation. The song of *Canis latrans* reminds me of a thousand such nights spent idly listening to the sounds of the Texas outback under the stars that are "big and bright, deep in the heart" thereof. I remember an old 78-RPM recording of the story of Pecos Bill, sung by the Sons of the Pioneers. Coyotes remind me of the romantic Old West. But not my country friends. If they hadn't been such devoted animal liberationists I might have been worried.

Songdog's song is a joy to my ears, a veritable "ode to joy." Archer Gilfillian described it like this: "The peculiar thing about the coyote song is that when two coyotes are singing a duet, as they are very fond of doing, they do not bark haphazardly or in unison, but they catch each other up with lightning-like quickness. On a cold winter's night you will hear this two-piece orchestra tuning up on some distant butte, and then miles away in another direction you will hear an answering chorus; then the cry will be picked up in still other directions, until it seems as if the whole landscape were tossing this weird melody up towards the cold and unappreciative stars."

Coyotes are found from Costa Rica to the northernmost

reaches of Alaska. Only the eastern seaboard is unattractive to them. Coyotes are skilled survivors—versatile and seemingly indestructible as a species. Folks say a coyote can "live anywhere, eat anything, and reproduce itself under almost any circumstances." Despite the many depredations against their habitat by humans, coyotes have managed to expand their range. They are not as prevalent as they once were, mainly due to poisoning and trapping by humans and habitat changes, but they are even more widespread than ever.

Coyotes are probably the easiest of the varmints to love. They are wild dogs that look like small wolves. They are about a yard long from the narrow nose pad to the root of the bushy, foot-long, dark-tipped tail. The coyote's beautiful coat is buff or grayish on the back, neck, and head. The underparts are lighter, and the legs, feet, and ears are rust. Coyotes may weigh as much as 50 pounds and stand two feet tall at the shoulders. The ears are pointed as is the nose. Coyotes have a relatively large brain case, a slender muzzle, and a long tooth row.

The randy coyote will mate with dogs in captivity and even in the wild. But don't worry if your Fifi takes up with a scamp coyote. Like wolves, coyotes can become friendly with humans—if they are "socialized" when young enough. Such animals show towards people whom they know the same friendly postures and movements they show towards each other: wagging the tail, lowering the hindquarters, sniffing, and mouthing.

One reason coyotes are such skilled survivors is that they are omnivores. They eat rodents, birds, rabbits, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and carrion of all kinds. They eat all sorts of vegetable matter, and sometimes even tanned leather. But rabbits and hares are by far the most important part of their



Though no one has yet accused the jack-rabbit of livestock predation, the harmless animals are considered "varmints" and "pests" because they may occasionally eat farmers' crops.

diet. Second comes carrion—mostly of cows, horses, and sheep. Coyotes apparently like rattlesnakes for dinner on occasion. One study showed 20 percent of the coyotes with scars on their bodies that could be attributed to healed rattler bites. Apparently, at least according to my friends Patricia, Jeff, and Jason, coyotes have learned to like the savory flavor of house cat, too. And fondness for fowl is why their companion chickens are no more with them.

Coyotes' reputation as predators of large game and livestock is responsible for the violence with which they are

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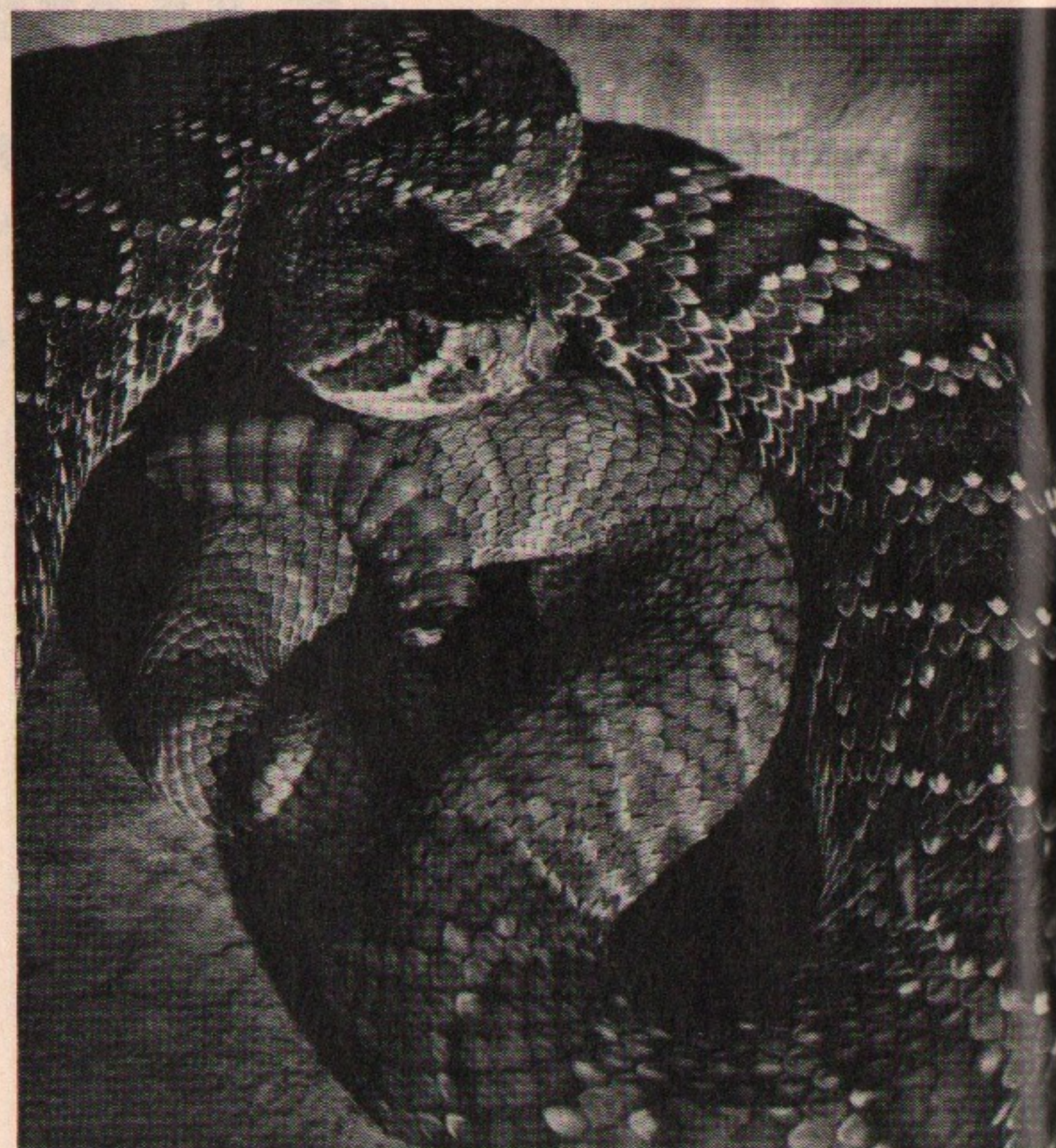
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attacked throughout much of their range. Yet, one study by Charles Sperry showed that most of the remains of large game found in coyote stomachs were of deer, with a little antelope and traces of bear, bison, elk, and bighorn sheep. A good portion of the deer is certainly carrion, as evidenced by the fact that there is a considerable rise in deer consumption by coyotes during and just after the open season on deer in several states. Some of it is "carrion on the hoof," animals wounded by hunters and later killed by coyotes.

Sperry found livestock in only about 20 percent of the coyotes examined. He calculated that it made up about 13.5 percent of the annual coyote diet in terms of bulk. Nearly all these remains were sheep and goats; very few calves, colts, or pigs. Coyotes can kill a calf, but do so only rarely. Some cattlemen have come to consider coyotes an asset, because they kill so many rabbits and rodents. There is a fascinating book, called *Don Coyote* by Dayton Hyde, that documents a warm relationship between an Oregon farmer and a coyote. Such friendships are uncommon, but possible.

Sheepmen wouldn't agree. Unquestionably coyotes do kill sheep, in some areas both frequently and in large numbers. Not all coyotes eat sheep, however. Ironically, the sheep-killer coyote is often an old or crippled animal, sometimes one crippled in a trap. In fact, trapping coyotes, particularly by unskilled trappers, may actually increase the number of peg-legged coyotes. Maimed coyotes eat about 50 percent more livestock than normal animals. They also take a third fewer rabbits and rodents. Trapping ultimately traps the trapper. And it serves him right.

As coyotes have lived on these lands for eons before humans came with their livestock, it seems reasonable to assume that they will thrive long after the grossly inefficient



The Western Diamondback Rattlesnake, feared throughout the U.S. Southwest, is, in reality, an unaggressive animal.

To a Little Brown Snake

I expected you to slither away—
It was my intention that you should.
I wanted to get you off the road
Where you would not be fodder
For the unforgiving treads of a tire.
Instead you rose to face me,
So small and new to life,
In a delicate spiral; Your tiny black tongue
darted defiance
At me, a giant in your world.

I don't know what kind of snake you are
In your sleek suit of herringbone tweed.
I don't know much about snakes
Except that your people, the serpent nation,
Carries the burden of human fear and hatred.
It was not always so.
Once you were chosen the symbol of healing,
But even that we turned into the very logo
of evil
As healing art transmogrified and spawned
The pain giver: the vivisection.

Little brown snake,
Such courage in a tiny new being—I marvel.
Lovely, aerodynamically perfect,
Secure in yourself,
You rest in your spiral
And will not be moved.
You will not skitter off in fright
At my gentle nudging,

At my monstrous presence,
At my foolish attempts to shoo you back into
the tall grass.
Should I pick you up and put you there?

It is cold and damp in the sheltering weeds,
And you will only seek the warmth of the
pavement once again.

It is after five.
I see no cars.
Perhaps there will be no more killing tires
today

So I will spare you that indignity
And leave you your autonomy.
I wish you long life.

May the tailor fashion you many such
tweedy suits as you grow.
May you take your leisure through golden
days

On warm rocks safe from tires and
Frightened humans with gunny sacks, sticks,
and knives.

Little brown snake,
May you live your own life
Free from the terrible burden man has placed
on your kind.
For we have laid upon your slender form
All that we fear and loathe in ourselves.

—Paulette Callen

and environmentally devastating ranching industries have emptied their corrals for good. If you are worried about your cats, just do what Jeff, Pat, and Jason do: bring 'em all in the house when you hear songdogs in your yard.

The much-maligned rattler

So you're not sure about fire ants, but you can tolerate coyotes. Let's get right down to the bottom line and really test your love for animals and your desire for their liberation. How do you feel about rattlesnakes? Wouldn't want one in your living room? Me neither. I think they are beautiful, but I have to admit that as I sat here researching this part of the article, I found myself constantly checking out the dim space under my table. Now, I live in the city. In the city part of the city. The only rattlesnake within two miles is the one in my mind.

And do you know, for all the decades I have spent happily tromping around in my sneakers in the wildest of the Texas outback, I have never come upon *Crotalus atrox*—dead or alive—even though all my herpetological friends insist that "they are everywhere." I suspect my "tromping" may warn even the most torpid of rattlers to hightail it across the county line. Thank goodness!

Certain influential "holy books" equate snakes in general with "the evil one." The baddest of the bad! A snake, in one of these books, tempted the first woman with knowledge (knowledge *not* in the biblical sense). In her "weakness" in the face of such temptation, she accepted the gift and then foisted it off on her unsuspecting mate, the first man. This was the first "sin." As punishment, they were both sent packing from the glorious garden they had been given by their demanding deity. Eve's snake wasn't even a poisonous variety. Ever since, people have been punishing snakes—all of them—for Eve's naughty behavior—or was it her healthy curiosity?

Poisonous and nonpoisonous alike have suffered under the heavy heel of virtuous virgins in countless medieval frescoes. Snakes were supposedly driven out of Ireland by a "holy man" (who somehow overlooked the politicians). Snakes have always had nasty human epithets hurled at them: "Snake in the grass," "slimy as a snake," "beady-eyed bureaucrat," etc.

This hatred of snakes has been institutionalized in the Judeo-Islamic-Christian West. In March of every year in Taylor, Texas, and elsewhere in the freedom-loving Lone Star State (whose natives are proud to tell you that "Texas" means "friendly") and in neighboring Oklahoma and New Mexico, god-fearing folks get out their gasoline sprayers and their gunny sacks and head out for the mesquite brakes and limestone ledges in search of the vilest of the evil: poor *Crotalus atrox*. Even the name sounds like "atrocious." Of course, it's just nomenclative fancy for the Western Diamondback Rattler.

C. atrox is found all over the U.S. Southwest, as far east as the Ozarks in Arkansas. *C. atrox* is one of at least 31 existing species of rattlesnakes (and 70 subspecies) who inhabit virtually the entire western hemisphere. No American is "safe." All rattlers are pit vipers and they are all poisonous—to some degree or another. *C. atrox* is probably one of the most toxic.

The size of a rattlesnake is always of intense interest to many human observers. I have never heard a story about a rattler that the teller didn't tell "how big it was." The bigger, in most stories, the better, the more dangerous, the more venomous, the greater the striking reach, and, presumably, the faster they can cover ground. Of course, most measure-

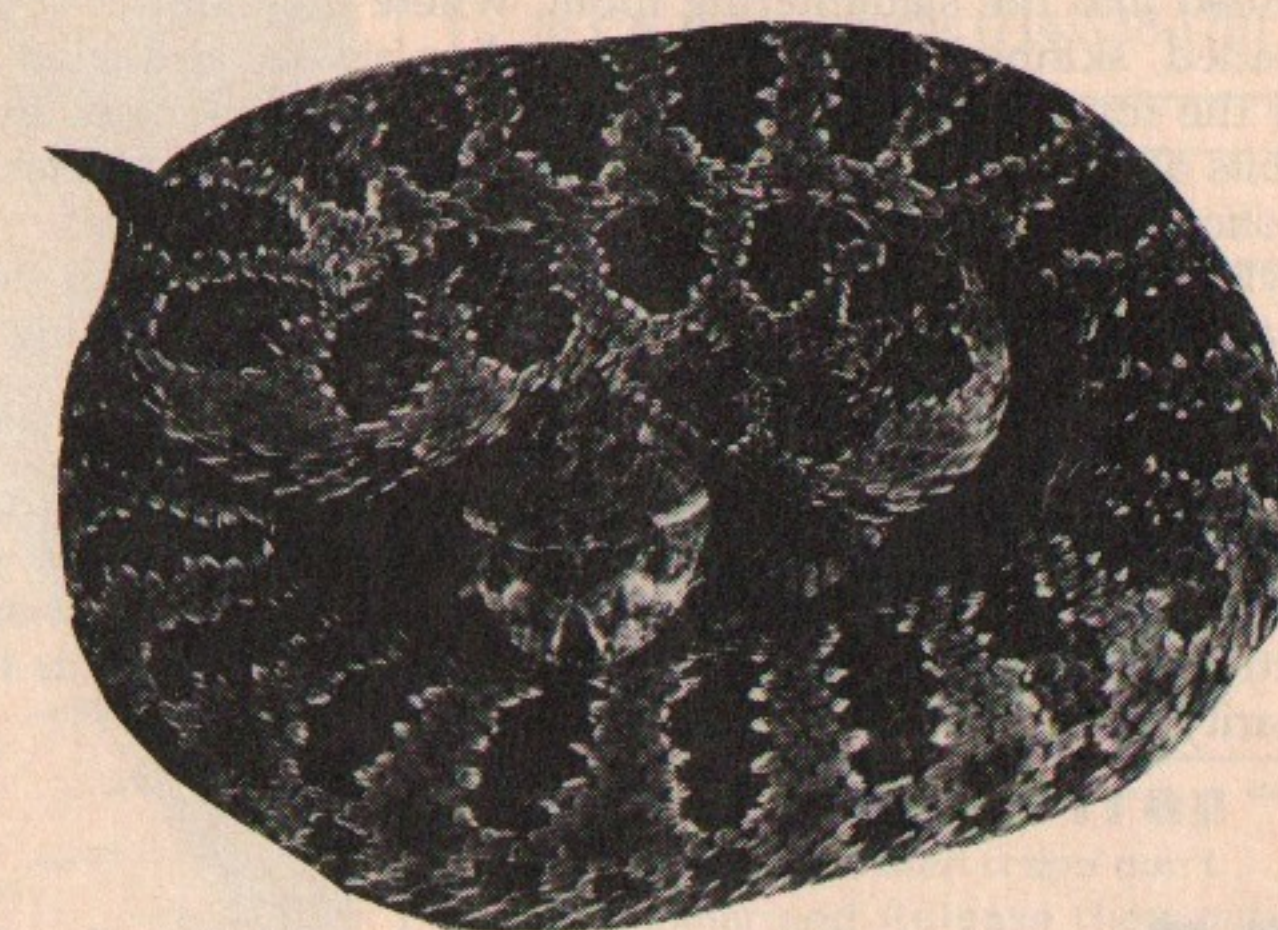
ments have come from the stretched out skins of dead animals. Skins can stretch up to 35 percent longer than the animal who once wore them—much to the delight, I suppose, of size mongers.

A rattler can only be measured accurately in the round—coiled. An exceedingly daunting task. *C. atrox*, which rarely grows longer than 6 feet, is one of the largest and heaviest rattlesnakes. It is quite thick in proportion to its length.

Rattlesnakes spend the winter together in dens, usually in groups of 50 to several hundred, although herpetologist Jim Seippel tells me that dens used to contain up to 1,000 individuals. Rattlers choose their dens based upon how dry they will stay and how far they are below the frost line. Most dens can be found on southern slopes of hills or bluffs, out of the chilly reach of the north wind.

Rattlers head for their dens at the first frost in autumn. They usually head for the same den year after year if it is more or less permanent. Very little is known about denning behavior. When dens have been opened by humans, the snakes were seen to be formed into large balls of perhaps from two or three up to hundreds of individuals. These balls probably minimize heat and moisture losses and save space. Some observers say that snakes use the same paths every year to get to their dens. Some have seen hundreds and even thousands of snakes moving along like a wriggly river to their dens.

Rattlesnakes are peacefully gregarious, even with other genera of snakes. Bull snakes, gopher snakes, milk snakes, racers, garter snakes, and copperheads have been found



denning with rattlers. Other animals may seek refuge in the upper reaches of rattlesnake dens, but it seems likely that these close associations are accidental. In one den, however, were found "13 rattlesnakes, four turtles, two skunks, and a swarm of bees with a lot of honey." Researchers "had trouble getting the snakes out because of the bees and had to abandon this den." I say good! Others report finding "mice, mouse snakes, and coachwhips in the dens with rattlesnakes."

But back to the dreary ritual of spring in Bubba-land. Swarms of distinctly un-peaceful, un-gregarious men spread out with their gas sprayers and their gunny sacks, searching for the few remaining dens of *C. atrox*. When they find a likely opening or a place where they found snakes in years past, they spray gasoline into them. This nearly kills the already half-starved (from hibernation) animals with fumes. The groggy snakes reluctantly abandon their dens and are swooped up and jammed into gunny sacks, and then bounced along backcountry roads in the metal beds of pickup trucks to barbaric events that natives call "rattlesnake roundups."

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Gunny sacks full of rattlers are dumped into cold amphitheaters for the grim amusement of spectators who laugh and shout and swoon and whistle as hired "handlers" compete to see how many rattlers they can stuff into their sacks within a certain time. Rattlers' delicate spines are damaged by this stupid game, which is performed as if the half-dead and still-groggy rattlers were actually dangerous to the handlers. The audience is thrilled when someone almost takes a strike.

Next come the contests to see how many stomps of cowhide cowboy boots it takes to kill a rattler—another stupid game, for as one handler told me, "Ever'body knows hit jist takes one." Some of the handlers crawl onto an unzipped sleeping bag and let others place coiled up rattlers on their body and zip up the bag, after which the idiots inside the bag try to get out without getting bitten. Few are. Bitten that is. Those few cost the local hospitals that deal with insurance-less indigents up to \$10,000 per bite in usually lost revenue. In other words, taxpayers pay for the idiocy of mistreating rattlesnakes. A rattler bite is serious—"It jist ruins yer complexion"—but it is rarely deadly.

There are approximately 1,000 rattlesnake bites every year in the U.S. Fewer than 20 are fatal. More people are struck and killed by lightning. Normally only a little care and attention need be exercised to prevent snakebite. But then rattlesnake roundups are far from normal!

After the fun and games are over and the spectators' bloodlust sated, the dazed and frightened animals are hauled into the slaughtering room, where they are be-headed, skinned, cut into still-wriggling steaks, and fried up for the roundup-goers. A rattlesnake head, by the way, exhibits all the symptoms of pain for up to 45 minutes after it is sliced from the body. The Jaycees, who sponsor the Taylor, Texas, roundup, used to let people pay to watch the snakes slaughtered. They tell me that this year the killing will be done in private. I'm sure the spectators will be unhappy about that. I've heard tell of one roundup in Oklahoma that charges spectators \$5 to actually get to chop off the head of a rattler. I saw a photo of a thrilled little, old, gray-haired woman just poised to do in a stretched-out rattlesnake with her axe. The Jaycees say they do all this for charity.

My work, and the work of my organization, Varmint (named for me *and* them), in trying to get the Jaycees in Taylor to end this needless cruelty has given me the chance to hear some really odd justifications for the slaughter—few hold any water. Some say there are too many rattlers, that they attack livestock and kids, that they are mean and aggressive, that they get into peoples' houses, and on and on.

According to local herpetologists, local dens have shrunk from up to 1,000 individuals down to a dozen or so. The numbers may already be too small for the rattlers to continue to procreate. Their populations in some areas are already in a state of crash. Their shrinking numbers are matched, of course, by increasing numbers of the rodents and rabbits who are their principal food. Ground-nesting birds are also part of their diet. Some people think they will eat game birds on breeding farms, but since they are poor fence climbers, that is unlikely. Lizards and insects and other arthropods are most certainly eaten by rattlers. On the whole, their diet benefits humans who share their neighborhoods.

Rattlesnakes have many different kinds of enemies. They



are as interested in avoiding these enemies—including humans and livestock—only a little more than they are interested in mating and eating. The nature of an impending enemy and the accessibility of an escape route largely determines how a rattlesnake will react. A rattler will first and foremost try to avoid detection by keeping still and quiet and putting his protective coloration to good use. If that doesn't work he will try to escape.

If all else fails, a rattlesnake will take a defensive posture by coiling, threatening, and then striking. Striking is always the choice of last resort, although it is the fearsome image that most often comes to mind. Rattlesnakes, however, are more often than not gentlemen and ladies (maybe you can tell them apart, I can't—it has something to do with how the body of the animal tapers off into the tail, at the end of which is the famous rattle). Few other potentially harmful animals warn you so clearly—with that wonderful rattle mechanism (which, by the way, sounds more like a buzz or a hiss than it does a rattle)—before it pops you.

The danger and threat of rattlesnakes is highly exaggerated. No matter how dangerous rattlers are to humans, it is more often our fault that a bite occurs. The rattler knows we are too big to eat and would just as soon not encounter us at all. I heartily concur with its sentiment. As to the fewer than 20 people who die of rattlesnake bites very year, the majority are probably weak—old or very young or sick—or weak of mind, like the bozos at the rattlesnake roundups, who, despite their claims to lessen the danger of rattlesnakes to the general population actually increase the bite rate. Roundups, in other words, cause more snakebites than they prevent.

As to livestock deaths, ranchers and farmers have more to worry about from fire ants. Most livestock are just too big for a rattler to take on as food. And because of their body size, cattle and horses and the like are protected from the worst effects of the venom. Dogs and cats do have more to worry about. Most have sense enough to avoid a threatening rattler, and it's only when they are distracted or inattentive that these normally aware animals have a problem. For dogs the death rate is less than one percent of all those bitten.

My friends Jeff, Pat, and Jason have lost four cats to rattlers on their place in two and a half years. The cats let their killers sink their fangs right into their brains—very unwise for a cat. And although they lament the loss of their cats, they are not about to go on a rampage against the rat-

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Like the coyote, wolf, grizzly bear, and other carnivorous animals, the bobcat (above left) and the cougar (above) have been the targets of barbarous predator control campaigns using poison, traps, and guns. Some of these species have been driven to extinction over much of their former territories simply to protect livestock interests.

Whole colonies of prairie dogs (right) have been gunned down by hunters out for target practice; sometimes these small animals are gotten rid of by poisoning their water holes. Prairie dogs are also considered a "threat" to livestock, mainly because sheep or cattle may step into one of their burrows and fall down.



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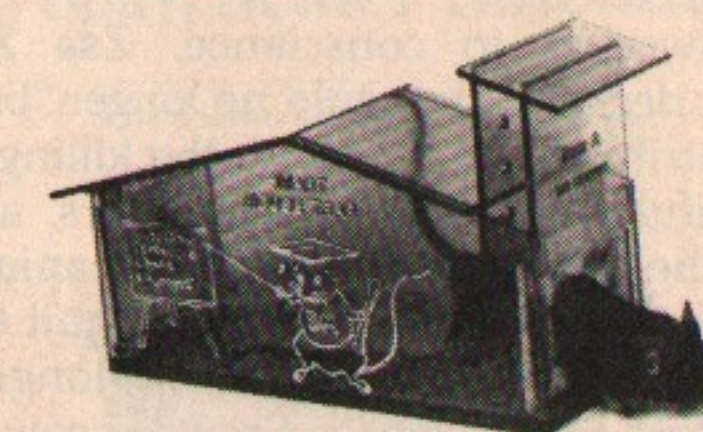
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Fur Takes A Hiding

As protest alerts consumers to "the shame of fur," most reports indicate fur profits fell in 1988 for the second straight year. Some furriers in minor markets claimed gains of 10 to 25 percent over 1987, but in New York and Montreal, markets that account for over 80 percent of the North American retail fur trade, furriers slashed prices two weeks before Christmas—two months ahead of their usual Valentine's clearance push. Cuts continued in January. The Fur Vault Inc. showed an 18 percent decrease in sales for the year, a loss the company attributed to weakness in its retail fur sales in the Metropolitan New York area.

In an evasive action, the Fur Retailers Information Council (FRIC) now targets "animal rights," not just "anti-fur protest," to take attention off fur. FRIC's ongoing smear campaign against animal rights activists earned contempt from Knight-Ridder news chain columnist Tom Hennessy. "If awards were given for hypocrisy," Hennessy wrote, "the fur industry would have a leghold on first prize. They are hardly qualified to make judgements on who is moral and who is not."

Answering to conscience, Zsa Zsa Gabor declared she could no longer "bear to contribute in any way to the killing of beautiful creatures," sold her furs, and said the proceeds would go to animal shelters. Fur designer Bill Blass quit the industry. "I can't justify it any longer," Blass told San Francisco *Examiner* columnist Herb Caen. "What I'm doing probably won't make any difference, but at least it's a start." Blass designs sold at prices from 40 to 60 percent above the 1987 industry average.

"This anti-fur wave is certainly being felt by buyers and trappers," admitted market columnist Parker Dozhier of *The Trapper And Predator Caller*. "Fur buyers report to me that they are not receiving any orders from their New York brokers. This season may well represent a turning point in the wild fur trade. Prices are not expected to return to anywhere near previous levels," though the industry does hope to increase sales to the Far East.

Nowhere was the declining status of fur more evident than in promotions for the annual Anchorage Fur Rendezvous, a major Alaskan tourist event. Brochures touted everything from antiques to wrist-wrestling, with scarcely a mention of the once focal fur auction.

A trend away from "the wild look"

toward sheared furs that look synthetic is a direct result of animal rights consciousness, admits Bloomingdale's fur salon general manager Jack Pearson. Shearling coats, sheep leather with the wool left on, also returned to vogue.

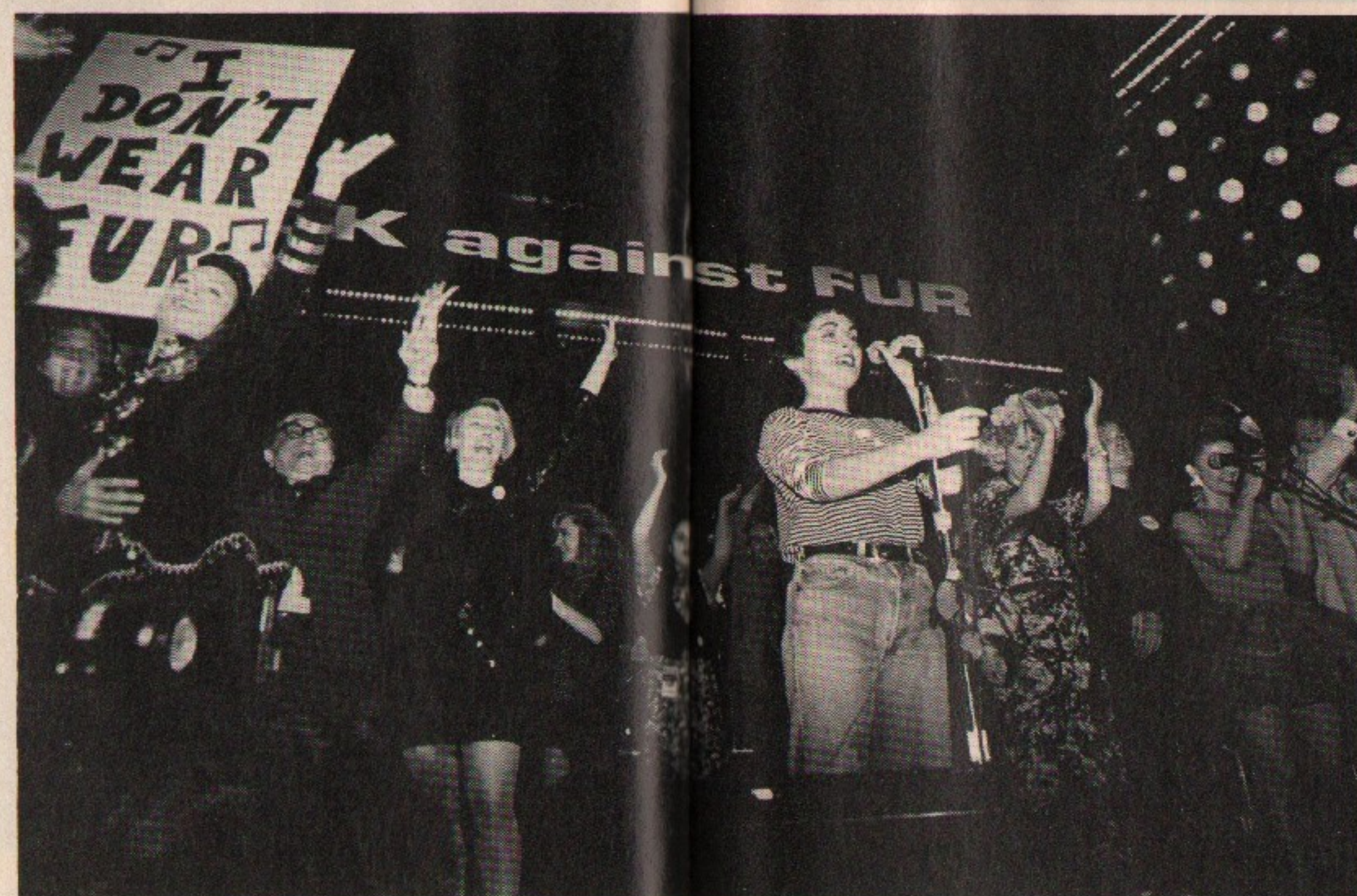
As fur crashed, other animal-based fashion industries rose. Blass and the upscale market now favor cashmere, which is combed from tame Indian mountain goats at molting. With war and disaster disrupting Near Eastern production, the price of raw cashmere hit \$10 per ounce. This encouraged the Vermont Department of Agriculture to give Andover farmer Lydia Ratcliff \$2,500 toward the \$35,000 cost of embryo transplants and artificial insemination to turn her dairy goats into a cashmere herd. The embryos came from Australia, where cashmere goats have been ranches since 1978.

Proving "beautiful people don't wear fur," Voices for Animals (Tucson) and Concerned Arizonans for Animal Rights and Ethics (Phoenix) held a rolling anti-fur demo in stretch limousines and evening dress. Actress Loni Anderson wasn't watching: "The poor little foxes," she gushed over a gift fur bedspread from husband Burt Reynolds, "but it does match my coat."

Brought to Moorhead, Minnesota, by a furrier, Miss America Gretchen Carlson met protest from the Society for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (SETA) by stating, "I'm not endorsing either side." But fur did get a celebrity endorsement of sorts when otter coat-wearing, former baseball star Rusty Staub shoved law student Dave Stein at a TSU demonstration outside New York's Jindo Furs. Another "endorsement" came from North Dakota trapper John Wisket, who wrote to SETA, "Anyone steps in our way will pay a high price for it." The 17 million animals who step into traps each year would agree.

Actor River Phoenix, singers Belinda Carlisle and Jane Weidlin, and other celebrities outraged the fur industry with February's "Rock Against Fur" concert in New York to benefit PETA. Before the event, furriers proclaimed that anyone attending would be "supporting terrorism."

Beauty Without Cruelty caught two supposedly cruelty-free companies promoting fur: Finelle, which used furs as sales incentives (call 1-800-Finelle to protest); and Fashions 220, which counselled clients on what furs to wear. The fashion magazine *McCall's* also began pushing fur (protest to editor Elizabeth Sloan, 230



—Courtesy of PETA

Park Ave., New York, NY 10169), but *Model* and *Glamour* pushed fake fur, however. Mail order firms F.A.O. Schwarz, Chadwick's, J. Jill, Thomas Oak, and The Tog Shop all cut furs from their catalogs.

American Express catalogs, meanwhile, touted 57 fur garments. Admitted the company, "The pain and suffering endured by many of the animals whose pelts are turned into coats is a fact which is indisputable. Much of the trapping is

Addicted by Yale

Connecticut's prestigious university is just one of dozens of research facilities receiving millions annually to hook animal subjects on such drugs as heroin, cocaine, and LSD. Meanwhile, human drug treatment facilities are turning addicts away because of inadequate funding.

"Have you ever seen someone go through de-tox?" asks Mike Laguna, director of Crossroads, a drug treatment facility located on the third floor of the YWCA building in New Haven, Connecticut. "It's no picnic—the hot flashes, chills, they can't sleep. But that's nothing compared to the psychological battle—knowing that all they need is one fix and they'll feel better. Even if they go off it for a while, some go right back. And those are the ones that get help." Crossroads, which has a waiting list of over a year, has 58 beds for men and 10 for women. It has been repeatedly unable to obtain funding for additional beds. "We have drug-



—Kathy Milani

Behind the laboratory door at Yale University, animals are forced—at great expense—to become drug dependent. Meanwhile, human clinical needs are unmet.

Former Go-Go Jane Wiedlin led a bevy of celebrities in her animal rights song "Fur," at the PETA-sponsored "Rock Against Fur" concert in New York City.

no doubt illicit and inhumanely performed." Yet the statement maintained "it is wholly inappropriate (for American Express) to take a position on behalf of all of its 21 million American Cardmembers." HSUS executives and staff have cancelled their cards. Cut up yours and mail it, with a letter explaining why, to Aldo Papone, President, Travel Related Services, American Express Tower, World Financial Center, New York, NY 10285-4230. Send a copy to Louis Gerstner, President, American Express, AMEX Tower, 200 Vesey Street, New York, NY 10285-5120.

People wanting to be rid of their furs may give them to humane societies for a tax break, suggests For The Love of Life Foundation. Furs can be used as props in protests or cut-up as animal bedding.

—M.C.

dependent people out there dying of AIDS or overdosing or killing people because we can't even get them in here," says Laguna.

Several blocks away at the Abraham Ribicoff Research Center located at the Connecticut Mental Health Center—a joint venture of the state and Yale University—information is being tabulated from a study of Rhesus monkeys who were administered daily doses of Valium. That procedure resulted in the monkeys' progressive physical dependence on the drug and withdrawal symptoms that included retching, vomiting, and face and limb tremors. According to MEDLINE, a medical database, researchers received \$687,927 in 1986 for a variety of drug-related projects, including this one aimed at determining an antidote's effectiveness. That grant represented double the amount of special budgetary option funds available for drug outpatient treatment last year in the state of Connecticut.

MEDLINE indicates that Yale University

Continued on next page

AWAKENING TO THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

By Robert Shapiro and Julie Rapkin

This trance-channeled material discusses the purpose, life-style, and behavior patterns of various animals, including bears, birds, cattle, cats, dogs, dolphins, elephants, horses, owls, and whales. The origin of animal species is discussed, as well as dreaming and procreation, the lessons animals teach us, telepathic and verbal communication between animals, similarities between people and animals, and what happens when an animal dies.

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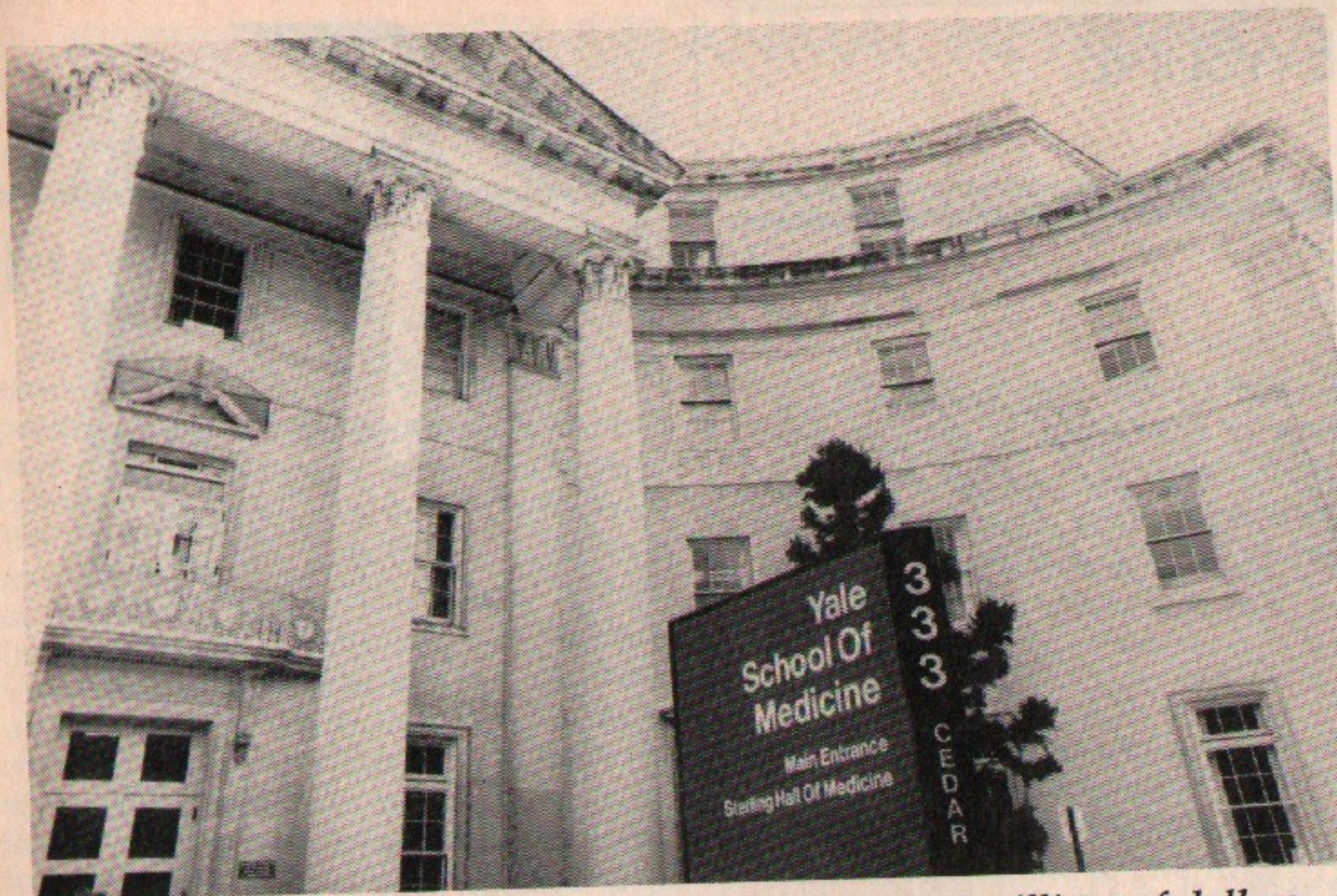
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Because of Yale's reputation, its researchers attract millions of dollars a year for experiments. The grants pay the professors' salaries, and the university can invest its own money elsewhere. Thus, like other universities, Yale has a vested interest in defending animal experimentation.

Continued from previous page

ty researchers conducting animal-based drug addiction/research experiments are receiving approximately \$3 million a year in grants from various agencies, principally the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Administration (ADMHA). That figure represents triple the amount of state funds available for existing drug-abuse prevention programs in Connecticut and nearly quadruple the amount slated for long-term care and shelter.

Among the ADMHA-supported drug addiction studies at Yale and other institutions are these experiments: mice, rats, dogs, cats, and monkeys are addicted to amphetamines to determine the lethal dose of the drugs (symptoms include prolonged and violent convulsions, screaming, howling, and hallucinations before the animals die of internal hemorrhaging, respiratory failure, and/or heart attack); squirrel monkeys addicted to cocaine are strapped into restraint chairs and electrically shocked to determine the effects of cocaine on lever pressing; elephants are dosed with LSD and alcohol to determine resulting symptoms, which include aggression and stumbling. A majority of ADMHA funds allotted to study drug abuse and drug-related problems are directed to university departments of psychiatry. That Federal agency is also responsible for funding (from the same resource pool) community projects.

The discrepancy between monies allotted to animal-based drug research and funds designated for community drug treatment programs raises profound medical and moral questions about the way in which government is dealing with

the intensely human phenomenon of substance abuse, particularly during the Federally-declared "war on drugs." Researchers claim that animal models are critical to discovering new treatments and learning the dynamics of the drugs' effects on the brain. They further credit such research with discovering current treatment methods. However, facility directors and a growing number of medical experts are challenging animal-based research. They contend that such experiments are not only irrelevant to the human addiction problem but are diverting much-needed funding from treatment facilities.

"ADMHA's priority is research," observes Diane Canova, secretary to NASADAD, a national association of directors of state drug treatment agencies. "It tries to bolster the needs for research and justify the product it is funding. The agency is always very receptive to research requests and is correspondingly more critical of [human] service requests."

Information accessed through MEDLINE reveals the scope of such research at Yale from 1983 to December 1988. Many Yale researchers deny they are conducting certain animal experiments, despite documentation through MEDLINE, the Federal Research in Progress database, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Guide to Grants and Contracts, and ADMHA Research Grants Guide.

Drs. Robert Roth and Donald Redmond conducted a range of drug-related experiments for which approximately \$500,000 in grants was available, records show. These experiments included observing the "acute physical dependence on

morphine in the vervet monkey"; "the quasi-morphine withdrawal symptoms in rats"; the effects of Valium on nerve function in the primate brain; morphine withdrawal symptoms of "tremors, chewing and vomiting" in vervet monkeys addicted to Valium; and the behavior of stump-tailed monkeys after consistent presentation of threatening stimuli. One grant had been renewed seven times, another nine times; still another was in its 19th renewal.

Under a \$801,811 grant for clinical psychiatric research, say the guides, Drs. Bowers, Bannon, and Hoffman observed the effects of PCP and footshock on the forebrains of rats, and the effects of LSD and amphetamines on rat prefrontal cortex. Dr. Benjamin Bunney received \$130,536 to study the neurological effects of cocaine on rats. Dr. Michael Sheard received a \$69,021 grant to study the neurobiological effects of chronic drugs—specifically LSD—on the prefrontal cortex of rats, and the effects of cocaine and amphetamines on the midbrain of rats. Dr. Michael Davis of the department of psychiatry—in his study of the effects of apomorphine, d-amphetamine, strychnine, and yohimbine on rats who have been "startled" with noise bursts—found that cocaine and amphetamines increase the "startle response" in rats.

The human factor

"The human element and the nature of addiction—the desire for the painkiller or the pleasure-giver drug—is creating a whole society of itself," observes Donald McConnell, executive director of Connecticut's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (CADAC). Crossroads' Laguna adds, "Addiction is a complicated human tragedy. It's a social problem we have to fight as much, if not more, than a chemical one."

Societal influences, as well as the genetic or emotional proclivity of the addictive personality, make treatment difficult, contend treatment counselors. Drug addiction is a "massive societal problem, with personal tragedies occurring every day," says Vincent Brecia, executive director of the Regional Network of Programs in Bridgeport, Conn. Brecia recalled an incident of a 21-year-old mother of two on a waiting list for treatment who overdosed on heroin and died. "When officials are frustrated, their tendency is to pour money into research," he said, "but this is not a research problem. We've studied the damn thing to death. We know what works and what doesn't. We just need the money to do

Under pressure from animal rights organizations and various physicians' groups, several university projects have been shut down; yet, for the most part, funding of animal studies is undiminished.

our job." The four drug treatment sites run by the network receive approximately \$1.2 million in annual sustaining grants. No funds are available for expansion, and Brecia says that after years of rejection, he has simply stopped asking for support for any cocaine-specific project.

Richard Resnick, M.D., whose clinical research has been instrumental in the development of naltrexone (Trexan), clonidine (Catapres), and other treatments for chemical dependence, acknowledges, "I think there are a lot of problems as to what gets funded and what doesn't. There are certainly defects in the current system. It should be that anybody with an imperative condition should be able to be treated, but there is a lot of waste in all areas of the government."

CADAC's McConnell claims that treatment facilities are held to greater accountability than universities when it comes to receiving grant money: "I'm not saying research should not be funded, but there should be more of an accountability as to what they are funding. Grant money just keeps pouring into Yale because of the researchers' reputations, and the university loves it. They [the grants] pay the professors' salaries, and the university can invest its own money elsewhere."

Under pressure from animal rights organizations and various physicians' groups, several university projects have been shut down; yet, for the most part, funding of animal studies is undiminished. "In the publish-or-perish world of academia, animal research is attractive because it is fast and easy," contends Stephen Kaufman, M.D., vice-chairman of the Medical Research Modernization Committee (MRMC). Of its validity, however, he states, "It is difficult and often impossible to gain meaningful insight into a human disease by giving an

artificially induced disease to nonhumans."

Neal Barnard, M.D., chairman of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), concurs: "Human desires and responses to drugs can never be recreated in animals who have been force-fed the substances. Information gained from decades of drug addiction studies on animals cannot even approximate the effect that drug treatment programs have had on breaking the cycle of addiction." Murry Cohen, M.D., chairman of MRMC and chief of the outpatient psychiatric department of Lenox Hill Hospital, adds that "clinical [human] experimentation" is always necessary, and animal research serves as a poor pre-human research approach. "Alternatives to animal experimentation are more efficient," says Dr. Elliot Katz, veterinarian and executive director of In Defense of Animals, an organization that is targeting Yale's research. [IDA plans a September on-campus rally. Details will be announced in the July/August issue.]

According to reports from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, for the period

October 1987 to 1988, Yale used 57 primates (some suspect the figure is higher), 238 dogs, 194 cats, 95,000 rats and mice, and 5,800 "other animals" for a variety of research. Stump-tail and Rhesus monkeys, both used at Yale, are named on the U.S. endangered species list as "threatened." And all monkeys are listed as endangered under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Back at Crossroads, Mike Laguna sifts through his waiting list, calculating time and money—neither of which seems sufficient to tackle the problems facing his clinic. "A lot of these people won't be around when I get to call them to come in," he says. "For them it'll be too late."

—Judith Reitman

This article first appeared in The Fairfield County Advocate.

Letters protesting Yale's drug research on animals may be directed to Mr. Benno Schmidt, Jr., President, Yale University, 1302-A Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520.

Vivisectors vs. the Right To Know

Animal rights and civil liberties won a landmark victory January 17, when the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court threw out the biomedical firm Immuno AG's 1984 libel suit against *Journal of Medical Primatology* editor Dr. Jan Moor-Jankowski. Moor-Jankowski had run a letter from International Primate Protection League president Shirley McGreal, criticizing Immuno's plan to open a hepatitis research lab in Sierra Leone, Africa, that would use chimpanzees. As legal costs soared, McGreal's insurance company paid Immuno \$100,000 to drop her from the case, over her own stiff protest. *Journal of Medical Primatology* publisher Alan Liss retracted and apologized for McGreal's letter. But Moor-Jankowski wasn't intimidated. Presiding Justice Francis Murphy wrote in the Immuno decision that the libel suit should have been dismissed on Moor-Jankowski's first motion for a summary judgement, adding: "To unnecessarily delay the disposition of a libel action is... to enhance the value of such actions as instruments of harassment and coercion inimical to the exercise of First Amendment Rights."

Moor-Jankowski was backed by the New York Civil Liberties Union and eight pro-animal or ecology groups, including the World Wildlife Fund, which recently won a similar decision versus Immuno in Austria.

The Immuno defeat came as another precedent for both animals and civil liberties was set in Washington, where a judge ruled that institutional animal care committees are subject to the state's Open Meetings Act. The ASPCA now seeks a similar ruling in New York. As well as hiding their paperwork, some labs are hiding. The University of Kentucky at Lexington just built an underground lab with secret doors. Staff say it's hidden to avoid activists who might try to free the 44,000 animals to be used there each year. Others suspect the secrecy may have something to do with defense research.

Certainly experiments are getting into increasingly sensitive areas. The Foundation on Economic Trends filed suit February 6 to keep the National Institute of Health from using a rat virus in a genetic manipulation experiment aimed at fighting human cancer. The experiment would be the first to put animal genes into people.

—M.C.

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ANIMAL NEWSLINE

Shells No Protection



— Courtesy of the ASPCA

Turtles intended for soup are often found in Oriental fish markets, dying slow deaths of dehydration and shell rot. Turtles receive especially cruel treatment by hunters and handlers.

A turtle soup fad inspired by the film *Babette's Feast* threatens the diamondback terrapin. Diamondbacks have been struggling in diminishing habitat since meat trappers nearly wiped them out in the 19th century. The Turtle and Tortoise Society (TTS) says 10,000 a year are killed in New York alone, which like Connecticut, Maryland, and North Carolina offers turtles no legal protection. TTS members report that they often find diamondbacks piled high in baskets at fish markets, dying slow deaths of dehydration and shell rot.

Snapping turtles are also at risk. Albany *Times Union* staffer Paul Grondahl watched hunters emptying their traps last summer: "The men came down hard with the heavy soles of their boots, knocking the air and the fight out of the turtles with a sickening whoomph like a flat tire being kicked. There was nothing the turtles could do. They were out of their element, flipped onto their backs, defenseless as infants. Their pebbled, wrinkled brown legs and long, yellow claws pawed up at the sky. The men's large, gloved hands grabbed hold of the turtles' tails like so much thick rope and tossed the animals through the air, the turtles cartwheeling in a high arc, until they landed with dull thuds in the bottom of the trailer. There the creatures were left until the sun would bake the life out of them. The inside of the trailer was stacked high with dozens, maybe hundreds of turtles. Deep inside the turtles' horny beaks, their pink, fleshy throats were gasping skyward, as if shrieking, but no sound came out. The turtles could not give voice to their pain. What was heard was only the continued thuds of boots meeting soft undershell and the easy chatter of the turtle killers."

If turtles aren't saved now, they could soon be gone, as restocking seldom works. Nine of Florida's 12 sea turtle

hatcheries have closed because their baby turtles weren't surviving. A Malaysian hatchery has released 450,000 leatherback turtles since 1961, but only one in a thousand lives to breed. Tour guides on motorcycles lead crowds to the site whenever one is seen laying eggs. Only about 500 Malaysian turtles are laying now, down from 1,800 in 1956. Hatchery-raised Mexican golfina turtles have a one-in-400 survival rate. The species is scarce in the wild due to egg poaching. Turkish loggerhead turtles are also endangered, by touristic development of their spawning sites on the beaches of Patara and Dalyan.

—M.C.

State Legislation

Maryland is considering a guarantee of health for pedigreed animals, similar to the pet shop refund laws passed by New York and Connecticut last year. Co-sponsors are Sheila Ellis Hixon and Henry Heller.

Connecticut state senator Fred Lovegrove has introduced a bill to ban kitten and puppy sales in pet shops, and Rep. Christel Truglia has introduced a leghold trap ban.

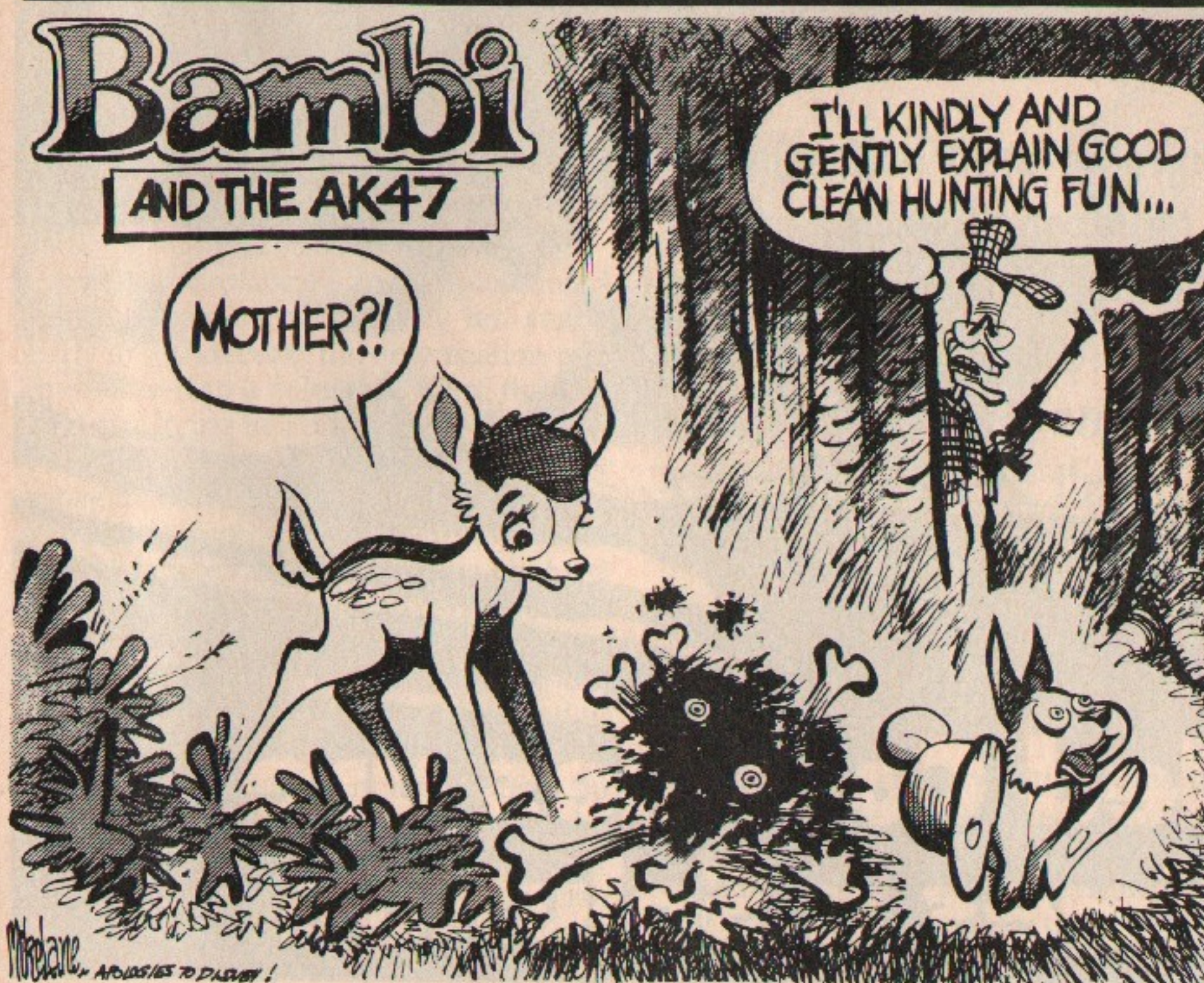
Senate bill 52 has been introduced in Massachusetts to prohibit the Draize and lethal dose testing of cosmetics. For more information, contact the Alliance for Animals, (617) 265-7577.

In Maine, Rep. Nat Crowley has introduced a bill to ban trappers under age 10. A leghold trap ban (S-25) is in committee in Vermont.

In Florida, a bill has been introduced to ban youth deer hunts.

Nevada Assemblyman Bob Gaston has introduced AB-245, which would provide

ANIMAL NEWSLINE



"Kinder, Gentler America," Cont.

Home from pre-inaugural fishing and quail-shooting, (see last month) President Bush boasted of squirrels his dog killed on the White House lawn, while secretary



for the removal of cruelly-treated animals from agricultural facilities.

Texas' biennial legislative session is underway, and a number of humane bills are pending. For information, contact Texas Humane Information Network, 4439 Goodfellow, Dallas, TX 75229; (214) 357-2250. When the session closes in a month, the legislature won't meet again until January 1991, so action is needed promptly.

To show support for pro-animal bills, residents of these and other states should call or write their legislators.

The animal rights voting records of California legislators are available from PAW*PAC, Box 2354, San Francisco, CA 94126.

—M.C.

of state Jim Baker went turkey hunting. The \$30 million trio of privately financed inaugural dinners featured veal. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fired former Pacific Region director Rolf Wallenstrom, who embarrassed Bush during his election campaign with an internal report that oil drilling off northern California could cause ecological havoc. Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan meanwhile backed a Bush promise to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drillers. The delicate tundra refuge is a major caribou calving site, but Bush has claimed that "the caribou love the pipelines. They rub up against them and have babies." Maybe John Robbins' book *Diet For A New America* will help. Lisa Orr recently sent copies to Bush and all members of Congress.

—M.C.

Send news items and announcements to the attention of Merritt Clifton, News Editor, *THE ANIMALS' AGENDA*, 456 Monroe Turnpike, Monroe, CT 06468. Submission deadlines are three months prior to publication. Only urgent items will be considered if they come in later. Absolute deadline is two months prior to publication, and nothing can be accepted after that time.

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For over a hundred years, wild grizzly bears were indiscriminately killed by any means available. They were poisoned, shot on sight, trapped without restriction. The intent was to destroy them completely. It nearly succeeded.

As many as 50,000 to 100,000 grizzly bears once roamed wild and free in the lower 48 states. Today, only 1000 or fewer remain. Their last footholds on existence are but 1% of the vast lands they once occupied.

There has been a recent change of heart about the grizzly bear. As the American People learn more about this intelligent and wary animal, they realize that their world would be a shrunken and less valuable place if they were to let the grizzly die. Has this change of heart come in time to save the grizzly?

The American people and the grizzly bear are at a common crossroads. It is a crossroads where the people will make the choices, and the bear will take the consequences. If we are going to save them, now is the time to begin.

The grizzly can be saved. Don't let the grizzly die. Write the Great Bear Foundation, P.O. Box 2699, Missoula, Montana 59806.

**HELP KEEP THE
GRIZZLY WILD
AND FREE**

FERAL CATS:



Controlled Colonies are Sometimes a Solution

No one denies that there are too many feral cats in the world. Nor does anyone deny that something must be done to mitigate their frequent suffering. Opinions diverge, however, regarding the size of the feral cat population and the most humanely efficient means of reducing it.

"There's absolutely no way anybody can tell you how many feral cats there are in this country," declares Phyllis Wright, vice president for companion animals at the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). "They aren't lined up out there in rows for us to count. In 1986 we contacted a random sample of 300 shelters, and 81 responded. From this [survey] we estimated that there were between 11 and 19 million feral cats in the United States. That's a hell of a gap." And potentially a hell of a lot of misfortune.

The term *feral*, as applied to cats, defines a lifestyle, not a phenotype. Feral cats (or their ancestors) have either slipped the sullied bonds of human stewardship or have been indiscriminately used by former stewards. Feral cats are largely independent of, though not always unaffected by, human interaction. They will generally accept food from us, yet they may not accept our presence in their dining quarters. Feral cats are sometimes called wild cats, but they are

BY PHIL MAGGITT

often more wily than wild, and those of genial inclination are not very wild at all.

Feral cats are found in alley ways and barns, around hotels and campgrounds, in factories, deserted houses, public parks, and prison yards. "Predators and scavengers," in the words of biologist Eugenia Natoli, "[feral] cats will always exploit the resources of the environment in which they find themselves." The only natural factors limiting their exploitation are the supply of food and the consequence of disease.

In settings where the cats' food sources—rodents, birds, and garbage cans—are supplemented by well-meaning people, the feline population can approach bristling proportions. And as a colony grows, so, too, does the noise that heralds courting, the wail that punctuates fighting, the rank odor that accompanies spraying, and the din that results from trash cans being uprooted in the night.

When a cat population waxes large and noisome, people discomforted by such facts are wont to advance drastic proposals. These invariably spell *eradication*. But eradication of a feral cat colony is difficult, time consuming, expensive, usually cruel, and often futile—especially where there is a large number of pet and

stray cats. Indeed, it is practically impossible to eradicate a feral cat colony. One or two members are bound to dodge the bullet or refuse the tainted bait and return to breed another day.

And even if all the cats in a colony were eliminated, immigrants from another principality would most likely fill the void, especially if there's a food source in the void, because cats, like nature, abhor a vacuum. One animal behaviorist, Peter Neville of Great Britain, maintains that eradication is "at best only effective for a few months."

Putting birth control pills in feral cats' food once a week has also been employed as a means of controlling population growth. But female cats—for whom the pills are intended—cannot always be counted on to show up on the appointed day, particularly when they have other things on their minds. What's more, if a newly pregnant cat returns to her feeding grounds and swallows a birth control pill containing progesterone, the pill could induce pyometra.

Establishing cat colonies: a very British system

An effective mini-solution to the feral cat problem is population control based on neutering, spaying, selective culling, and returning cats to their original ter-

ritory. The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) in Great Britain believes that this approach, which has been used to control an estimated 10 percent of the feral cat colonies in England, is "the most effective and humane method for dealing with groups of feral cats."

UFAW has planned and implemented trapping schemes for nearly ten years. Early in this decade, the organization was invited to trap a colony of more than 20 feral cats living in a basement-level garage behind a block of flats in a large housing estate in Wandsworth Borough, London. While accommodations were less than swell—garages in the area were blighted by vandals and abandoned cars—the cats didn't seem to mind. Besides, they were fed regularly by several tenants of the flats. Other tenants, however, objected to the cats, who were spraying, skirmishing, and making enough noise at night to wake the living. Therefore, the Wandsworth Borough Council asked UFAW for help. After deciding that the long-term welfare of the cats seemed to be assured, UFAW concluded that "it was possible to recommend that the colony be successfully controlled by a neutering scheme."

The scheme began with an inspection of the trapping site. Though UFAW's Peter Neville saw only ten cats there, he estimated, based on information provided by persons who had been feeding the cats, that there were 20 adults and several litters of kittens in the colony. These cats were trapped in six different sessions over a three-month period. The sessions coincided with the cats' normal feeding times. To increase the likelihood that they would be hungry enough to enter the baited traps, cats were not fed for 24 hours prior to trapping. Consequently, they were ready for surgery as soon as they were caught. Otherwise, cats could not be operated on for at least five hours once captured.

After being trapped, the Wandsworth cats were taken to a veterinary surgeon, where they were neutered or spayed and one centimeter was removed from the tips of their left ears to simplify future identification. (HSUS "strongly objects to this practice because, like tail cropping or declawing, it hurts and disfigures the animal." HSUS recommends freeze branding, which leaves a tiny bald spot surrounded by whitish fur, or securing a small button inside one of the cat's ears, "similar to a pierced earring, although permanently fastened.")

While the cats were still anesthetized, they were given antibiotics to counter postoperative infection, and were treated for worms, fleas, and—where necessary—

An effective mini-solution to the feral cat problem is population control based on neutering, spaying, selective culling, and returning cats to their original territory.

earmites and small wounds. Cats destined for new homes were vaccinated against feline infectious enteritis. Cats returning to their former territory were not vaccinated, because they were assumed to be immune to local diseases already.

The cats remained at the surgeon's overnight. Those who would comprise the permanent colony were transported back to the garage the following morning—except for spayed females, who needed longer to recuperate. (Soluble sutures

were used so that cats wouldn't have to be re-trapped and taken back to the vet's to have their sutures removed.)

"When released on site," Neville reported, "all cats immediately ran for cover, exhibiting no signs of discomfort or disability from their operations." Altogether, 17 cats were returned to their garage. Neville reasoned that this was "the minimum number needed to maintain a stable colony... able to defend its territory."

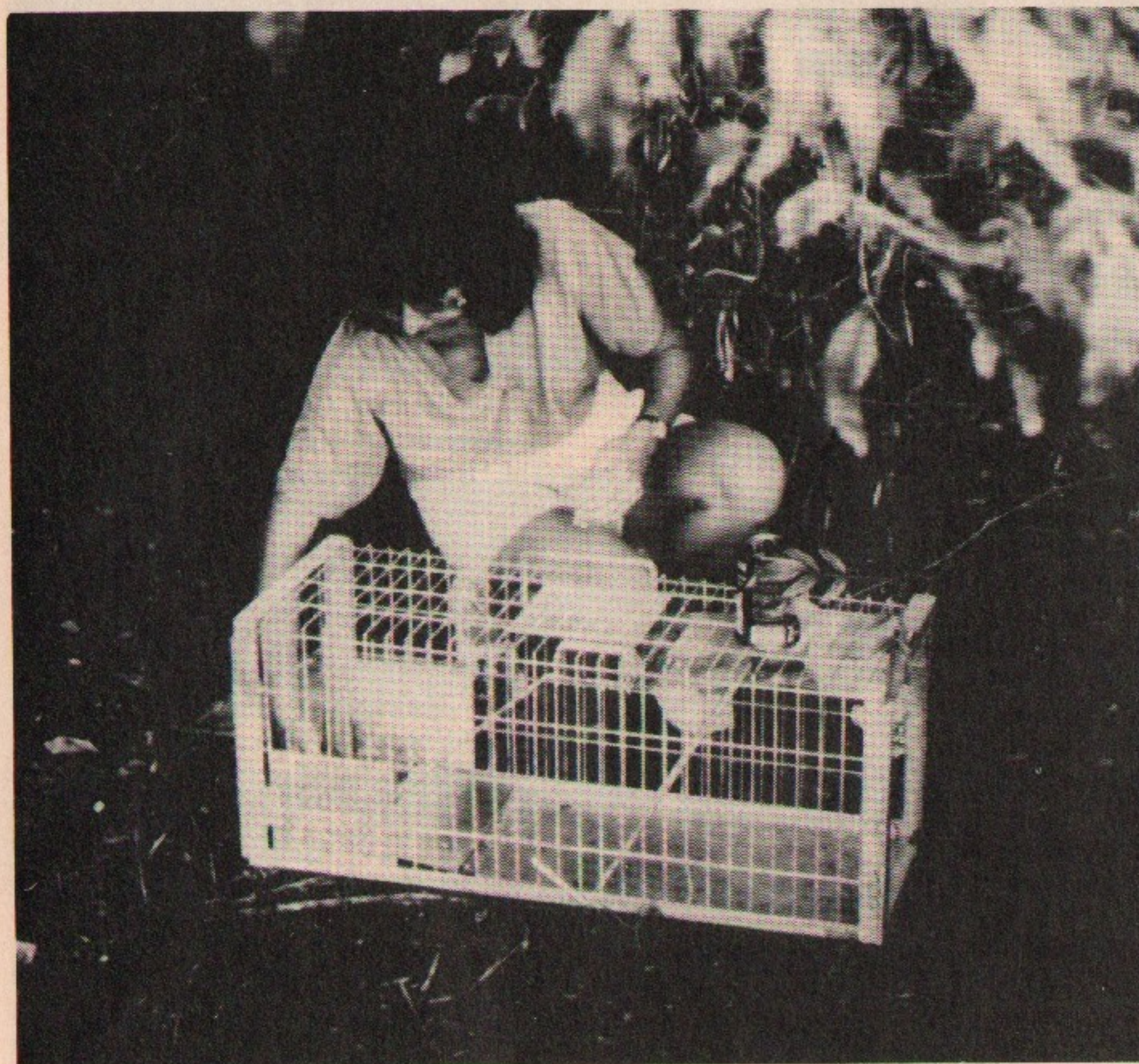
Like the cats, their old clubhouse had undergone considerable alteration, too. The Housing Department of Wandsworth Council had donated one of the better garages for use as a feeding and shelter station. Volunteers from the neighborhood swept and disinfected the garage, boarded up windows, installed padlocks, set washable mats in the feeding area, and fashioned sleeping quarters for the cats out of several tea chests supported by bricks. A ten-centimeter-square hole was cut in one of the garage doors to allow cats to get in and out if the garage was locked.

Variations on the basic cat trapping scheme have been played out effectively in Great Britain, Greece, Tunisia, Italy, the U.S., and the British Virgin Islands; but despite these trappings of success, a number of animal welfare workers remain skeptical.

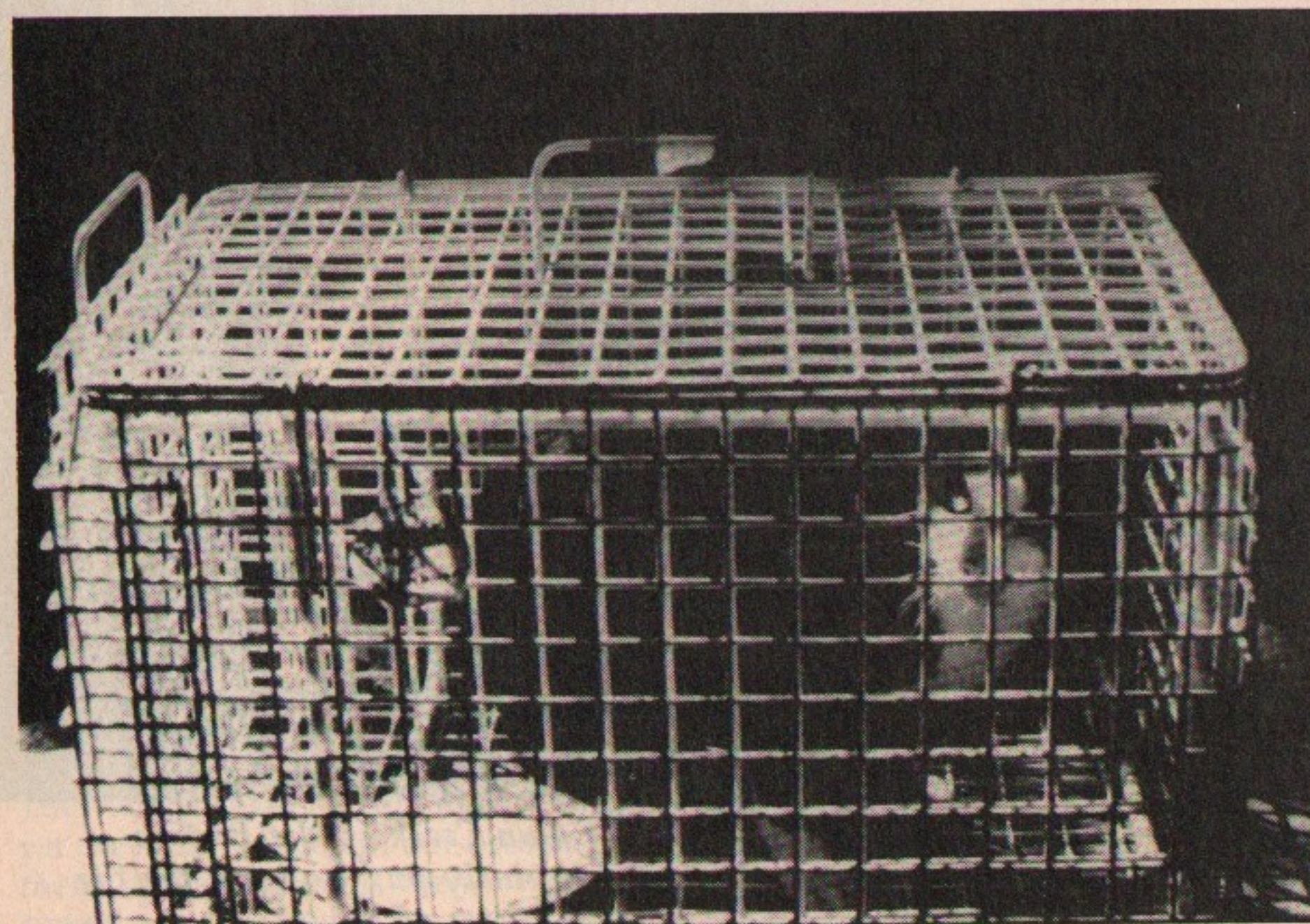
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Two semi-tame feral cats in the village of Gun Creek in the British Virgin Islands. Some of the local people regularly put food out for the cats.



Above: One type of trap used to catch feral cats. Food is placed at one end, and as the cat steps on a plate at the bottom of the trap, a catch is released and the trap door swings shut. Though box traps are humane, the cats can still hurt themselves by thrashing around or in attempting to escape. Throwing a sheet over the trap usually calms the captive cat. Below: This cat has a raw nose from pressing against the cage bars.



Continued from previous page

"I have real problems with this idea," says Phyllis Wright. "I don't think [trapping] alone is the answer to the feral cat problem. After neutering and spaying, animals are still exposed to every element out there. To me the disease factor, the cruelty factor, and the automobile factor far surpass the wonderful stories that you see here and there about [trapping] programs that might work."

According to Wright, the test of any solution is plain: Is it good for the cat? "I've read all about how feeding cats is wonderful for people who have nothing else to do, but when those people dotter off, the cats are still out there, and they're still susceptible to disease. Feeding a cat for 20 minutes a couple of times a day has little impact on its survival for the rest of the day. These programs have to be carried out with some concern for the continuing welfare of the cats in a particular environment."

To be sure, UFAW recommends trapping *only* when "the welfare of the cats can be assured after their return." In addition, UFAW has taken pains to study the effects of trapping on feral colonies. An article by UFAW's Peter Neville and Jenny Remfry, Ph.D., M.R.C.V.S., in *The Veterinary Record*, May 1984, described a follow-up study of two feral cat populations, both living in London's 36-acre Regent's Park.

One group consisted of an adult male, three adult females, and a litter of six five-week-old kittens. The adults were trapped, altered, and returned to the site. Five kittens were trapped and "homed" or humanely destroyed. One kitten, who avoided capture, remained with the group and was subsequently captured as an adult. (After the initial neutering and spaying, two new cats joined this group. They were trapped and released, wearing collars that carried a warning that they would be altered by a certain date unless UFAW was informed that they belonged to someone.)

The second, somewhat atypical, Regent's Park group consisted of four adult males and one adult female accompanied by two three-month-old kittens. Present and former members of both groups had been fed at the same sites by the same person for 16 years.

Neville and Remfry reported that the health of the cats was not impaired by trapping, transport, or surgery. They also observed that cats remained in the feeding area much longer after altering, and two neutered males allowed the feeder to approach and pet them. "However," the authors concluded, "as greater approachability was restricted to the

"Trapping cats and returning them to the site merely solves part of the problem. But a partial solution is certainly better than none."

feeder and one of the [researchers], there was no increased risk of removal or injury to these cats by malicious members of the public."

According to Neville and Remfry, the cats were more affectionate toward each other after being neutered or spayed. Apparently they were more affectionate toward the geese and ducks in the parks' wildfowl enclosure, too, for these stopped disappearing shortly after the cats had been altered. From their limited observations, the authors surmised that "the [trapping] scheme can be said to have had no adverse effects on at least some of the behavior that defines the social hierarchy" of feral groups.

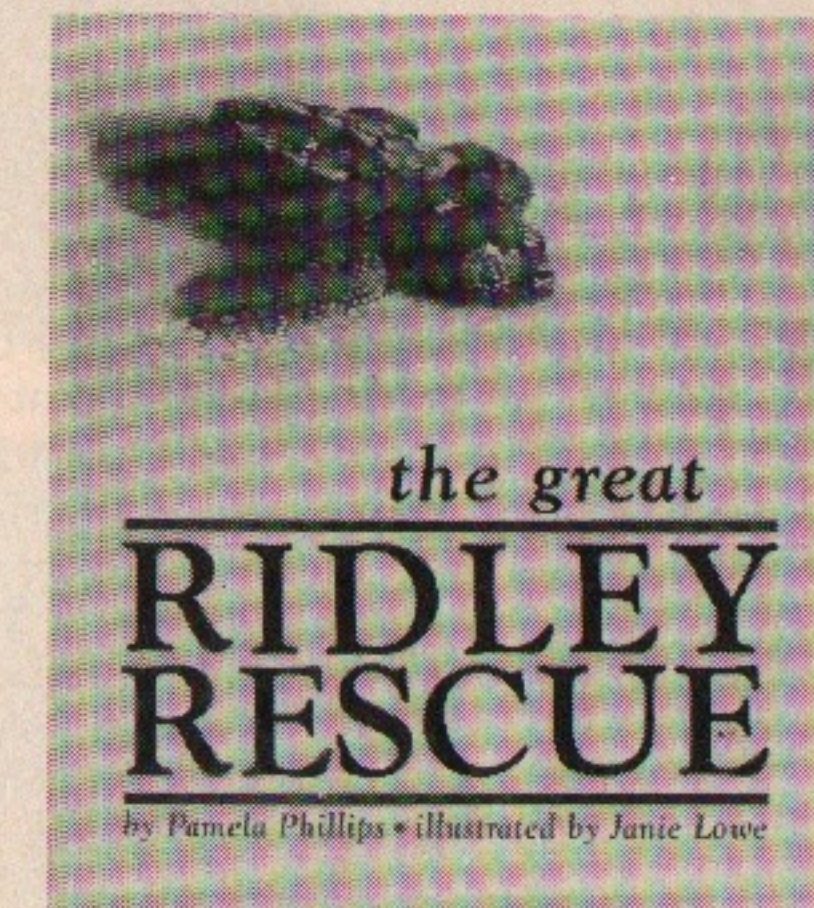
Foreign adaptations

The UFAW trapping scheme has been successfully exported to parts of the British Empire, as well as other foreign countries. On Virgin Gorda, a nine-by-two-mile island in the sun of the British Virgins, a trapping plan was initiated by AnnaBell Washburn, who, with her husband Stanley, owns a house on the tip of an isolated peninsula on the island.

When the Washburns visited their retreat in January 1986, they found an eight-week-old kitten and a note from friends who had been staying at the house and feeding the kitten, who, the note revealed, had been deposited there by her mother.

Since the Washburns visit the island only three or four times a year, they decided to try to find a home for the tyke at the Trade Winds, one of three resorts at the far end of the north sound of Virgin Gorda. But when they presented the idea to a staff member at the resort, they learned there was a surplus of feral cats

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Continued from previous page

at the Trade Winds and the two adjoining resorts. They also learned that the manager of one of those resorts was urging staff members to shoot cats on sight and was offering bounties for every cat disposed of. To emphasize his point at one staff meeting, he threw a live cat into an incinerator in front of several staff members.

Determined to do something about this barbarism, AnnaBell Washburn phoned James N. Ross, Jr., D.V.M., Ph.D., head of the department of medicine at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, when she and her husband returned to New York City in late January. AnnaBell had learned before leaving Virgin Gorda that Dr. Ross had been vacationing in the British Virgin Islands at the same time as she and her husband.

"I told Dr. Ross about the UFAW trapping method and said that I really believed it would work on Virgin Gorda," says AnnaBell. "I asked him if he might consider using it as some kind of internship for senior students at Tufts. He said it sounded fine, but we would have to work out the funding."

The funding was worked out by AnnaBell with help from Lawrence Rockefeller,

who has a resort on Virgin Gorda, and the Ahimsa Foundation of Boston and several other private contributors. Thus, in July 1986, a half-dozen senior students and four faculty members from Tufts arrived on Virgin Gorda. In three weeks, this team—assisted by AnnaBell and British mystery writer Penny Haszard, a year-round resident of the island—trapped 99 cats, 53 from the resorts and the rest from the native village of Gun Creek. All but a few sick cats were neutered and spayed and returned to the site with their ears nicked.

Follow-up feeding, says AnnaBell, is done by island residents from Gun Creek who work at the resorts. "You know what resorts are like," she explains, "especially the expensive ones, where there is just too much food. All the half-eaten gourmet items are brought back to the kitchen, and it's the easiest thing in the world to put out the food and let the cats enjoy the leftovers."

In August 1987, two faculty members and four students from Tufts—with help from Peter Neville, AnnaBell and Stanley Washburn, and Penny Haszard—spent a week trapping cats and assessing the impact of the previous effort. The staff at the Trade Winds reported that no new cats



Stanley and AnnaBell Washburn, who initiated the feral cat project on Virgin Gorda.

or kittens had been seen there since the preceding year. At Biras Creek and Bitter End, the resorts adjoining Trade Winds, 16 previously unaltered cats were trapped. Although new kittens were seen at Gun Creek, where 46 cats had been altered in 1986, residents said there were fewer new kittens in 1987 than there had been in previous years. Ten unaltered cats were trapped and altered at Gun Creek in 1987.

Two faculty members and three students from Tufts visited Virgin Gorda last year. Working in a different section of the island, they spayed and neutered 77 cats in one week.

Between the 1986 and '87 visits from Tufts' faculty members and students, Penny Haszard arranged for a veterinarian from a nearby island to visit Virgin Gorda twice a month to care for the island's animals in a temporary facility set up in a guest cottage on her property. In addition, says AnnaBell Washburn, "We follow up our neutering and spaying with humane education in the two elementary schools on the island." Students at the schools receive *Kind News*, the HSUS children's newspaper, which AnnaBell has subscribed to for each child.

Cautions and contraindications

The Wandsworth, Regent's Park, and Virgin Gorda stories are points of light in a dismal landscape. Yet the glow they shed notwithstanding, they are still seen by some animal welfare workers as flickering candles at best. The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA) has rejected trapping and neutering schemes, contending that trapping and euthanasia

provide a more humane solution to the feral cat problem.

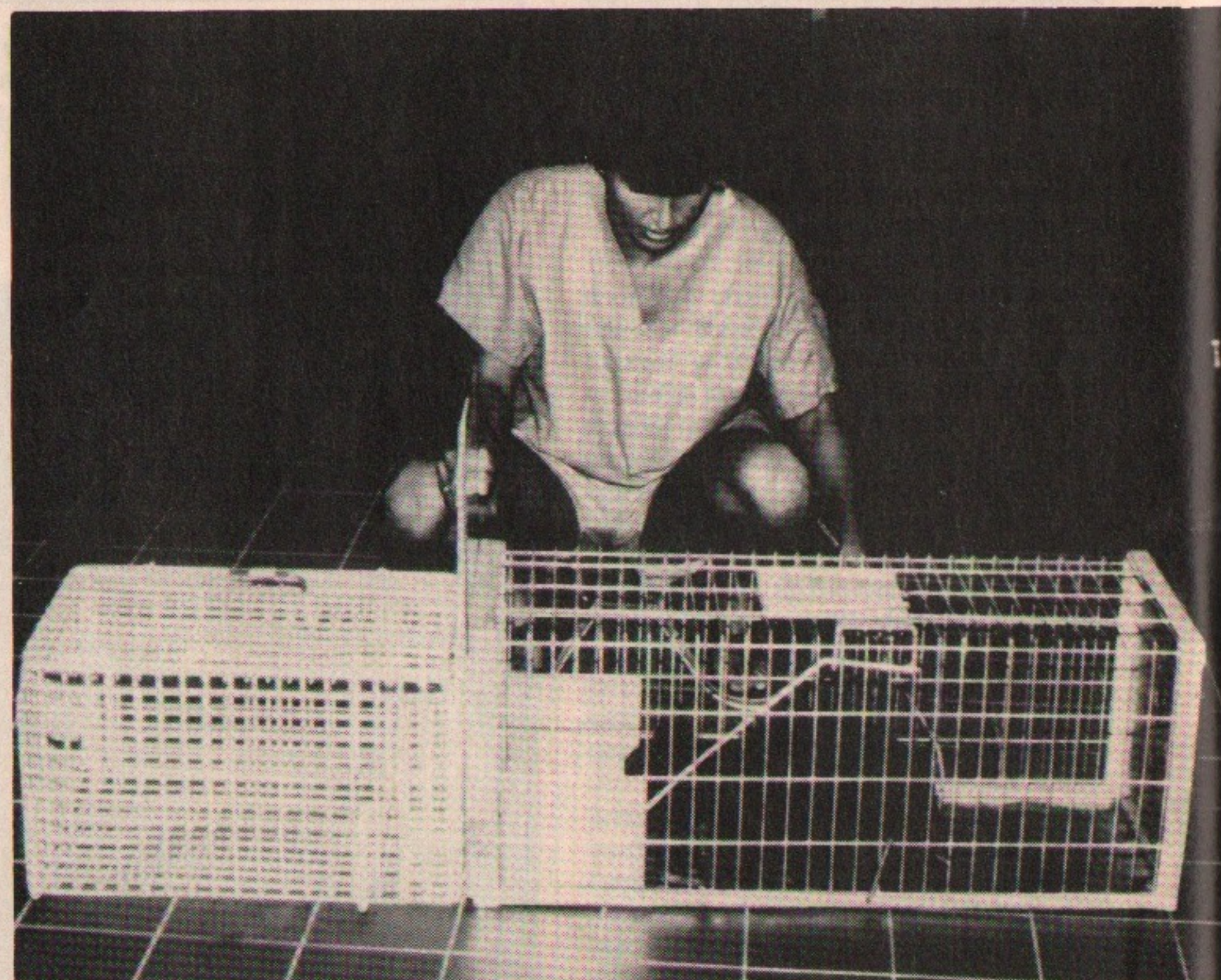
Phyllis Wright of HSUS voices similar opposition. "I come from the old school," says Wright, "where people believe that a humane death is far better than being half alive. Being alive is not all it's cracked up to be unless you've got other things in the proper perspective."

Speaking for the new school, Peter Neville took the MSPCA to task for being "clearly backward in understanding both the nature and success of neutering programs in controlling numbers and pest-behavior problems posed by feral cats without the need for killing them."

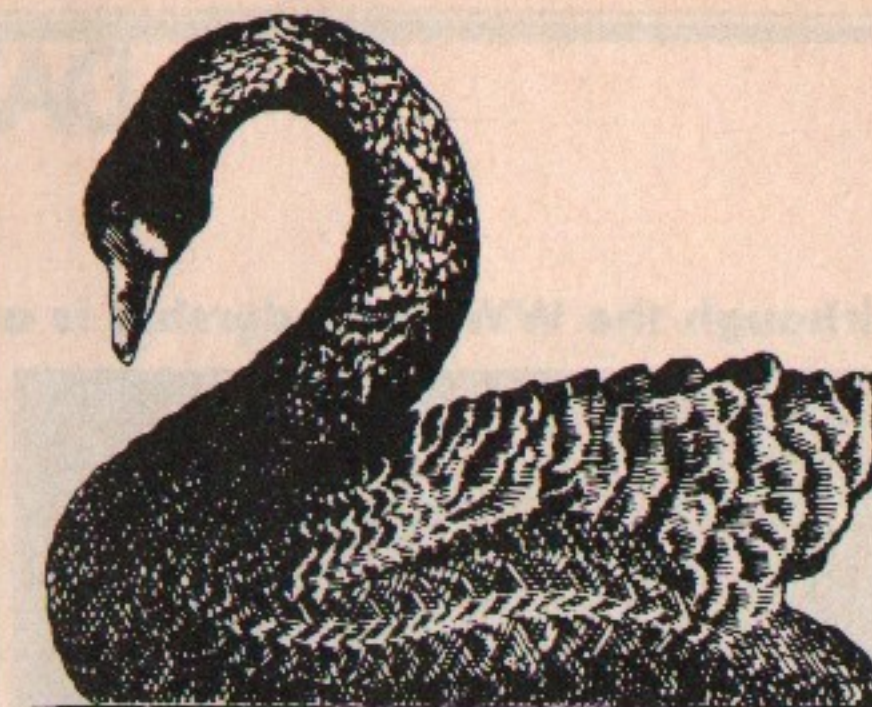
Samantha Mullen of the New York State Humane Association, who initiated a successful trapping project at the Wallkill Correctional Facility's dairy farm in Ulster County, New York, is a voice of moderate optimism in this debate. "I'm not terribly enthused about programs where cats are trapped and brought back to their original setting," says Mullen, "because that doesn't mean they live an idyllic existence the rest of their lives. Many of them will die the same way they would have died without human intervention." At the very least, however, the spayed and neutered animals won't be bringing more homeless animals into the world.

"I see trapping [and releasing] as having limited application," counsels Mullen, "and only in situations where a person—or preferably a group of people—is willing to take care of the cats. Trapping cats and returning them to the site merely solves part of the problem. But a partial solution is certainly better than none."

There are cats in an old garage in Wandsworth Borough who would, no doubt, agree.



Once cats are caught, they should be transferred to a smaller (squeeze) cage to make handling easier, thereby reducing trauma to cat and handler.



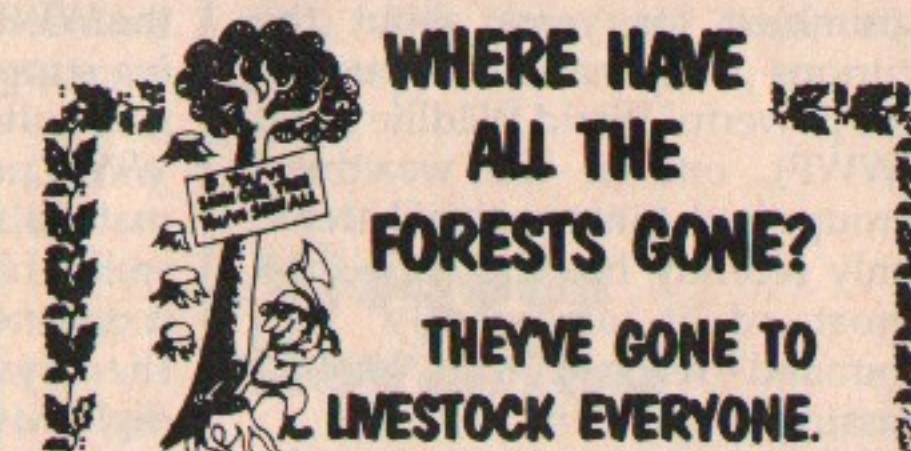
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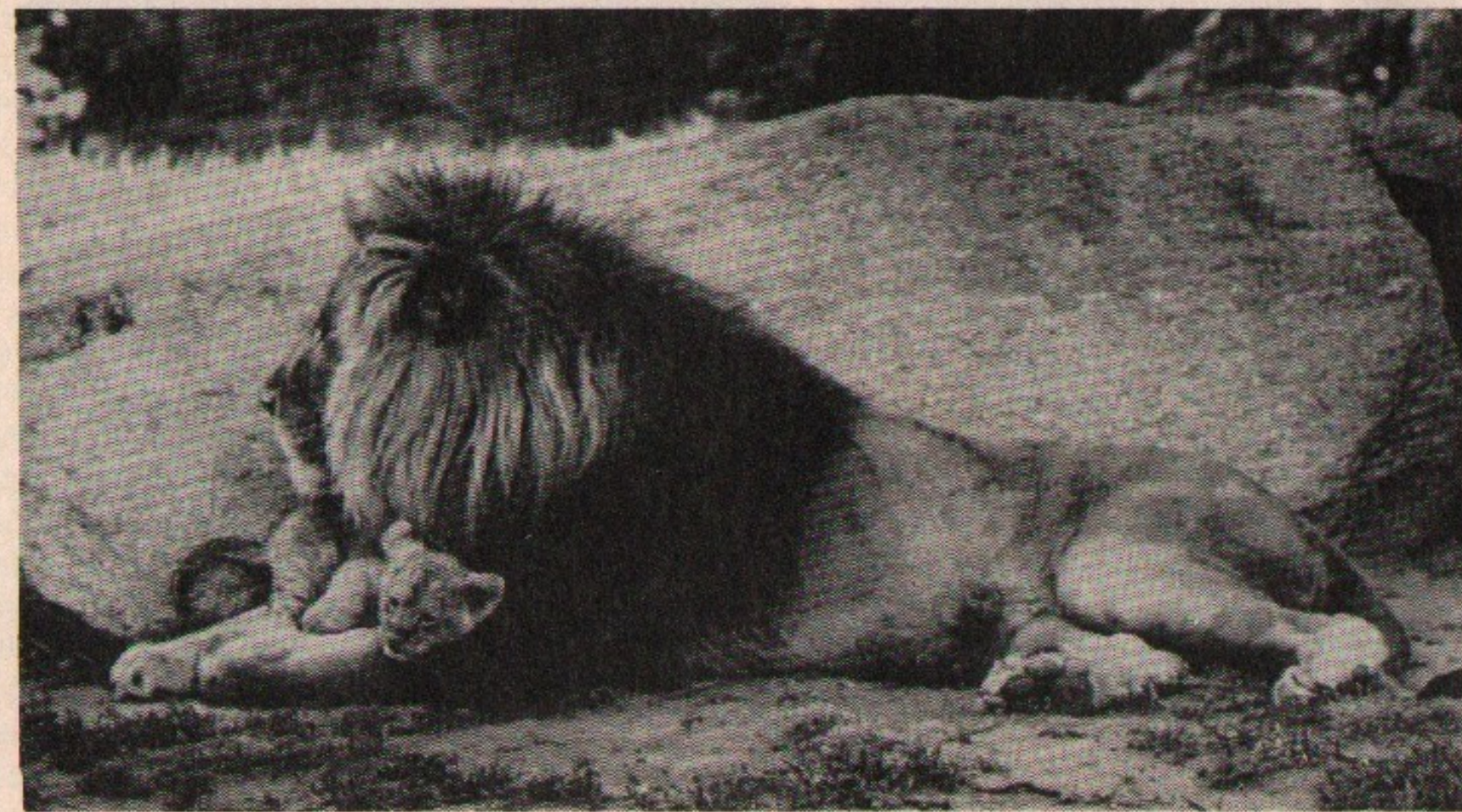
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Although the WWF's leadership is attempting to clean up its image, doubts continue to spread among activists.



Fact and Opinion: Whither the World Wildlife Fund?

Special report by D.P. Greanville. Although many activists have grumbled for years about the curious policy stands adopted by the powerful World Wildlife Fund (WWF), one of the wealthiest groups in the international arena, only recently has the criticism—most of it apparently well founded—reached truly embarrassing proportions.

While the critics do not deny the good work the WWF has done—and continues to do—in several crucial areas, confusion and distrust are growing in connection with the organization's actual aims and choice of tactics.

Last December we reported in this section that, after a wave of complaints, the WWF had advised several of its European chapters to discontinue their cozy collaboration with fur industry groups. That, apparently, was only one of the issues behind the growing sense of unease currently spreading through WWF ranks. As Ruth Turner, a longtime WWF backer and reader of *The ANIMALS' AGENDA*, has put it in a recent letter to this magazine's editors, the problems afflicting WWF go far deeper than an isolated case of misguided association; they reflect profound ethical and operational inconsistencies which emanate from the very social and economic background of WWF's leadership. Says Turner:

"Lou Peluso's letter on the WWF

in *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* February's issue rang a sympathetic chord in me. I, too, have had to reassess my feelings toward the WWF after 20 years of unstinting support. I don't wish to denigrate the valuable services the WWF performs. Its educational materials are excellent. It knows well what it's doing, choosing as it does to work from deep within the system...pursuing quiet diplomacy. By eschewing confrontation and political debate, it has been able to make environmental issues palatable to the affluent and influential, who donate generously, but who, directly or indirectly, have entrenched interests in seeing that nothing changes drastically to upset the status quo. What their various motives are for joining up with the WWF can be left to speculation. This leaves the rest of us normal folk at best in a quandary; at worst feeling betrayed. Here's a case in point:

"TRAFFIC (USA), which monitors trade in endangered species, is under the auspices of the WWF. In the *TRAFFIC* Bulletin of Nov. 4, 1986, one can read that 'El Salvador, as a country whose wildlife is very depleted, has become one of the main problem countries in Central America with regard to control of trade in wildlife.' My eyes began to open when, in the Fall of 1987, I met a fellow American in West Germany who had just visited El Salvador, and who had shocking reports to tell of the 'total

BY DAVID PATRICE GREANVILLE

war being waged in El Salvador against the rural population and the environment.' Years of carpet bombing, aerial strafing, napalm and gasoline bombs, phosphorous rockets and defoliants have decimated the wildlife. One shouldn't wonder at the dearth of flora and fauna. The real question is: how can trade exist in something that doesn't?

"I sent off an inquiry to WWF—two, in fact—and I'm still waiting for an answer. WWF's failure to even mention the war could be construed as misleading or dishonest. Incidentally, I should mention that since 1980, this war has been sponsored, financed, and supported by the U.S. government—and therefore by its citizens—to the tune of more than \$3 billion, all in the cause of some fictional democracy which, in any case, has now gone down the drain. The animals are gone and there is no light at the end of the tunnel, either."

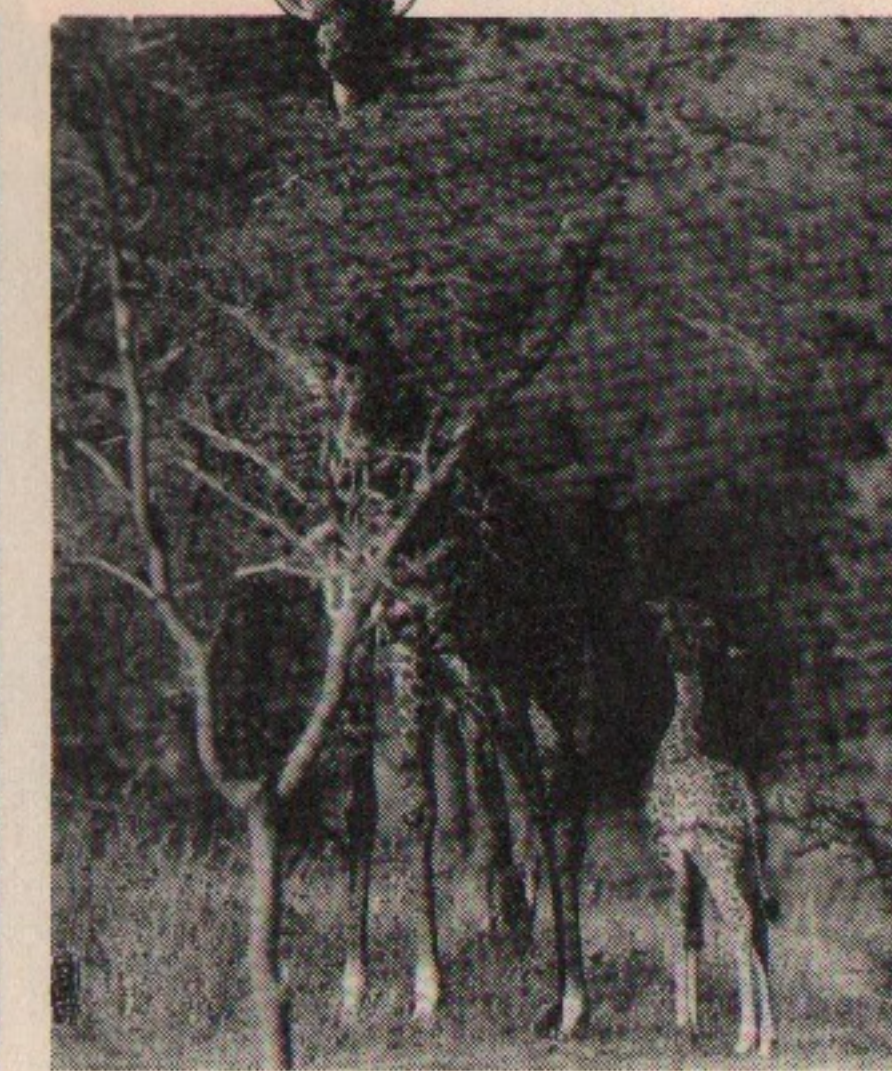
Continues Turner: "The utter absurdity is obvious. While we, the animal protectors, are donating to save the wildlife, we, the taxpayers, are simultaneously contributing toward its destruction, not to mention toward the death of thousands of innocent human beings. This state of affairs prevails on a global scale. Africa, as an example, comes to mind, where arms-for-ivory operations are wiping out the last of the world's most magnificent creatures. (See January 1989 issue, p. 30.) And the

ongoing destruction of the rainforests in Nicaragua, Honduras, and Costa Rica caused by the 'Contra war' and military operations (including U.S. maneuvers) is another.

"It has become clear to me that the connections count. All our efforts, laudable though they may be, are futile, unless root causes are addressed: poverty, exploitation, inequality, injustice, and the most visible expression of it all, war. From our positions of privilege and ease, relative to the rest of the world, we are morally called upon to examine what is being done in our names and cry, 'No more!' In the end it will require each of us to confront the underlying policies of our government, take a conscientious look at the havoc being wreaked in the name of some elusive, but all pervasive 'national security,' and to appraise honestly the costs which our 'way of life' is exacting from the impoverished half of the world. It is vital to understand the full consequences of meaningful animal and environmental protection. It cannot succeed in a vacuum. [As for the WWF], the organization and its well-heeled donors have a symbiotic thing going which actually supports the existing power structures."

Turner's views are borne out by the findings of *Private Eye*, a British muckraking paper. Commenting on the lack of enthusiasm increasingly observed among WWF rank-and-filers on account of the organization's lackluster performance, the paper recently noted that, among other things, the WWF's Swiss headquarters is

The 20th century may be the closing chapter for many species.



financed by over 1,000 secret sponsors "who, by and large, owe their fortunes or the profits of the companies they run to activities whose interests are completely at odds with the WWF aims of preserving wildlife habitats such as oceans, forests, and grazing lands."

According to *Private Eye*, WWF's top bureaucrats—heavily influenced by WWF's elite "1001 Club"—are likely to frown on the methods employed by organizations such as Greenpeace or Friends of the Earth, both of which have been lately upstaging and outshining the WWF in terms of showmanship and effectiveness.

Founded by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands in the early sixties [the prince also helped set up the WWF in 1961], the "1001 Club" boasts a roster that includes British and European royals, shipowners, oilmen, cattle barons, mining and chemical magnates, newspaper tycoons, property developers, sundry conglomerateurs, and arms manufacturers—not exactly a section of the business world renowned for respect toward the environment and animals.

Some of the financiers in the club have truly curious backgrounds, and a few have been involved in well-publicized scandals. Four years ago, Prince Bernhard himself quietly resigned the WWF presidency after being accused of accepting bribes from Lockheed Aircraft to help the U.S. plane-maker get orders in Holland. Another notable, Lord Kagan, is shortly to be extradited to Britain from France to face theft charges there. Tibor Rosenbaum, reputedly a former banker for the mafia, and who presided over the financial

crash of the International Credit Bank in Geneva, is now the subject of several investigations. And Boris "Bobby" Marmor—a convicted embezzler-turned-property-developer and casino owner—is again under official investigation in Britain.

The potential for divided loyalty runs equally deep among the Club's industrial tycoons. Mining is represented by South African Harry Oppenheimer of Anglo-American Corporation, former Bolivian tin king Antenor Patino, and by Sydney Spiro, and the late Sir Val Duncan, of Rio Tinto Zinc. Oilmen include Robert Anderson of Atlantic Richfield and the *Observer*; Sir Eric Drake, former chairman of British Petroleum; Nelson Bunker Hunt, with a background in oil, but also involved in scores of ventures and scams, including a recent attempt to corner the world silver market; Paul Mellon, of the banking and steel fortune; and John Loudon, chair of Shell Oil Co. Shipowning tycoons—whose reluctance to underwrite improvements in tanker design and routing may have created many unnecessary oil spills and loss of life—include leading Greek names such as Livanos and Goulandris; the Norwegians Reksten and Jahre; Sir Y.K. Pao of Hong Kong; Ravi Tikoo, from India (a resident of Greenwich, Conn.); and the late Stavros Niarchos.

But this improbable list of nature's defenders also includes the likes of Daniel K. Ludwig, a prominent tanker owner (at one time reputed to be the world's richest man), who has devastated large chunks of the Brazilian rain-

forest in his quest for wood pulp; Sir John Eastwood, who made his fortune from factory farming; Edmund Vestey, whose money comes from beef and who still owns huge ranches in South America and Australia; Lord Leverhulme of Unilever, the detergent and soap maker, certainly no stranger to animal testing; and President Mobutu of Zaire, whose personal fortune in Swiss banks is conservatively put at \$2.5 billion. During Mobutu's regime (he came to power in a West-supported coup in 1965) Zaire (formerly the Belgian Congo), a wretchedly poor nation of 35 million people with a per capita income of \$127 and an average life expectancy of 48.3 years, has seen its natural resources plundered by a host of international corporations. Mobutu, whose corruption and greed are legendary, has literally "auctioned off" vast portions of Zaire's sovereignty to private consortia. In the process, he has also presided over one of the greatest animal wipeouts anywhere in Africa, especially of elephants.

The social and economic complexion of the "1001 Club" goes a long way to explain the conservatism shown by the WWF. But recently, perhaps responding to pressures from the national WWF chapters and increased competition from other organizations, the WWF has unveiled a document entitled *The World Conservation Strategy*, containing some radical proposals such as greater control over multinational activities bearing on the environment and fauna. Whether this belated move will suffice to seize back the initiative in worldwide conservation, or

restore some of the WWF's erstwhile credibility, is anybody's guess. Meanwhile, one thing appears certain: the widening rift between WWF's national chapters and its insulated leadership in Switzerland is not likely to be bridged any time soon. *Main sources: Private Eye, The Times (London), The New York Times, 60 Minutes (CBS).*

Puerto Rico— Vieques Revisited

The need to assist the wretched animals of Vieques (please see *Dateline: International*, May 1988) a beautiful island off Puerto Rico, continues, even though there has been temporary relief and progress, mainly as a result of contributions and other support from the mainland U.S.

According to animal advocate and writer Ann Cottrell Free, who issued the first plea for help after visiting the island a couple of years ago, "the response has been amazing and heart-warming," but the question now is whether it will last. Her reports painted a hellish picture for the island's animals: puppies routinely abandoned at the island's garbage dump; skeleton-like, diseased dogs prowling the roads; numerous instances of wanton cruelty; the presence of often emaciated free-roaming horses and cattle; the lack of a resident veterinarian, animal control, or even rudimentary humane society programs.

So what has happened since?

Continued on next page

DATELINE: INTERNATIONAL

The U.S. Army and Navy have played a crucial role in relieving the misery of many animals in Vieques.



Courtesy of Anne Cottrell Free

Continued from previous page
Plenty. Cottrell has set up an emergency fund, contacted the U.S. government and Puerto Rican officials, and encouraged Vieques residents to organize a humane society. Most contributions have come from individuals inspired by reports of the animals' plight featured in *The ANIMALS' AGENDA*, and *Humane News*, the newsletter of the Associated Humane Societies of New Jersey. A "kick-off" donation of nearly \$2,000 was awarded by the Albert Schweitzer Animal Welfare Suggestion Fund. The donated funds have been used to buy dog food for distribution throughout the island; to employ a visiting veterinarian from the main island of Puerto Rico seven miles away; to

spay, to date, more than 150 dogs and 50 cats, and to euthanize 400 animals—many of them collected from the trash dump. Also, negotiations are underway with the island government to provide a shelter to be administered by the Humane Society; an educational program is being attempted; and strong admonitions have been issued to Marine and Navy personnel in regard to cruelty to animals.

But perhaps the biggest breakthrough came when the U.S. Navy—which owns two-thirds of the 21-mile long island with a civilian population of 8,000—finally responded to the call for help. Caspar Weinberger, then Secretary of Defense, set the wheels in motion for an inoculation clinic in

September of 1988. The Vieques situation had been brought to his personal attention by Christine Stevens, head of the Animal Welfare Institute.

After that, events began to move fast. Military veterinarians were sent to the island in September, 1988, and inoculated free of charge 1,172 dogs and cats against rabies, parvo, and distemper, while also testing the animals for heartworm. To bolster the effort, the Humane Society of the United States donated collars and Spanish-language animal care literature.

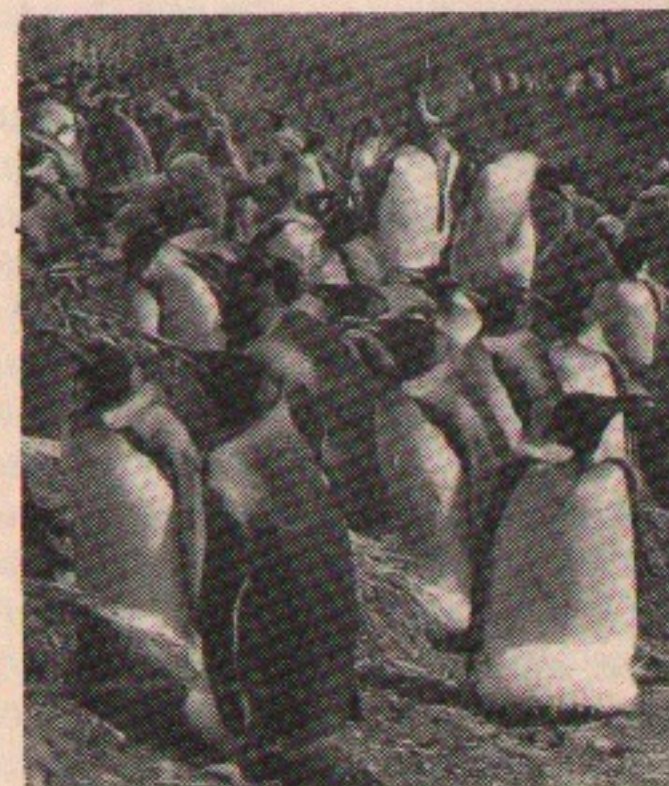
"We hope this will not be a one-time inoculation clinic," says Christy Mitchell, president of the new Vieques Humane Society, and operator of one of the island's small inns. "Most of all, we need

donations to continue our spay-and-neuter clinic. We simply can't get along without outside help, as the unemployment rate runs about 50 percent here—making any local government funding impossible."

Letters can be sent to the Office of the Undersecretary of the Navy, Washington, DC 20350, in appreciation for arranging the clinic, and asking for continued assistance. Donations to be used for animal food, spaying and neutering, euthanizing, and for the medical treatment of sick animals can be made to the Vieques Humane Society and Animal Rescue, Box 1012, Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765. *Main sources: Ann Cottrell Free, The ANIMALS' AGENDA* correspondents.

rookery, at the French research base Dumont d'Urville, is menaced by a new runway. Greenpeace recently occupied the site for nine days in protest.

Cockatoos, galehs, and corellas are poisoned, shot, clubbed, and burned in their nests by the hundreds of thousands as a threat to Australian grain farmers. Their numbers are still up 35 percent per year. A 1960 conservation law prevents the parrots, treasured companions in other parts of the world, from being legally exported. Trying to change the law, bird trapper Ray Ackroyd tearfully clubbed 40 cockatoos to death on the Parliament lawn recently, while cameras rolled. The government revoked his trapping license,



INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

By D.P. Greanville and Merritt Clifton

Eleven California trophy hunters paid the Alexander tribal band of northern Alberta up to \$10,000 each to shoot pastured buffalo last winter. It was "like shooting fish in a barrel," said Dr. Niels Damsgaard, vice president of the Alberta Fish and Game Association. "It's a sad day for Indian culture if that's the way they're going to treat the buffalo." But the Indians are already taking reservations to do it again.

Greenpeace dinghies jockeyed between whales and four Japanese whaling ships in early February, temporarily halting the massacre of 300 minke whales for "research" that supplies Japanese markets with whale meat. The Greenpeace mother ship *Gondwana* collided

with one whaling ship, but no one was hurt. While the world mostly applauded Greenpeace, Japanese officials accused Greenpeace of "terrorism", much like "laying mines in the Persian Gulf."

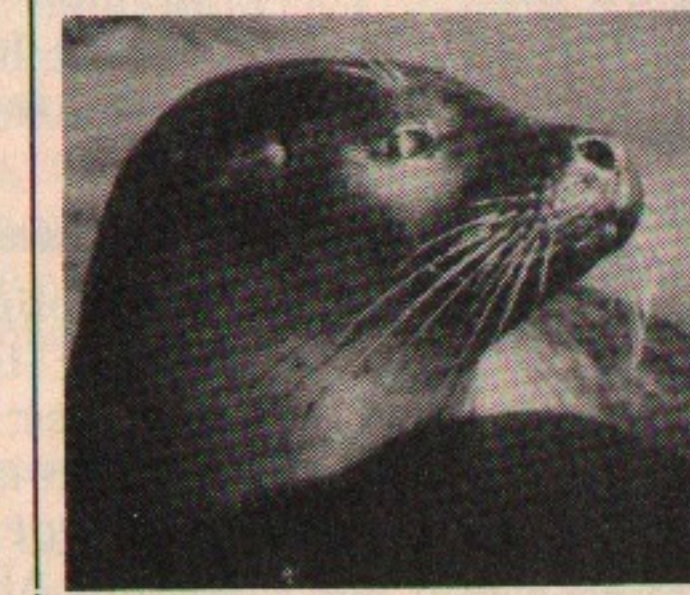
Oil slicks fouled over 29,000 Antarctic penguins, 250 seals, and thousands of other animals in February, after an Argentine supply ship sank off the Palmer Station rookery. The disaster confirmed the fragility of the Antarctic habitat, which may take years to recover. Another major Antarctic

DATELINE: INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Hoping to improve the image of blood sports, Quebec now terms hunters, trappers, and fishermen, "harvesters"; bird-watchers and hikers are "non-harvesters." This kind of semantic fraud a la Orwell's "1984" is an old trick of political manipulators, as many who follow peace and other issues will surely recognize.

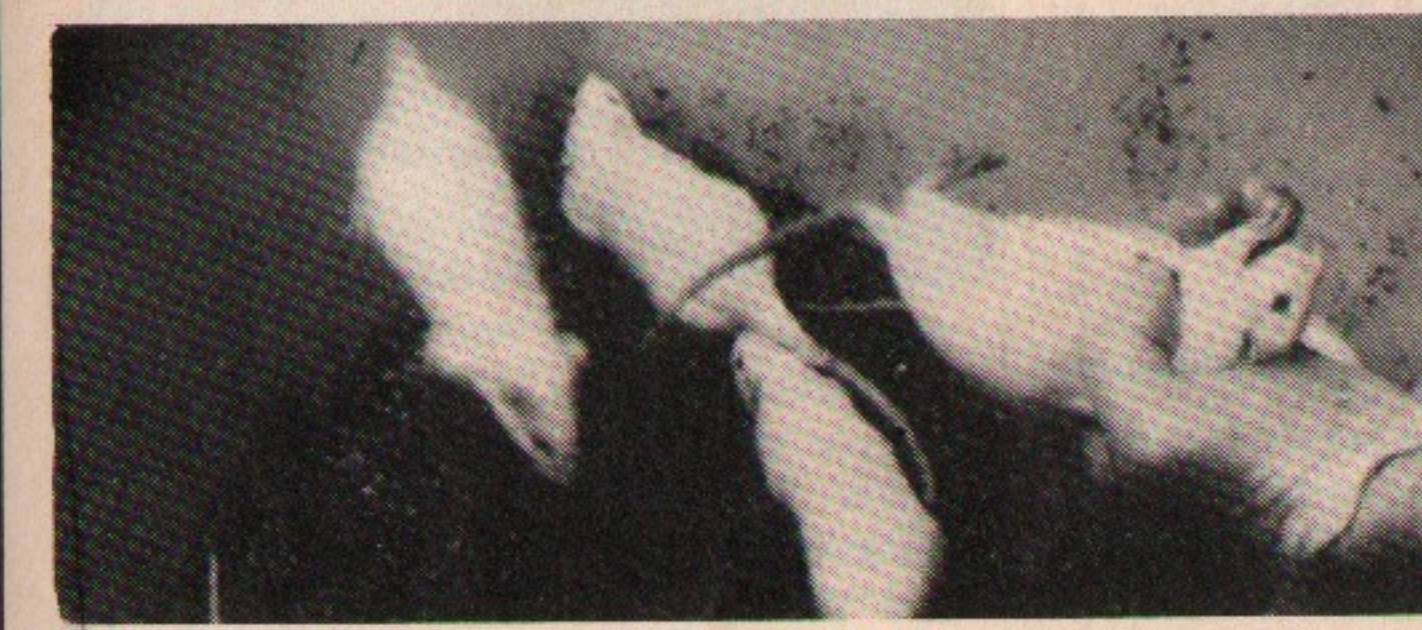
As reported earlier, the European Parliament's ban on seal pup skin and product imports is up for renewal in October. Send support for renewal to Carlo Ripa di Meana, Commissioner for the Environment, Commission of the European Economic Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049, Brussels, Belgium.



Manitoba ships 70,000 to 90,000 red-sided garter snakes to the U.S. per year for use in school dissection labs. The snake-pickers get 50 cents apiece for them. Protest to Jack Penner, Minister of Natural Resources, 314 Legislative Bldg., 450 Broadway, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 0V8 Canada.

From 20,000 to 40,000 deer starved last winter in Manitoba, their range's northern limit. Also, 10,000 starve in an average winter. Managed to encourage hunting, the herd has fluctuated from 60,000 five years ago to 150,000 in 1986 and under 100,000 now.

Ted and Jenny White of Canadian Hybrid Farms in Halls Harbour, Nova Scotia claim a near-world monopoly on breeding lab rats and hamsters with bad hearts and high blood pressure.



Wood bison are no longer endangered, says Canada. Once thought extinct, Canada's largest land animal has come back from a herd of 200 found in 1957, to 2,500 today.



Jim Wuepper

An elephant calf from a herd being chased by government forest workers fell down a 23-foot-deep well at a remote village in the Salboni region of India recently. When the villagers kept the foresters from rescuing her, the herd, 50 strong, trashed huts until they relented.

Beauty Without Cruelty is promoting chemical castration to control India's wild dog population. Calcutta now exports surplus dogs to South Korean meat markets.

Iguana ranching could save the Central American rainforest, claims West German zoologist Dagmar Werner—if people could be sold on iguana burgers. Werner's experimental iguana ranch produces a higher meat yield per acre than beef ranching. Funding comes from the World Wildlife Fund, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Dutch Embassy, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Iguanas, although in sharp decline throughout Central America, are also being promoted as a culinary delicacy to foreign visitors.

Canada wants to let natives sell whale meat, says the International Wildlife Coalition (IWC). To help fight this, write IWC, Box 461, Port Credit Station, Mississauga, Ontario L56 4M1, Canada.

A plan to fly 10 rare black rhinos from Zimbabwe to the U.S. fell apart for lack of transport. Game Conservation International sought to move the captive rhinos to Texas to protect them from poachers.

British Columbia cancelled its wolf-killing campaign recently, after Alaskan biologist Gordon Haber reported the massacre had accelerated the wolves' breeding. Haber added that the biggest threat to northern elk, moose, and stone sheep isn't from wolves, but from poorly regulated hunting.

The Ivory Coast has set aside the first African reserve for manatees.



Playtex is trying to give rabbits Toxic Shock Syndrome at Vancouver General Hospital, though no new human cases have been reported in Canada for years. Lifeforce has called a boycott of Playtex products. Protest to Playtex at 6363 Northam Drive, Malton, Ontario L4V 1N5, Canada; or 700-T Fairfield Ave., Box 10064, Stamford, CT 06904.

NEWS SHORTS

EDITED BY MERRITT CLIFTON

■ **Right whales calved early this winter** off the coast of Georgia, while the Navy was still dredging the King's Bay submarine base. The Navy had hoped to finish dredging before the whales came, to avoid collisions between slow-moving pregnant whales and silt barges. Fewer than 400 right whales survive, despite over 50 years of U.S. legal protection.

■ **Humanely trapping and immunizing raccoons**, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene hopes to stop a rabies epidemic at the Delmarva Peninsula, a natural barrier to animal travel. Rabies apparently spread from Georgia around 1980 when fur trappers took at least one rabid raccoon to Virginia or West Virginia as part of a ranching or restocking scheme.

■ **The Woodstream Corp., maker of both Victor and Woodstream brand leghold traps**, was recently sold to the Ekco Group (owner of Ekco Housewares) for \$26 million. Spokesman John Reid anticipates no changes in the product line.

■ **Costumes for this year's Mummers' Parade** in Philadelphia required the plucking of 3,000 ostriches. Each bird yields 100 plumes, twice a year. Parade entrants must have new costumes each year, but many plumes are recycled.

■ **The ASPCA filed 11,882 cruelty charges** last year in 13 cases involving animals in transit through New York's Kennedy airport. "I wish I could also report that the New York judicial system took these violations as seriously as we do," said spokesman Jeffrey Hon, "but in most of these cases \$50 was the maximum fine levied."

■ **Docktor Pet Centers in California** face a class action suit from the Humane Society of the United States over sale of diseased and infirm puppies.

■ **Sea World of Florida, frequently rapped** for capturing sea mammals, recently completed the first successful release of a rehabilitated stranded baleen whale.



In light of what they do to animals, the Charles River Co.'s calendar comics verge on the obscene.

■ **Dial 1-800-LAB-RATS** to tell the Charles River Co., the world's biggest lab animal breeder, what you think of its 1989 calendar. The calendar offers cartoon parodies of TV game shows, such as "The Squeal Of Fortune," "The Primating Game," and "The Mice Is Right" (where ecstatic mice bid on a cage barely big enough to hold one). Comparably bad taste comes in *Lil' Trapper's Trap Line Coloring Book* from 1136 Five Points Place, High Point, NC 27260.

■ **With 90 percent of the world alligator population**, Louisiana accounts for 77 percent of world gator slaughter. Some 45,000 Louisiana gators are raised in captivity.

■ **Battery-caged hens** eat less and don't peck each other if kept in red light, eliminating the need for debeaking; but humans have trouble working by red light. Now, a firm called Animalens has countered with a 20-cent set of red contact lenses for hens.

■ **Hunting license sales are up** by 46,000 nationally, says the National Shooting Sports Foundation, but the increase comes because several states now require licenses of youth hunters.

■ **The newly formed 700-member Oklahoma Rabbit Growers Association** wants the state to designate rabbits a farm commodity, and to encourage the rabbit meat industry. Protest to Commissioner Jack Craig, Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, 2800 Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

■ **Museum farms in the U.S. and England are backbreeding livestock** to eliminate traits bred into them during the 19th and 20th centuries. Most only seek pioneer livestock, but one English museum farm hopes to recreate the cattle of the Iron Age.

■ **Oakland Athletics slugger Jose Canseco** is doing promo for the California Egg Board. Though fans chant "Steroids, steroids" whenever he bats, Canseco denies he's a product of factory farming methods himself.

■ **Accepting "a moral obligation to take care of the animals we use,"** the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research is spending \$1.8 million on a retirement colony for 81 chimpanzees used in AIDS experiments.

■ **The State University of New York at Albany put glue traps in dorms** after students protested a mouse infestation. The glue traps caused even more protest. The "latest" in mouse traps is the \$10 plug-in Electric Mouse Exterminator, which zaps them when they take the bait.

■ **Cancer tests of chemicals on rodents** yield results valid for humans only about 70 percent of the time, according to a recent study by Carnegie-Mellon University economist Lester Lave.

■ **Pocket gophers help the humans who ignorantly try to kill them** by slowing the spread of trees into fields, according to a new Idaho State University study. The researchers also found the gophers "farm" their favorite food plants, by aerating the soil around their burrows and "planting" the indigestible seeds with their feces.

■ **Cat-lovers cheered the 15-year fraud sentence** recently given political cultist Lyndon LaRouche, whose backers tortured and killed cats belonging to reporters who exposed the cult. But LaRouchies aren't the only culprits. Retaliatory killings of animals have been reported to us from six states in the past two months.

■ **Five Nevada ranch hands** have been charged with misdemeanors carrying a maximum one-year sentence and \$2,000 fine in last year's massacre of over 500 mustangs, who presumably competed with cattle on leased public grazing land. Days after the Bureau of Land Management made the arrests, someone beheaded one of four burros bred from wild stock and kept as mascots at the BLM's Susanville, California office, near the Nevada border. A saddlehorse was shot in the head, but lived. Retribution? BLM spokesman Geoff Fontana could say only, "It's something we're looking into." Earlier, arson hit the Dixon, California livestock auction warehouse. An anonymous caller said the fire was in protest of cattle grazing on public land.

■ **The library in Putnam Valley, N.Y. ousted their cat** as a nuisance, after seven years' residence. This cost the library \$80,000 in bequests from angry patrons.



Studying bees with grocery-store technology.

■ **USDA entomologists** are gluing miniature bar codes to bees, to count their flights by laser scanner.

More SHORTS on next page.

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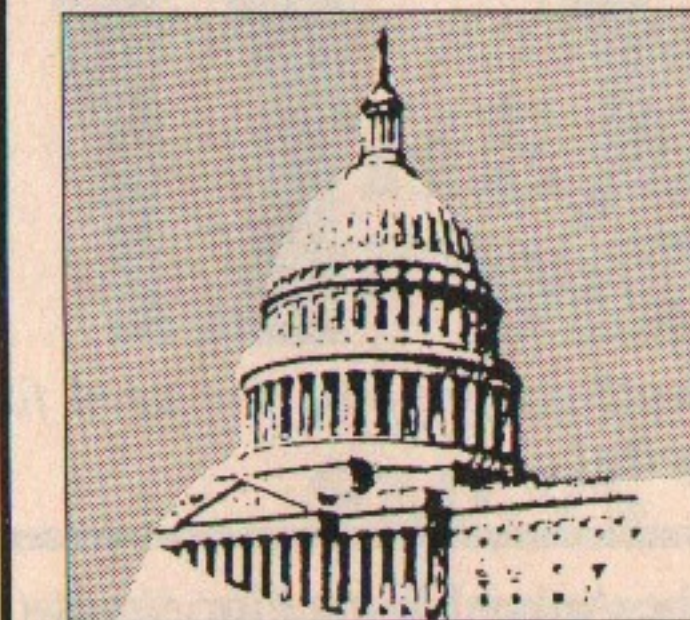
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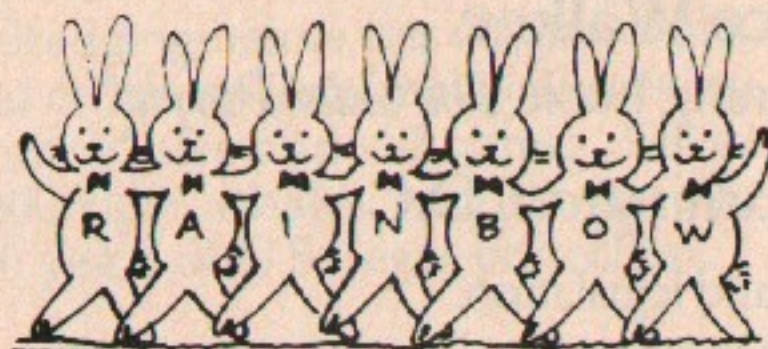
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NEWS SHORTS



"Spent" greyhounds are used for experiments at the Tucson VA hospital.

■ The Animal Liberation Front (ALF) rescued three dogs January 6 from the Veterans' Administration Medical Center in Tucson, Arizona. A guard interrupted the ALF as they videotaped the VA vivisection lab, but they escaped without conflict. According to Roberta Wright of Voices for Animals: the VA claims exemption from the Animal Welfare Act; their animal labs haven't been inspected in 15 years; a local dog-racing track sends the VA "spent" greyhounds for a tax write-off; and the VA is suspected of doing research for the University of Arizona Medical Center, to help the latter get around humane laws. In other militant actions, people claiming to be the ALF splashed red paint on four Philadelphia-area fur stores Dec. 17, and planted a fake bomb at a Stanford University animal lab still under construction. Police meanwhile said they had a secret plan to stop alleged activists who torched two meatpacking plants and vandalized four butcher shops recently in Santa Clara County, California.

■ Pollution is still killing birds, 30 years after Rachel Carson wrote *Silent Spring*. An oil spill off St. John's, Newfoundland, killed over 400 dovekeys, puffins, and ducks in early January, but the worst disaster of the winter for wild birds was an oil spill December 22 off Ocean Shores, Washington, that killed at least 5,000 birds of 19 species. About 2,700 were saved by volunteers at an emergency center dubbed Dirty Bird Hospital. The toll may eventually include eagles who fed on oil-coated sea birds.

In California, the state Department of Fish and Game blamed so-called dormant sprays applied to orchards during the non-growing season for causing nervous disorders in hawks. Wild birds also had a hard time with disease last winter—also possibly caused by human activity. Brown pelicans died of an unidentified leprosy-

like ailment that rotted their living skulls near Port Orange, Florida. Avian cholera felled 7,500 geese along the Texas coast in December, also menacing the highly endangered whooping crane.

■ Aiming to poison pigeons at Fort McPherson, Georgia, the Army instead killed 400 redwing blackbirds. "Any time we use a pesticide of this type in the future," said base commander Col. Gerald Lord, "it will be under direct supervision of a trained entomologist." Try an ornithologist, sir!

■ Three Plainfield, Indiana, teenagers who killed a cat in a Satanic rite got four months' probation each, 30 days house arrest, and mandatory psychological counseling.

NEWS SHORTS

■ Many calves are now raised in individual outdoor plastic hutches. Bigger than veal crates, hutches are catching on because they save barn space and slow the spread of disease. But the calves may suffer emotionally from their total isolation.

■ Defending cows, calves, and other bulls of his herd who were being sent to slaughter, a four-year-old red Hereford bull named Peanut recently gored a handler from groin to abdomen in New Port Richey, Florida. Originally to be spared, Peanut, too, was slaughtered for his valor.

■ After 20 migrating geese became fouled in oil, Lake County, Ohio, residents petitioned to have Nacelle Land and Management Co. clean up its brine pond. But company president Joseph Berick retorted, "Any goose who's stupid enough to stop in the brine isn't commuting from anywhere. He's a local goose who's getting fed at the Chagrin River Yacht Club."

■ Two 11-year-olds loosed a pair of pit bull terriers on a schoolyard full of children in Philadelphia December 15, injuring five, while across town, 20-year-old Dwayne Vinson set his pit bull on two young women who wouldn't talk with him. All three human culprits face assault charges.

■ An alligator bangs his head against a truck bed in a current Nissan ad, supposedly proving the strength of construction. Protest to Nissan Motor Corp., Box 191, Gardena, CA 90247.



Coca-Cola
promotes
animal abuse.

■ Bullfighting is glorified in a new Coke ad for television. The Coca-Cola company has long been criticized by animal advocates for its support of rodeos. Boycott Coke, and protest toll-free: 1-800-GET-COKE.

■ Some 10,000 nimrods tried to kill deer with single-shot muskets during Massachusetts' three-day "primitive" hunting season last winter. Musket balls often shatter bones instead of killing cleanly. Since muskets can't be reloaded quickly, wounded deer may escape to die slowly of starvation or infection.

More SHORTS on next page.

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NEWS SHORTS

■ **Environmentalists groaned** at the appointment of former Congressman Manuel Lujan, Jr. of New Mexico as Secretary of the Interior. Lujan got just 13 of a possible 100 points on the 1988 League of Conservation Voters scorecard. The appointment of William Reilly as head of the Environmental Protection Agency was received with more enthusiasm.

■ **The U.S. Postal Service still accepts** birds, insects, and nonpoisonous reptiles for mailing. The only requirement is that they be securely packaged.

■ **Three out of seven U.S. cats are homeless.** Companion cat to human ratios are one to seven in the U.S. and in France; one to eight in Australia, where seven of eight are homeless; one to ten in Belgium, one to 11 in Britain; one to 13 in Italy; one to 15 in the Netherlands; and one to 24 in West Germany.

■ **The USDA predicts** a seven percent decline in beef production this year, but a six percent rise in turkey and a four percent rise in chicken production is also projected.

■ **For \$50 per 20 minutes, guests can swim with a captive dolphin** at the Hyatt Regency Waikoloa Hotel in Hawaii. The White House reportedly helped the Hyatt become the first resort to win a dolphin swim permit from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Hawk's Cay, Florida, has offered swimming with a dolphin for some years under a display permit. As other resorts clamor for dolphin swims, NMFS has pledged a policy review. Write your Senators and Representative, asking that rules be tightened.

■ **Over 500 Yellowstone buffalo were shot last winter** when they roved from the park into Montana, fleeing deep snow and pasture burnt by last summer's forest fires. Many buffalo were shot on land owned by The Church Universal and Triumphant, which charged hunters \$50 a head.

Once again, buffalo herds are being massacred out West.

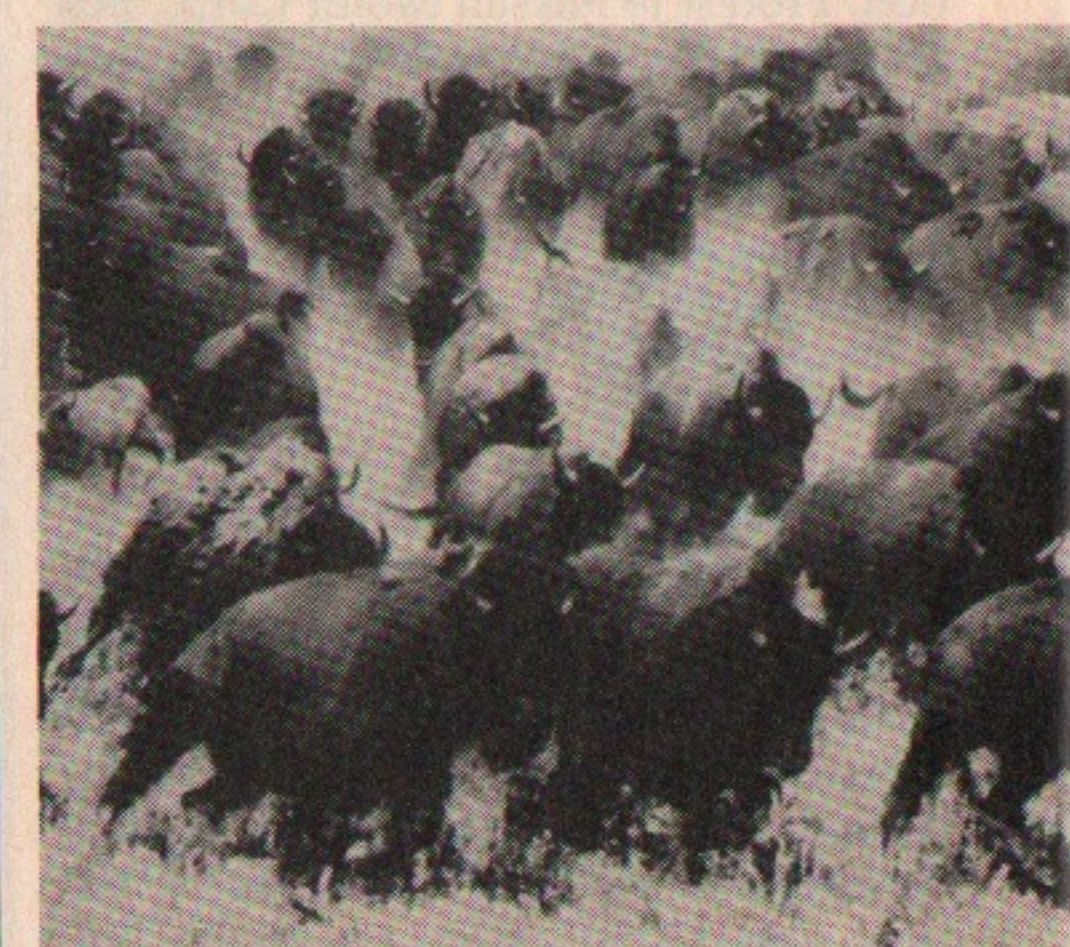
■ **The USDA recently penalized** another 12 Tennessee Walking Horse exhibitors for "soring" the front hooves of horses to make them step higher. The USDA also disciplined two animal dealers, and gave the Oscanian Brothers Circus a two-month license suspension for a string of offenses dating back to 1981.

■ **May 28, 1900, 100 child workers went on strike** against the Owens-Illinois glass factory of Bridgeton, New Jersey, to protest ill treatment of a horse made to work each day from dawn to midnight. Owens-Illinois closed recently. Now Bridgeton is profaning those children's legacy by pushing muskrat trapping to rebuild the local economy. Protest to Mayor Donald Rinear, City Hall, Bridgeton, NJ 08302.

■ **Joining the Animal Industry Foundation** in opposing rights for farm animals, the National Cattlemen's Association has formed a Task Force on Animal Welfare.

■ **Michael Slocum, a Pennsylvania vealer** who let 49 of his 64 calves starve over Christmas, was convicted on 62 cruelty counts, stripped of his surviving animals, fined, and jailed for 30 days. The starvations resulted from digestive trouble brought on by lack of manure disposal.

■ **Red wolves have been placed** on remote Horn Island, Mississippi, to control overabundant rabbits and raccoons—and in hopes that the highly endangered wolves will establish a breeding colony.



ACTIVISTS' AGENDA

African Elephants: Can We End The Slaughter?

BY DR. SUSAN S. LIEBERMAN

DATELINE: Nairobi, Kenya
December, 1988

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) held a meeting of its African Elephant Working Group. In attendance were representatives of several conservation organizations, scientists, CITES officials, government representatives (from Europe, the United States, Africa, UK and Japan), and ivory traders. Experts declared at that meeting: "At the present rate, the African elephant will be commercially extinct in 5 years."

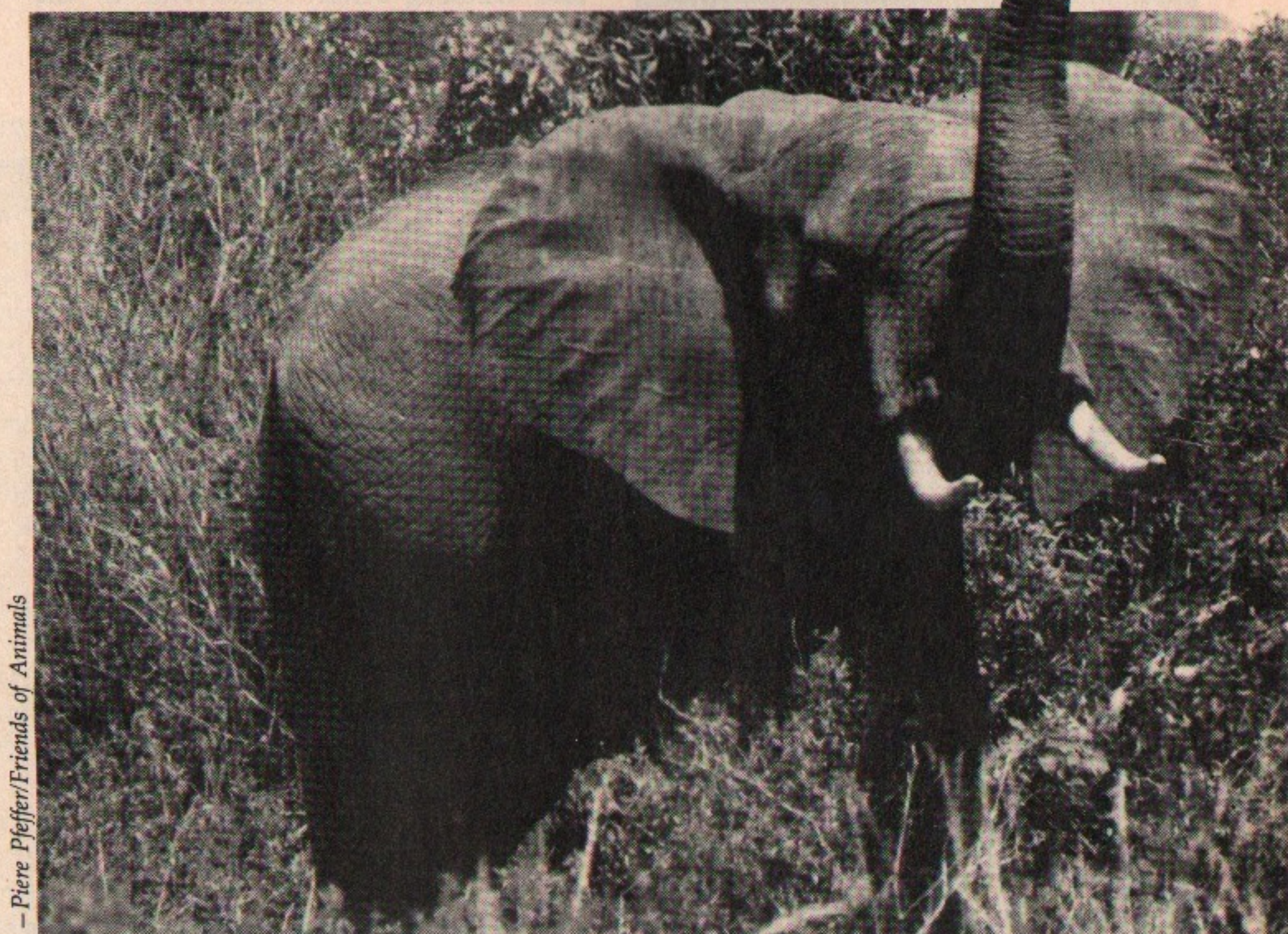
It is late afternoon on the African savannah. A family of elephants moves towards a water hole. An old matriarch stands silhouetted against the setting sun. Suddenly, the silence is broken by machine gun fire. One by one the family is gunned down. The roar of gunfire and the screams and bellows of terrified elephants shatter the twilight silence with a terrible dissonance.

Tens of thousands of elephants are slaughtered this way every year to feed the greed of the ivory trade. Current estimates place the carnage at more than 1,000 elephants per week! Most of us have an idealized image of African elephants—of splendor and tranquility against a vast backdrop. The reality, however, is far different: terrible animal suffering, rotting bodies of slaughtered elephants, and mountains of ivory.

The tusk of an elephant, or raw ivory, is really an elongated upper incisor tooth, which grows throughout the elephant's life. These tusks are used for feeding, tearing bark, digging for roots, defense, and social display. Ivory can only be obtained from dead elephants. The tusks are turned into ivory jewelry, trinkets, and carvings. In addition, elephants' skin is made into shoes and purses, and their feet become wastepaper baskets or—if they are from baby elephants—pencil holders.

African elephants have been killed for their ivory since at least the time of the Pharaohs. By the early Middle Ages, elephants had been exterminated from North Africa by ivory hunters. The ivory

Continued on next page



— Pierre Pfeffer/Friends of Animals

Current estimates indicate that more than 1,000 African elephants are slaughtered each week for their ivory tusks. After gunning the elephants down with automatic weapons, poachers chop off the valuable tusks and leave the bodies to rot (below). At the present rate of slaughter, the African elephant will be virtually extinct in the wild within five years.



— Courtesy of the International Wildlife Coalition

A Tragic Legacy of the Ivory Trade



Dr. William Jordan, veterinary advisor to IWC with an elephant orphan.

Normally there are few worries for baby elephants, who are tenderly cared for by mothers, aunts, and sometimes older sisters. But in a matter of seconds—the time it may take ivory hunters to dispatch the mature members of an entire herd of elephants—the lives of these babies can change immeasurably.

Spinning and screaming, slipping and sliding in great pools of blood, the young elephants are roped by the legs and pushed to the ground. They are bound and lifted into trucks, lying on their sides as the tusks are hacked off their mothers' faces.

Soon, the babies will be sorted, crated, and shipped to animal brokers all over the world. They will be chained and "broken" by professional animal trainers, and their screams will not stop until they accept the domination of their human masters.

Hundreds of these elephants have come to the U.S. during the past ten years. These animals have been "saved" from slaughter. They are not dead, but neither are they really alive as an elephant should be. Circuses, zoos, theme parks, gas stations, and individuals who want elephants for pets now own them, and can use them as they deem fit. If they forget their training, they may be chained and beaten repeatedly—day after day, year after year. These magnificent animals, born free, will exist in total bondage: chained to trees, chained to each other, their tusks chained to their feet.

Ending the trade in ivory is the best way to keep elephant babies from becoming orphans in the first place. Beyond that, we can work to eliminate the trade in living animals. For the elephants who have already begun a life in captivity, we can free them from cruel and abusive treatment, and help them attain a measure of the dignity and majesty that is their birthright.

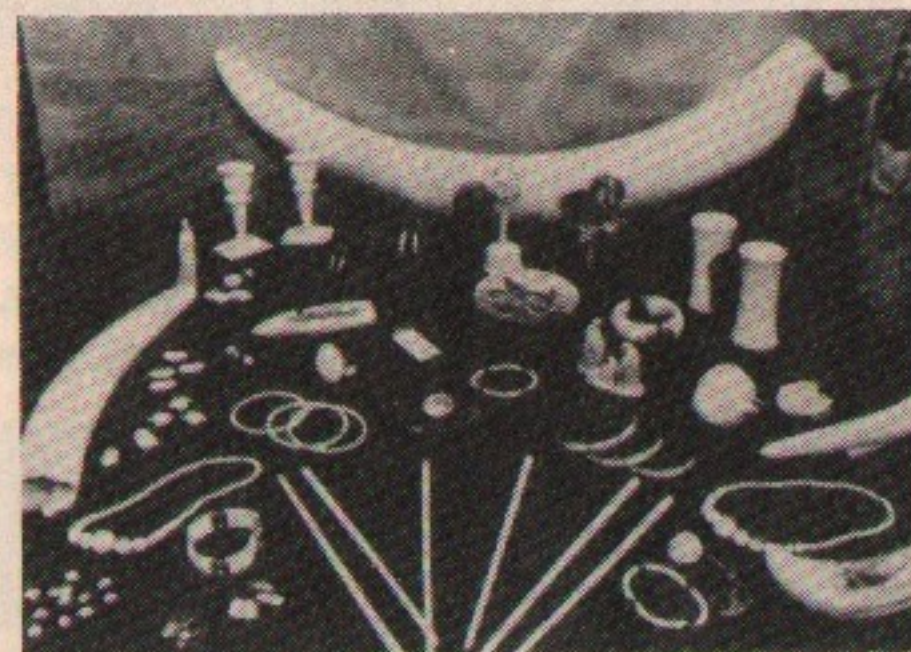
—The Performing Animal Welfare Society, P.O. Box 842, Galt, CA 95632

ACTIVISTS' AGENDA

Continued from previous page

trade expanded tremendously in the 18th and 19th centuries, and was intimately connected with the slave trade out of Africa. The current ivory trade is a remnant of European colonialism. In the early 1900s, the ivory trade killed more than 100,000 elephants a year, to feed a growing market for piano keys, billiard balls, and trinkets. After World War II, the availability of plastic substitutes caused a temporary decline in the ivory trade. But the luxury ivory market is now on the rise, in spite of the fact that synthetic substitutes are readily available.

Nine years ago, there were an estimated 1.3 million elephants in Africa. Recent field research in Central and West Africa puts the total population today at close to 400,000, and we cannot afford to delay another nine years in protecting these animals. Most elephant populations in Africa are declining, with the possible exceptions of Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana, and Malawi. Elephants are virtually gone in West Africa, where the few survivors are still threatened by poaching. Many protected areas and parks have also seen declines in their elephant populations, as a result of poaching. For example, in 1984 only 80 elephants remained in the Niokola-Koba National Park in Senegal. Elephant populations have declined 80 percent in the Central African



As long as ivory products are marketed, elephants will die. Importers in Asia buy raw ivory from Africa, and export "worked ivory" in the form of trinkets and jewelry (above). Elephant feet are sometimes made into home furnishings, such as umbrella stands and tables.



—Courtesy of the International Wildlife Coalition

Republic since 1981, due largely to poaching. In Zaire, there has been a 60 percent decline in elephants within the national park, with worse conditions in surrounding areas. Uganda has lost 90 percent of its elephants in the last five years. In unprotected areas, Kenya has lost 91 percent of its elephants; even the protected parks visited by so many tourists have lost more than 72 percent of their elephants.

Though anti-poaching efforts are underway in some African countries, they are rudimentary and underfunded. Sadly, many ill-equipped wildlife officers have been killed by poachers. In a number of countries, military and government officials have been implicated in poaching and ivory trading (see *Dateline: International*, January 1989).

While habitat destruction is also a problem, recent scientific studies have shown that poaching for ivory is the most immediate threat to the future of elephants. Rising ivory prices, political instability, and the spread of automatic and semi-automatic rifles throughout Africa have contributed to widespread killing of elephants. The only truly effective way to stop the slaughter of elephants is through the complete elimination of the ivory trade.

In 1972, when the current extensive exploitation of elephants for their ivory was beginning, the average tusk traded weighed about 13 kilograms; the average tusk in trade weighed 8 kilograms in the early 1980s, and 4.6 kilograms in 1986. Today, the average tusk traded weighs only 3 kilograms, and a significant portion of those traded weigh less than half a kilogram. What is happening? Ivory grows throughout an elephant's life, with the greatest growth during an elephant's later years. The decline in average tusk size shows that the large mature elephants have already been wiped out, and the ivory hunters are killing juveniles instead. These young elephants haven't yet reproduced, and their deaths for the ivory trade represent a double tragedy—both for themselves and their species.

In response to declining elephant populations, CITES instituted an Ivory Quota Control System that went into effect January 1986. It set export quotas, requiring member nations to mark tusks with punch dies. CITES also permitted large stockpiles of confiscated illegal raw ivory to enter the "legal" trade in an attempt to control the ivory export trade. The system allows the export of ivory from countries that enforce anti-poaching laws and have reasonable conservation programs.

Both in philosophical intent and in

practice, the CITES program is a dismal failure. CITES should function as an advocate for wildlife, protecting wild species from the disastrous effects of commercial trading. Instead, it has become an advocate for the trade itself. More than 90 percent of the ivory entering the U.S. comes in as "worked ivory" (jewelry and trinkets), and most of it arrives from Hong Kong. Importers in Asia buy raw ivory from Africa, with no regard to where it came from or how it was ob-

ACTIVISTS' AGENDA

tained. The African Elephant and Rhino Specialist Group (AERSG) of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) has estimated that in 1986, the first year of the quota system, 78 percent of all ivory traded worldwide was poached ivory, and this trade was operating totally outside of the CITES system. This represents the tusks of about 89,000 elephants in one year! In 1985, 4.8 million pieces of worked ivory and 27,346 kilograms of carvings

came into the U.S.—most of it from poached elephants. This ivory had a declared value of more than \$24 million.

Who bears the greatest blame for the slaughter of elephants for ivory? Is it the villager with an automatic weapon who is paid a few dollars to kill an elephant? Is it the wealthy Asian trader who imports raw ivory into Hong Kong and exports carved trinkets to the U.S.? The guiltiest party is, in fact, the consumer at the end of the line. When people stop buying ivory, there will be no market for ivory, and poachers will stop killing elephants.

A broad coalition of animal protection organizations is actively working to stop the slaughter of elephants for ivory. This coalition worked very hard, though unsuccessfully, to pass legislation in the last session of the U.S. Congress to ban all ivory imports (see "Legislative Update," *Animal Newslines*, November 1988). The new Elephant Conservation Act, which is part of the Endangered Species Act, is weaker than needed. Since it provides for a limited moratorium only, some ivory imports are still legal.

According to the law, ivory cannot be imported from nations (either directly or through intermediary countries) that are not signatories to CITES, or that do not adhere to the CITES Ivory Control System. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has to make a determination on each country with elephant populations (called "produces nations" by advocates of the trade). If the country does not have a valid conservation program in effect for its elephants, it cannot export ivory to the U.S.

The African elephant is a powerful symbol of the urgent need to protect wild animals from suffering and death caused by human exploitation. The entire wildlife trade—both in live animals and in luxury products produced from their dead bodies—has expanded greatly over the last decade. The traders and importers hide a facade of "sustainable utilization" to justify their unethical activities. But the brutal slaughter of elephants is certainly not sustainable, either numerically or ethically. Unless the ivory market is destroyed, the largest land mammal on this planet will lose its freedom forever; the elephant will go extinct in the wild, with remaining individuals held captive in circuses, menageries, zoos, and "managed" preserves. It is up to all of us to put an end to this merchandising of extinction.

Dr. Lieberman is Associate Director of Wildlife and Environment for the Humane Society of the United States.

What is Being Done

Several animal protection organizations in Washington, D.C. are working together as a coalition to stop the slaughter of elephants. These organizations include the Humane Society of the U.S., the Animal Welfare Institute, the International Wildlife Coalition, Friends of Animals, and the Animal Protection Institute. This coalition is working on the following goals, all of which need your help:

1. *To educate the public not to purchase ivory.* Advertising campaigns are being conducted in the U.S. and Europe this spring and summer, and leaflets and brochures are available. The African Wildlife Foundation is conducting a major multimedia public service campaign, and the Voice of Nature Network is producing public service announcements for television.

2. *To encourage retailers not to sell ivory, and to give recognition to those who discontinue their ivory sales.*

3. *To list the African elephant as an endangered species.* A formal petition was submitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior on February 16th to reclassify the African elephant from a threatened to an endangered species. This would end all commercial trade in the U.S.

4. *To list the African elephant on Appendix I of CITES.* It is now listed on Appendix II, which means that trade is regulated. An Appendix I listing means that the species is in danger of extinction due to trade, and all commercial trade is banned. An Appendix I proposal will be submitted at the next Conference of the Parties of CITES in Switzerland in October, 1989. This meeting, with representatives of 96 nations, has the potential to decide the fate of the African elephant.

What You Must Do

1. *Write to the U.S. Department of the Interior* at 18th and C Streets NW, Washington, DC 20240, and say that you support listing the African elephant as both an endangered species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and on Appendix I of CITES.

2. *Write your Senators, Representative, and President George Bush*, urging them to support endangered and Appendix I status for the African elephant. Stress that this is a high priority. Send letters to the U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510; the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515; and The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500.

3. *Let stores in your area, as well as catalogs you may purchase from, know that you are opposed to the sale of ivory.* Talk to store managers, telling them that you will not shop there as long as they contribute to the slaughter of elephants through their merchandise. For an especially effective protest, cut up credit cards and return them to the stores.

4. *Help publicize the plight of elephants.* Plan a local protest rally, collect signatures on a petition, stimulate others to complain to stores or write letters, or get a "letter to the editor" published in a local newspaper. All of these actions will expose others in your community to the truth about ivory, discouraging them from buying it. When ivory jewelry and artifacts are no longer profitable for the store, or when they become an embarrassment, you may see rapid changes in store policy. Obtain brochures, leaflets, bumper stickers, and posters on elephants and ivory, distributing them widely throughout your community.

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MEDICINE: IN LAY TERMS

BY NEAL D. BARNARD, M.D.

Longer Life Expectancy: Who Gets the Credit?



The animal experimentation lobby would like to take the bow for increased human longevity, but is such credit deserved? The facts are unequivocal. Animal experiments played virtually no role at all in the increased longevity we enjoy.

Aimee Chiarillo

In the 19th century, the cholera epidemic in London took a great many casualties. The organism responsible for the illness was unknown. Modern antibiotics were not available. Even so, a solution to the problem was within reach. The epidemic was arrested when John Snow, an epidemiologist and anesthetist, removed the handle from the Broad Street pump. Snow had observed that people who had become ill had obtained their water from Broad Street. He did not know what was wrong with the water, but the answer was obvious: shut down the pump. The pump drew water from the Thames below the site where sewage was emitted, and years later, the mechanism of cholera would be elucidated. But happily, it was not necessary to wait until all the details were clear in order to take effective action.

This true story illustrates the answer to the often raised question: Who can take the credit for the health we enjoy? The animal experimentation lobby would like to take the bow for increased human longevity, but is such credit deserved?

The facts are unequivocal. Animal experiments played virtually no role at all in the increased longevity we enjoy. According to researchers from Boston University and Harvard University:

... the decline of mortality in the second half of the nineteenth century was due wholly to

a reduction of deaths from infectious diseases: there was no evidence of a decline in other causes of death. Examination of the diseases which contributed to the decline suggested that the main influences were: a) rising standards of living of which the most significant feature was a better diet; b) improvements in hygiene; and c) a favorable trend in the relationship between some microorganisms and the human host. Therapy made no contributions, and the effect of immunization was restricted to smallpox which accounted for only about one-twentieth of the reduction of the death rate. (McKeown et al, 1975)

Dr. Muir Gray, in his book *Man Against Disease* states:

The decline in mortality can be attributed more to the prevention of disease than to the development of specific therapies. . . In the twentieth century, many effective cures have been developed, but most of this advance has taken place in the years following the Second World War during which no great improvement in the rate of increase in the expectation of life can be detected. (Oxford Press, 1979)

Which brings us to medicine's current challenges. Of course, the sewage problems of the 19th century are not the problems of America in 1989. Our problems are dietary factors, other habit and lifestyle problems, and what is, in effect, "synthetic sewage"—the solvents, pesticides, PCB's and other dangerous chemicals to which the population is exposed.

A fascinating study published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* in 1987 showed that seemingly trivial exposures to common chemicals were linked to cases of childhood leukemia. Insecticides, solvents, and paints commonly used by parents around the home and at work have evidently led to increased rates of leukemia in their children. These exposures occur when pregnant women cross paths with exterminators, painters, and even their husbands' clothes covered with industrial chemicals.

Furthermore, it is now well known that 30 percent of cancer is caused by tobacco and as much as 40 to 60 percent of cancer is associated with a high-fat, low-fiber diet.

Unfortunately, scientists are preoccupied with the "trees" rather than the "forest." Attention has focused on laboratory investigations rather than population studies. While we dissect and analyze our synthetic sewage and feed it to animals in laboratories, no one is shutting off the source of disease.

Even with our veritable army of experimenters, equipped with billions of dollars of equipment and tens of millions of animals, Americans still lag behind the Japanese, who have the highest life expectancy in the world. It is not animal experiments that keep the Japanese alive and well for those extra years; it is their

Continued on page 54

Media Diary (II)—

ANIMALS
IN THE
ELECTRONIC
EYE

BY DAVID PATRICE GREANVILLE



Hirsch complaining to Rather.



Mannetti confronting hunters.

The strong symbiosis that binds print media and television dictates that where the first marches, the other will soon follow. Thus it's not surprising that with many of the nation's newspapers and magazines doing an increasing number of features on animals and the environment, television, too, has begun paying better attention to these subjects.

Despite the fact that, as examined below, not all television programming can be counted on to be helpful to the cause of animal liberation, the broadcasters' newly-found interest in animals, and in exploring the thinking that justifies their exploitation, is a welcome development. With the animal defense movement engaged in a difficult battle with the forces of tradition—a struggle that may last well into the 21st century and beyond—television (and cinema, too) may prove indispensable for turning huge numbers of people away from their acculturation.

But the emerging promise of television must be projected on the basis of its accustomed ways of handling animal issues. Animals are not new to the electronic medium—neither here nor abroad. In the U.S., "nature shows" have long been a programming staple on PBS, and more than a decade ago CBS risked (and caught) the fury of the hunting fraternity by airing a tough-minded documentary, "The Guns of Autumn." This uncharacteristic act of programming boldness was echoed a few years later by the Bravo channel, a cable mini-network whose managers, after some nervous hand-wringing, voted to air *The Animals' Film*. Although the audience's reaction proved the Bravo executives right, the hand-wringing may have been justified. At the time, animal rights issues had rarely been introduced to a mass American audience.

In more recent years, other cable channels—especially SuperStation TBS—have also carried animal and environmental programs with heartening regularity. Unfortunately, the same can't be said for mainstream TV. For here, despite exceptions such as NBC's *Donahue* and ABC's *Sally Jesse Raphael*, both of which aired wide-ranging debates on animal rights with the participation of some of this movement's most articulate voices, the prevailing attitude has been one of benign indifference.

Indifference, of course, until Fran Trutt. For, while regrettable, nothing seems to capture the media's attention better than real or threatened violence. But whatever prompted TV's top brass to switch gears, it wasn't until last February 2nd, when CBS devoted an entire edition of its news-magazine *48 Hours* to animal rights, that a major network tried to cover the subject in all its stupendous diversity. Then, in late March, it was ABC's turn to weigh in with a *20/20* segment on

animal rights. To the fur industry's dismay, which issued hysterical warnings about the show and lambasted its own publicists and rank-and-file for indiscipline and ineptitude, the program focused sympathetically on anti-fur protests.

Sorting out the spectrum

By definition, the media are rarely capable of or willing to challenge established values and institutional arrangements. Hence it's no surprise that at this point American TV does little more than reflect, in a distorted manner, the public's prevailing attitudes about animals. But what is this opinion? It seems that mainstream views fall today into four major groupings: those who talk about animals but avoid the more difficult issues; those who show ample but flawed sympathies; those who try hard to be fair to both humans and animals in what is wrongly perceived as a zero sum between the two; and those who make no secret of their hostility. As might be expected, all four major strands of opinion have given rise to program equivalents on the tube, with wildlife programs by far the main subject of attention. In that regard, at least, the print media have always shown far more topical flexibility. In our next column we'll take a look at the way wildlife issues are portrayed on television—especially PBS's leading shows *Nature* and *Wildlife America*. But first, let's begin with an analysis of how two widely divergent programs—*48 Hours* and *The Morton Downey, Jr. Show* have addressed animal rights.

48 Hours: the quest for objectivity

Billed by CBS's publicists as a show reporting on the escalating conflict between the rights of animals and the rights of people, *48 Hours* on February 2 tried hard to remain impartial. Activists were filmed on their forays to save cats, dogs, deer, calves, and primates, and into the labs, where some of the show's most painful sequences were captured.

No program confined to one hour can do justice to the breadth of the issues discussed, but by simply recording slices of the ongoing controversy, CBS may have given the audience as fair an introduction to animal rights as it's likely to get for some time.

Inevitably, some issues came across better than others. The showdown in the woods of north-eastern Connecticut between hunters and members of the Animal Rights Front (ARF) bent on disrupting the "sport" at almost any cost may have impressed people for the calm, courage, and moral maturity evidenced by the activists. At no

point did the camera record stridency or cheap taunting of the hunters. Bill Mannetti, one of ARF's leaders, is seen remonstrating with one of the hunters; there is no arrogance, anger, or self-righteousness in his voice. He realizes that he may not convince his target, but that's not the point. One's witness for the animals, he says, may have an impact later—perhaps among that hunter's sons, nephews, or even grandsons. In any case, the seeds of fellowship with the victimized creatures must be planted now. Considering how badly the hunters looked—what with their paper-thin excuses and infantile bravado (a couple of hunters are shown defiantly dangling deer guts and threatening to shoot anyone who gets in their way)—I'd say that in future they'll think twice before allowing a candid portrayal of their pastime.

Ample sympathy for the animals' side may have also been elicited by three other segments. In one, Wally Swett, director of Primarily Primates, a Texas refuge for mistreated and abandoned primates, has an opportunity to give the viewers not only a tour of his institution's facilities, but also an insight into the kind of human behavior that made it necessary. "Tyrone the Terrible," a chimp now living in peaceful retirement at the compound, is shown in his former life being whipped into a frenzy by a circus trainer. The footage, originally shot by the Michigan Humane Society, is eloquent in depicting the kind of heartlessness animal rights activists like Swett are trying to eradicate.

Similarly inspiring—and perhaps unexpected in its impact—was the segment devoted to factory farming. Long relegated to the backburner of animal activism, this is a tough issue to communicate and "sell." Indeed, with most people deeply conditioned to regard "food animals" as somehow less worthy of social compassion than, say, wildlife, and in a certain way enslaved by taste and dietary habits, factory farming is easily, with biomedical research, one of the toughest nuts to crack.

Such difficulties were not in evidence, though, in Brad Miller's well-reasoned arguments on behalf of calves being raised to produce milk-fed veal. Gifted with a "cool" television persona, Miller, who heads the Humane Farming Association, a California-based group, had no trouble educating the public about the ghastly conditions in which calves are forced to spend their entire natural lives. His summation was terse and irrefutable: "Certainly they're not pets... But simply because they're not [doesn't mean] they should be tortured. They can suffer. It's a basic level of common decency we're seeking."

It's fortunate that issues of this magnitude and complexity (knowledge of agriculture and nutri-

tion are indispensable to defend many points) are in the hands of people not only well qualified, but quietly obstinate as well. For Miller, like Alex Hershaft, founder of Farm Animal Reform Movement (FARM), another pioneering group based in Washington, D.C., have long been burdened by the perception that factory farming, as an issue, is not terribly "heroic," "winnable," or "sexy." As a result, they have toiled in comparative loneliness, with the movement providing only occasional support.

The tragedy of companion animal overpopulation was also sensitively explored by the film. With the strain still visible on the animal shelter's worker, who tried hard to place him, a husky is seen winning a new lease on life after being providentially adopted—a few minutes before being euthanized. But if *48 Hours* was exemplary in rising well above superficiality and malicious caricature in its presentation of most animal questions, the sequences devoted to animal research may have dissipated a lot of the accumulated good will toward animal rights. Pitted against hunters and farmers, animal activists had no trouble holding their own; food admits a wide spectrum of choices and hunting can be easily dismissed as frivolous if not outright depraved. But confronted with the challenge of defending the animals' rights against humanity's interests in the area of health, the stakes became suddenly heavier. Cosmetics testing aside, this is an issue with few soft underbellies.

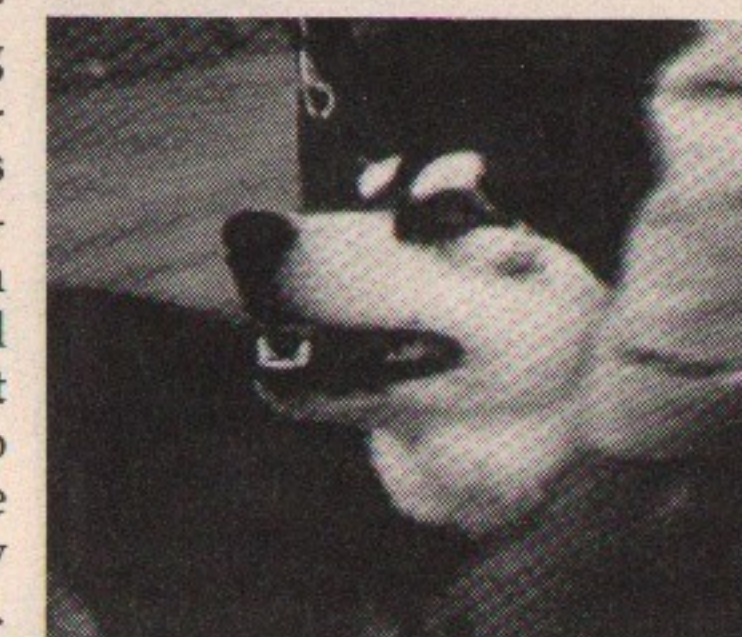
It was therefore quite unsurprising to find cardiologists who do lethal experiments on dogs waxing eloquent about the value of their work for humans. "That animal," noted one of the researchers, "was scheduled for euthanasia anyway. Now he's got a chance to contribute." How many people will disagree with such apparent logic? And even a controversial character such as U.S. Surgical's Leon Hirsch, the putative victim of a bombing attack by an animal activist, is given a chance to make his case under optimal conditions. Asked by Dan Rather "if his conscience [ever] bothers him," Hirsch replies that he'd like to ask his critics if "they'd like to have their child... on that table and have surgeons learn how to use the staplers on him." "I guess I can't conceive how anyone can feel that an animal is more important than my daughter or your daughter," he adds superfluously.

Now, I'm sure the show's producers could have found more articulate and fiery voices to present the anti-vivisection point of view, or focused on the myriad of experiments that represent nothing but redundancy, callousness, and a waste of the taxpayers' money. But that's precisely the problem. They—like society at large—remain be-

Continued on next page



HFA's Miller (r) debating farmer on radio.



A new lease on life.



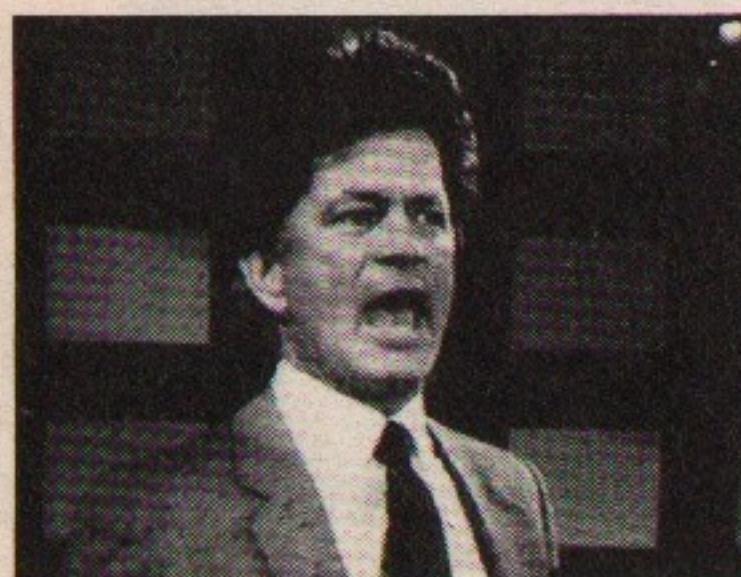
"We'll shoot anyone who gets in the way!"



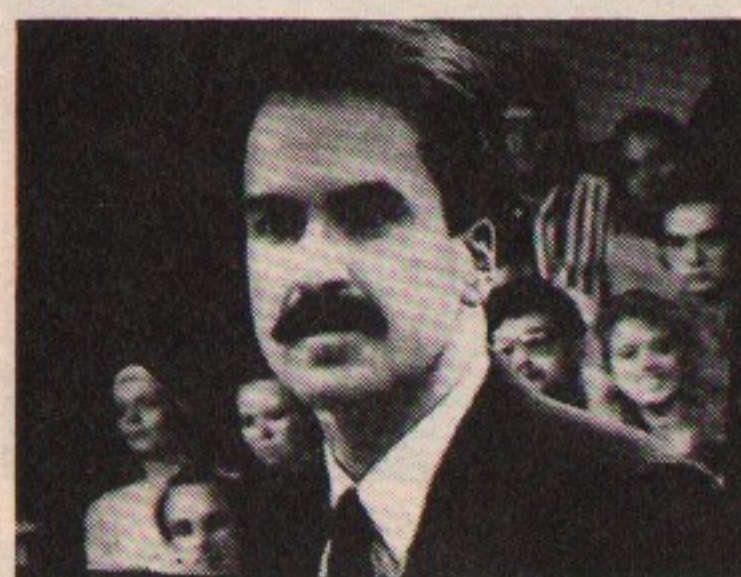
Tyrone in happy retirement.



"Killing bulls never bothered me one bit."



Michaels rising to the challenge.



Wayne Holt of HART.



Hawkins and Minnick.

Continued from previous page

holden to the researchers' self-serving claims. A lot of things—including technological innovations—may have to happen before we see real breakthroughs in this field. Still, the images of an anonymous dog going to her death—just her inanimate paw showing from under the surgical sheets, a maze of tubes sprouting from her chest and mouth—may have moved a substantial number of viewers to at least begin questioning these hallowed practices.

In sum, although the treatment of animal research left something to be desired, and Dan Rather, with his customary tact, wound up the show with the news that an "important" experiment had been cancelled on account of animal rightist agitation, *48 Hours* deserves recognition for a brave attempt at covering a complex issue with integrity and candor.

TV as deathwish: the Morton Downey Show

I don't know why, but every time I see animal rights activists on the Morton Downey, Jr. Show, I'm reminded of the charge of the Light Brigade: awfully gallant but also a bit futile. What motivates such people? Some, I'm sure, are guided by the sense of desperation for media attention common among activists in a relatively unpopular cause. Others enter this electronic cesspool because of a desire to be more widely recognized, a macho wish to stare the monster down in his own lair, a heroic desire for self-immolation, or the urge not to concede the field to the other side without a fight. Am I leaving something out?

But whatever the motive, the fact remains that the possibility of advancing our viewpoint in this atmosphere is slim at best. In a good night, the odds that elementary reason, compassion, or truth will prevail on this show are worse than for a Jew to gain sympathy before a mob of howling storm troopers. For Downey's stock-in-trade is to load the dice so that even simple explanations will have to be negotiated over a minefield of vituperations, hoots, interruptions, fraudulent statements, sneers, and general inattention. . . Under such circumstances, it's practically impossible for a serious person to get anything across without sounding extravagant, angry, shrill, and extremist—exactly what Downey and his producers want.

The latest encounter of animal rights activists with Downey on Feb. 9 seems to provide further proof that caution is in order. Ostensibly devoted

to a discussion of rodeo and bullfighting, the program, taped in Texas, kicked off with a tendentious cross-examination of Wayne Holt and Sean Hawkins, members of the Houston Animal Rights Team (HART), who gave a fine account of themselves, and later of Gil Michaels, the irrepressible publisher of *The Animals' Voice*. The bipolarity was provided by Jason Brown, a champion rodeo cowboy; Lynn Sherwood, publisher of a bullfighting sheet; David Renk, a self-styled American matador; Pam Minnick, a showbiz "cowgirl" ("Do I look like someone who's gonna hurt a cow?"); and the normal procession at the "loudmouth."

As expected, the level of discussion didn't soar much. The point that rodeos represent cruelty and unnecessary suffering was largely lost on the audience. Similarly, when Michaels, visibly exasperated, tried to read the rodeo rules, hooting drowned him out, while Minnick, jumping to her feet, shook her body at him in a sexually provocative but insulting gesture. Chickakaboom! To his credit, Michaels refused to be intimidated, and even seemed comfortable enough to go on the offensive. (Sherwood: "After I've killed a bull I become a sexual giant!" Michaels: "You're a sick moron...death turns you on! Death and pain and suffering turn you on? Get outta here!") At one point Michaels even got Downey to show a tape he'd brought depicting inept bullfighters trying to finish a poor animal off. The clip may have provided one of the few educational moments in the entire show—but what a price!

Of course, the tape had little effect on true believers. Renk, who apparently skewers logic with more adroitness than he does bulls, proclaimed his total indifference to the animals' fate. "I killed my first bull when I was 11," drawled Renk. "Didn't bother me then...never did. Because if it weren't for me, and Lyn Sherwood, and people like us, the bull wouldn't even be alive today!" Figure that one out.

The Downey show, despite the host's recent efforts to appear more civilized and therefore palatable to major advertisers (nearly 100 national and regional advertisers refuse to be aired on the show, and the trend is on the upswing), may be a big waste of time. For social activists little is provided in the way of compensation if they do something right; and malicious ridicule is sure to follow if they lose their cool. Is American TV really so barren that we need to take our message to such sleazy shows? Perhaps we should heed the advice of Roman cynics: "Honor those who die foolishly for Rome, but do not follow in their footsteps!"

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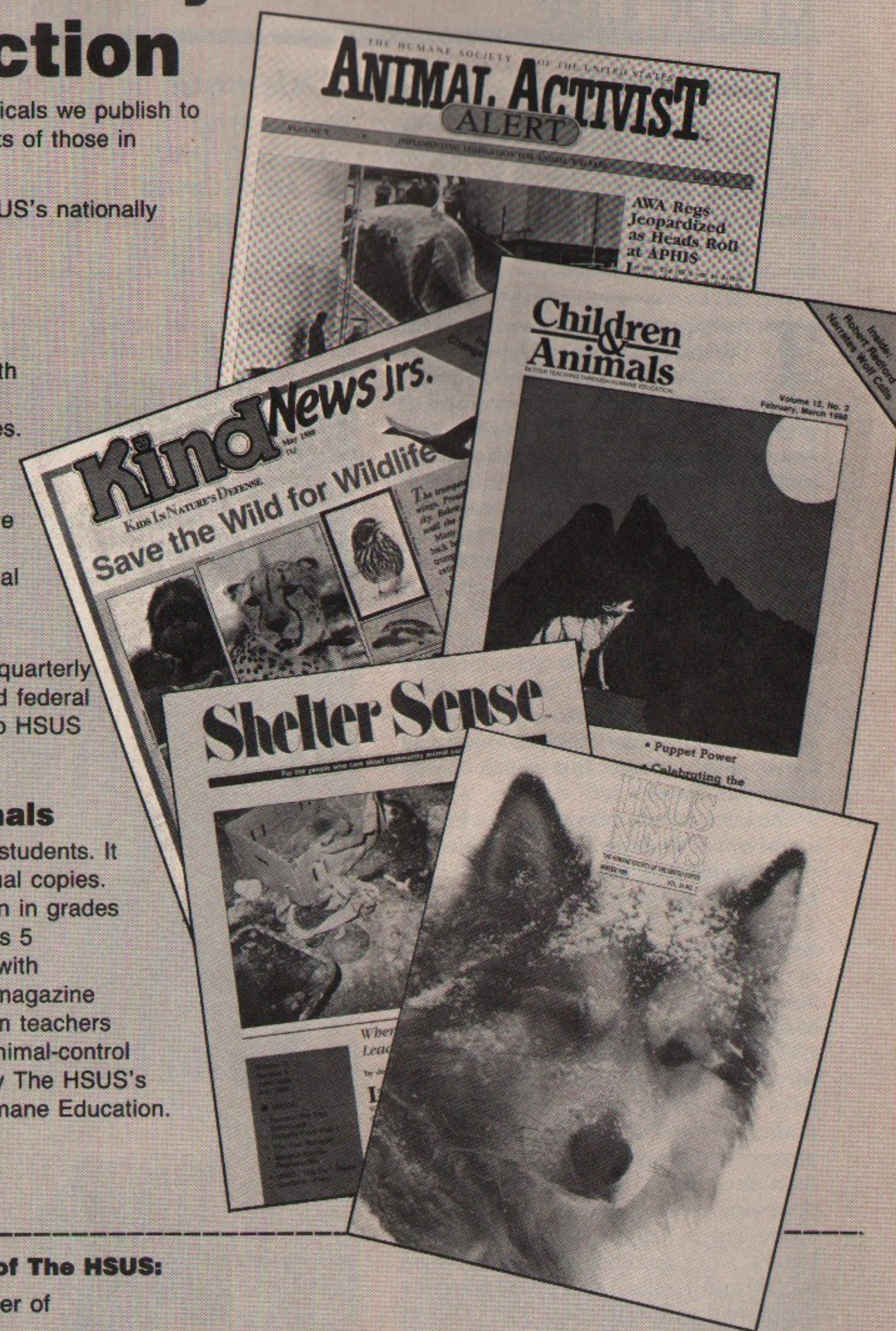
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In for Life

Beyond the Bars: The Zoo Dilemma

Edited by Virginia McKenna, Bill Travers, Jonathan Wray
Sterling, New York; Thorson's Publishing Group, U.K., 1987
208 pages, softcover; \$12.95 U.S., £5.99 U.K.; \$17.95 Canada
(Available from the International Society for Animal Rights, 421 South State St., Clarks Summit, PA 18411, for \$12.95 postpaid)

The most common arguments for the existence of zoos fall into four categories: 1) entertainment; 2) education; 3) scientific research; and 4) preservation of species. The contributors to *Beyond the Bars* deal with each of these purported benefits, and manage to touch on many other issues along the way, including hunting, the fur trade, circuses, and the destruction of the environment.

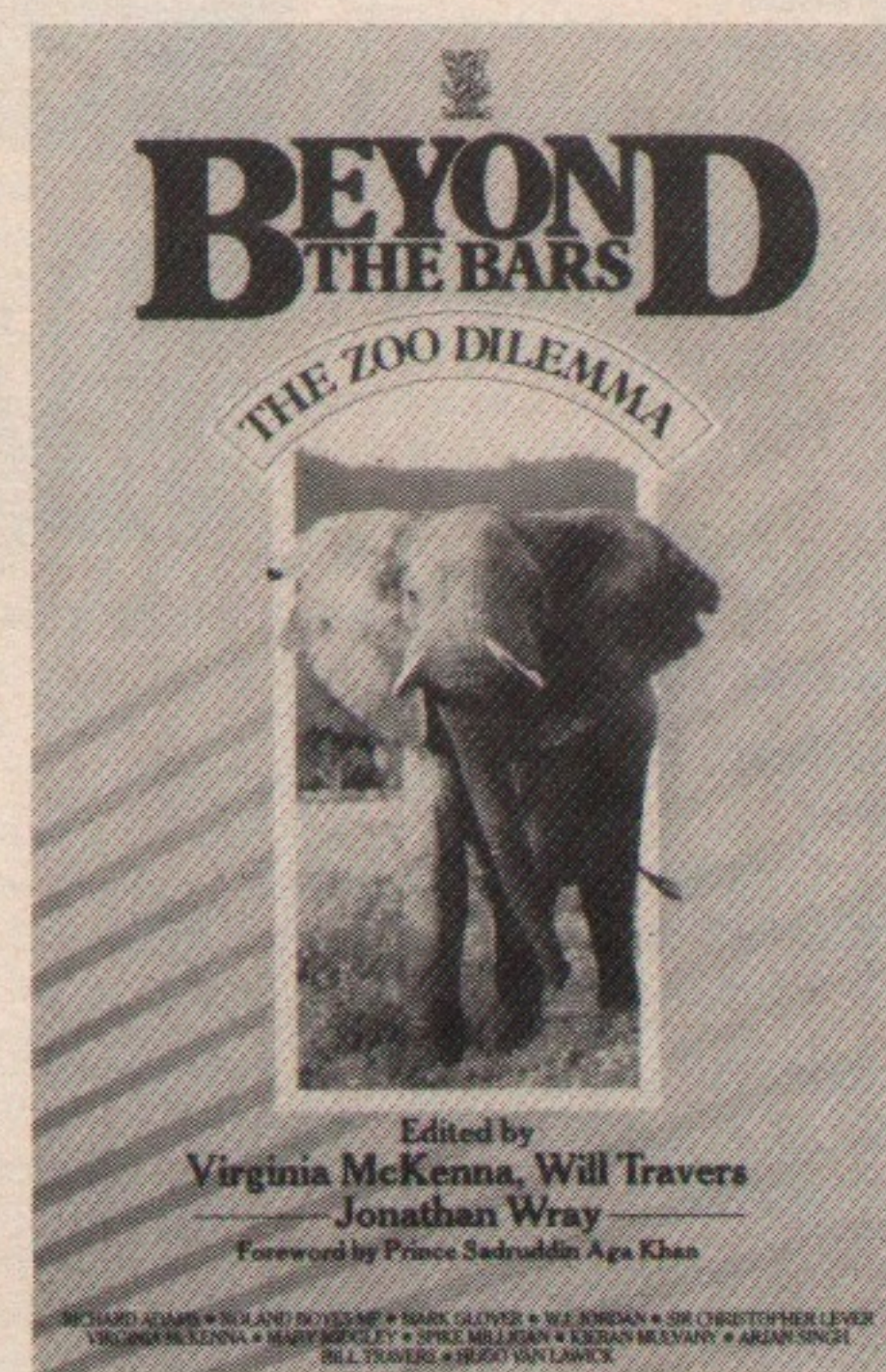
Beyond the Bars includes chapters by Virginia McKenna, actress and founder of the Zoo Check organization; Bill Jordan, veterinarian and director of the People's Trust for Endangered Species; Mary Midgley, author and philosopher; author Richard Adams; Mark Glover, founder of Lynx; and wildlife film-maker Baron Hugo van Lowick.

The book concludes with a moving account by Bill Travers of the tragic life and death of Pole Pole, an elephant taken from her mother in the wild, used in the film *An Elephant Called Slowly*, and then condemned to the London Zoo. There are many photographs and illustrations, along with some poems by Spike Milligan.

With the current public interest in conservation, zoos are promoted as "new Arks"—preserving species for future reintroduction into the wild. Since this aspect of zoos would seem to have more merit than the others, as a justification for depriving animals of their freedom, it is addressed at length by several contributors. After pointing out that between 500,000 and a million species are currently threatened with extinction, Mark Glover writes: *And yet, what is our response to this critical state of emergency? Millions and millions of people every year visit zoos around the world believing them to be oases for these endangered species, where they breed very successfully until one day when miraculously they will be returned to the wild. All of the literature and propaganda from the zoo world reinforces this view, and the money paid over by the visitors is done with the thought that at least some of it is going to the cause of conservation. Every year zoos around the world spend many times over the combined incomes of all conservation organizations, but their*

contribution to the saving of endangered species is negligible by comparison. Worse than the monetary aspects of this imbalance is the psychological effect that zoos have. People really believe that captive, caged groups of animals are a solution to the decimation of the world's natural areas which continues unabated.

Kiernan Mulvaney adds that on paper, captive breeding programs seem reasonable, but that for such work "to be regarded as a valuable contribution to conservation, the rate at which species are rescued through captive breeding would have to come close to or match the rate at which those same species are becoming extinct in the wild. This it patently fails to do." Mulvaney also stresses the costs of captive breeding programs. He states that saving the Arabian oryx reportedly cost \$16 million, while the



California condor breeding program has so far cost \$25 million. It should be noted here that most species kept in zoos are not faced with extinction.

In his chapter, "Lobbying for Parliament," M.P. Roland Boyes describes public education as a "weak argument" for zoos, contrasting the unnatural habitat and lack of realistic information on wildlife and environmental issues in zoos with the importance and value of wildlife documentaries. Naturalist Arjan Singh adds, "The educative value of wildlife is in reality a meaningless cliché. Animals must be saved for their own sake and not because the public will, hopefully, decree that it should be so."

On the subject of behavioral research, Baron van Lowick suggests that studying animals in zoos is like "a visitor from another planet trying to discover normal human behavior by watching the inhabitants of a mental institution," and that some scientists who want to study animals prefer the comforts of home to life in the wild and so choose to do their work at zoos.

The ugly spin-off businesses of the zoo industry are touched upon only briefly in this book: the millions of animals killed to feed the captives; and animal dealers and auctions that peddle zoo surplus animals to hunting ranches, laboratories, roadside zoos and traveling shows, foreign zoos with no welfare laws, individuals unequipped to handle them as "pets," and to television and movie producers responsible for abusive training. These sales are often hidden from the public because of the known high potential for cruelty.

Not much has been written about the exploitation of animals in zoos since the 1976 publication of *Living Trophies* by Peter Batten, a former zoo director. And, except for isolated protests over the treatment of individual animals, organizations concerned with animal rights and welfare have largely ignored the problems and suffering of animals in zoo prisons.

In her opening chapter, Virginia McKenna writes, "We would consider it cruel to confine a dog permanently in a kennel. Yet we visit zoos where hundreds of wild animals are kept permanently in the equivalent of a kennel. It is as if we, like the animals, become trapped within the zoo concept and cannot see beyond the bars." Possibly this book will help clear our perspective.

—Margaret Cook and Linda Sandusky

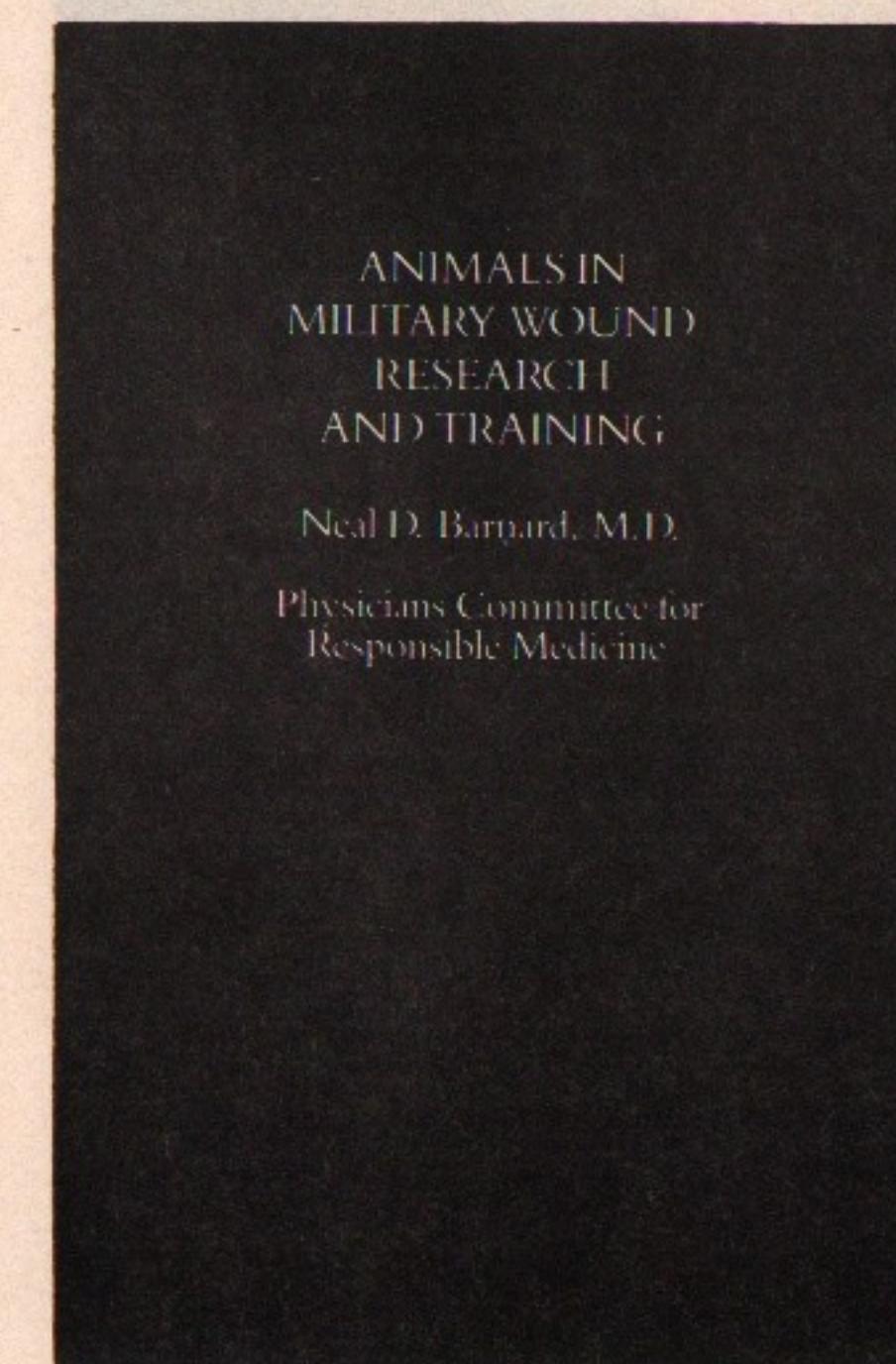
Victims of War Research

Animals in Military Wound Research and Training

By Neal D. Barnard, M.D.
Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, 1988
191 pages, softcover, \$4.50
(Available from PCRM, P.O. Box 6322, Washington, DC 20015)

Dr. Neal Barnard's outstanding monograph on military research adds to a rapidly growing literature of serious, academic critiques of animal models. *Animals in Military Wound Research and Training* demonstrates with thorough documentation that wound labs have never made important contributions to the treatment of injured soldiers. Furthermore, contemporary issues in wound research favor alternatives to animal models. For example, synthetics that approximate the consistency of human tissues are superior to animals in studies on the disruptive forces of bullets. Also, Barnard notes that medical residents can and should learn principles and techniques of wound management from supervised "hands on" experience with human patients. This has been the traditional method of surgical training, and it remains the most efficient and relevant approach. Human and nonhuman animals suffer different anatomical and physiological consequences of gunshot wounds.

Dr. Barnard's work joins other important critiques of animal research, notably the monographs of Drs. Brandon Reines and Martin Stephens. The strength of Barnard's review of wound labs is its



relatively narrow focus, which permits a thorough evaluation. In contrast, many critics of animal research continue to rely heavily on books such as Hans Ruesch's *Slaughter of the Innocent*, which may contain sweeping conclusions insufficiently supported by data.

Virtually every time professional medical organizations such as the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine or the Medical Research Modernization Committee evaluate the clinical value of specific animal models, we find that the "model" appears irrelevant to human health. In general, animal and human diseases are given the same name and are superficially similar, but the disease processes differ fundamentally. For example, injection of rapidly-growing cancer cells in young, healthy animals causes very different cancers from the major human cancer killers, which are spontaneous, slow-growing tumors in elderly people.

Careful scientific critiques of animal models have been instrumental in successful campaigns against inappropriate animal research. But it is not enough to have well-documented resources; activists must read and study these materials. It is much more effective to quote a medical authority than to express a lay opinion.

—Stephen Kaufman, M.D.

Dr. Kaufman is vice-chairman of the Medical Research Modernization Committee, P.O. Box 6036 Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163-6018.

To Sleep, Perchance to Sing

Prince of Whales

By R.L. Fisher
Tor Books, 1987
151 pages, paperback, \$2.50

Once upon a time, stories were told purely from a human perspective. With few exceptions (and most of these being children's stories), the characters were always human beings, and the situations and perceptions always centered around human ideas and attitudes. But with the growing interest in

animals, many contemporary stories are being told from new, nonhuman perspectives. Whether for a simple story of entertainment and light inspiration like *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*, or a cautionary moral play like *Wolf of Shadows* (see *Reviews*, June 1987), many writers are taking on the personalities of animals to tell

stories from *their* points of view.

It's no surprise that whales, who are something of an archetype for the animal rights movement, figure in many of these tales. Among the first of these was *The Last Blue Whale*, a 1979 novel by Vincent Smith written from three perspectives: that of a whaling ship, the pod of whales it hunts, and a conservationist eager to protect the whales. In 1981, Robert Siegel's *Whalesong* took on the viewpoint of whales to a greater degree, exploring the mythological culture and philosophy of a whale pod from the point of view of a young whale as he passes from youth into adulthood.

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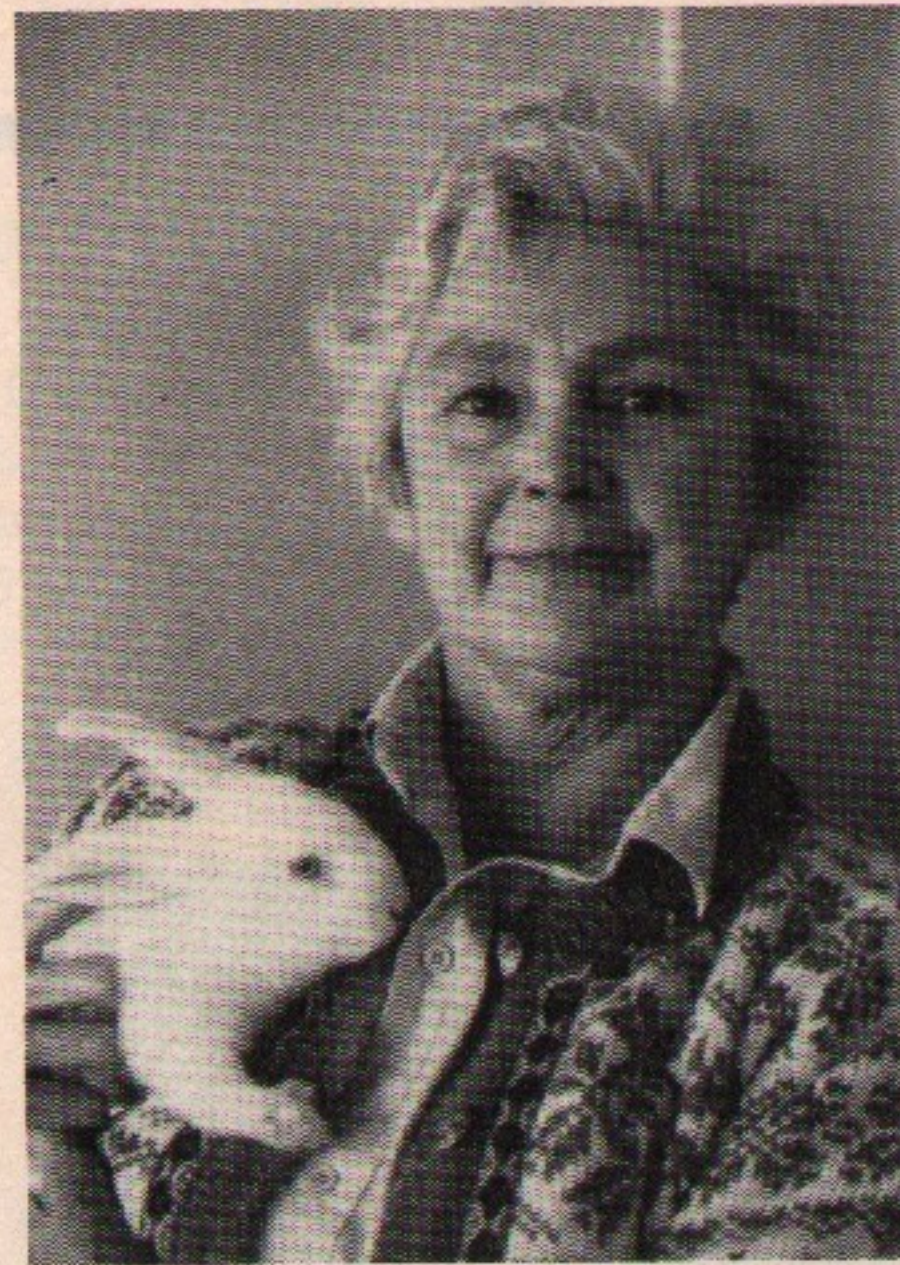
INTERVIEW

Continued from page 10

of the scale are those procedures that cause severe and lasting pain—call these category E. In between are step-wise gradations of increasing animal pain, B through D. To use the classification system, each and every experiment is rated according to how much, if any, animal pain is involved. In order to assess the justification for any procedure, the degree of animal pain is weighed against the likely social good that could result.

It is the IACUC's responsibility to see that in every possible case the procedures are modified to reduce the amount of animal pain. This comprises practical application of alternatives. Procedures that fall at the top of the scale, in category E, should be automatically disapproved because they would involve procedures that are beyond the pale in terms of ethical justification. And it is, of course, the procedures at the top of the pain scale that command the greatest attention and are the subject of most public protests.

Classifying animal pain in this way has much to commend it. It helps educate people to the concept of alternatives because the emphasis is always on reducing animal pain and animal use. A pain classification system is part of public policy in several countries, including the United Kingdom, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Canada. Although it has been proposed as public policy in the U.S., it seems that this concept is unlikely to be adopted yet.



However, some progressive research institutions in the U.S. are already using such a system on a voluntary basis and are enthusiastic about it. The IACUCs at these institutions require their investigators to classify their experiments according to how much animal pain is involved. They report that this requirement helps to sensitize investigators to what they are doing. Also, it serves to alert the IACUC about the depth of review needed, with those experiments high on the scale commanding the most attention.

COMING SOON

◆ **THE WORLD'S LARGEST EXOTIC ANIMAL AUCTION** takes place in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. This trade fair draws breeders, collectors, suppliers, exhibitors, hobbyists, and hunters. As one undercover activist learned, it's the best place to go for a quick education on exotic animal trafficking.

◆ **WILDLIFE RESCUES CAN BEGIN** with finding an owl caught in a leghold trap, a baby bird on the sidewalk, an oil-fouled turtle on the beach, or noticing movement in an apparent roadkill. First comes exhilaration at discovering life, at being able to help. Then comes the problem: Just how does one rescue and rehabilitate a wild animal, anyway? A look at some of the people who care for injured and orphaned wildlife.

◆ **CHICKENS ARE FAR MORE SENSITIVE THAN WE THINK.** These birds flourish when treated with affection, but the raising of chickens by modern agribusiness isn't a process that overflows with compassion. Gone is the barnyard of yore—today's chicken lives and dies on an assembly line.

I wonder if that sort of thing could also be used to subvert the process. I have heard some experimenters suggest that they should not have to submit for review experiments that were of limited invasiveness. Have you found that to be the case?

I don't think that's unreasonable. There is what's called expedited review for certain classifications of human experiments that are minimally invasive, such as blood sampling or physical examinations. If an investigator knows that a rapid review is available for experiments with minimal or no animal pain, then this might encourage less invasive work.

Caging and routine handling can be just as stressful for the animals as the experiments themselves. Could the scale be expanded to encompass those concerns?

Well, yes. However, it would call for a bit of creative thinking. The broad concept of having different levels of invasiveness and getting that across to the scientific community and the public is important. Some people seem to think that all animal experiments include severe and lasting pain, but this is not so—many are minimally invasive. Of course, most public attention is attracted to the category D and E experiments. As an educational mechanism, despite all these other issues you bring up, the scales have a lot going for them.

Regarding changes in attitude, let me add a comment about humane scientists. I think there's a real lack of appreciation that such people exist. Humane society representatives as well as grassroots activists will often deny that one can be a scientist engaged in animal experimentation and be humane. Actually, there are a number of scientists in many disciplines who are very much concerned about improving the standards of animal experimentation. They are speaking up. Based on my experience, I have found that working actively for animal protection is consistent with my belief that some animal experiments conducted under strictly controlled conditions and for dignified, socially worthy objectives are justified. It would be good to see some acknowledgment that humane scientists do exist—especially since they may be under fire from their scientific colleagues. They need some encouragement and, perhaps, a bit of appreciation from the animal protection movement.

Dr. Barnard is a practicing physician and chairman of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine.

COMPASSIONATE LIVING

BY VICTORIA MORAN

It's Your Turn

Folks who read this column send me so much useful information that a couple of times a year I like to turn the space over to those active reader-writers who offer tips the rest of us can use. Some of those that have come to my mailbox recently include subscribing to:



Guide to Healthy Eating, a bimonthly publication of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. The good doctors of PCRM are experts on animal-free nutrition and non-animal methods of research and medical education. The *Guide* carries articles on nutrition, the psychology of changing habits, and low-fat, cholesterol-free recipes—including some conveniently printed on 3x5 recipe cards. Subscriptions are \$9.95 per year, sent to PCRM, P.O. Box 6322, Washington, D.C. 20015. (They also have well-presented pamphlets on diabetes, AIDS, weight control, and many other health matters.)

Riding Gear free of leather was a moral dilemma for equestrienne Jennifer Baum until she discovered the "Wintec" saddle available through the Dover Saddlery catalog, 595 Washington St., Wellesley, MA 02181. The saddle comes in five styles (all-purpose, dressage sport, pro-am dressage, outback stockman, and down under endurance), is considerably less expensive than its leather counterparts, and is much lighter and more comfortable for horse and rider than the traditional

wooden tree leather saddle. (Jennifer suggests that anyone writing the company let them know why their deerskin, lamb-skin, and pigskin products are not acceptable.)

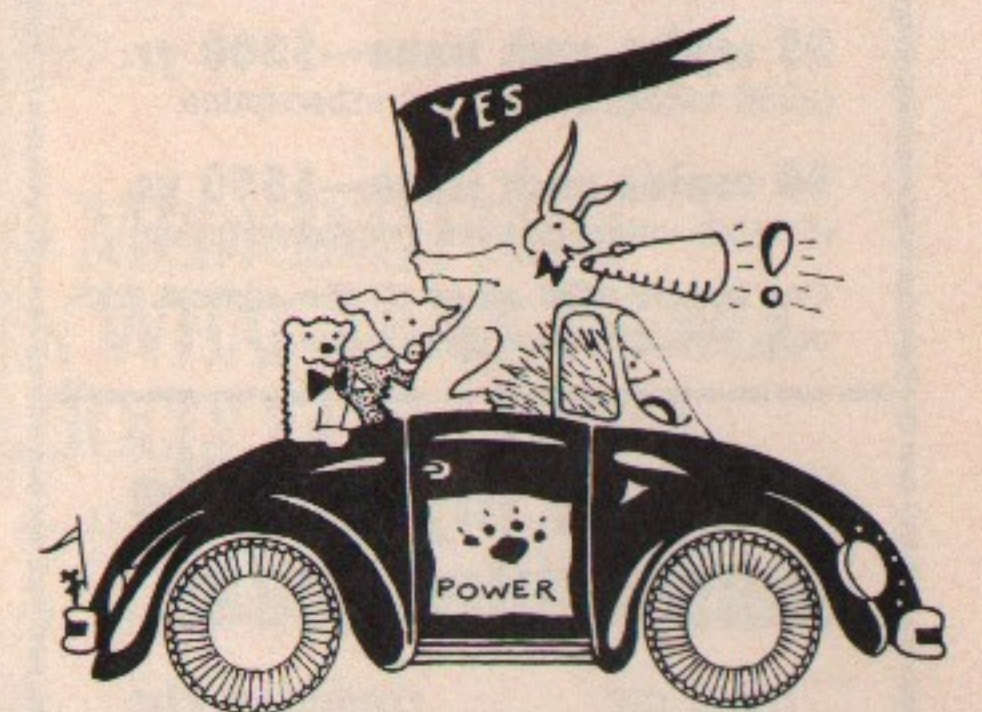
Bon Ami, A Good Friend? Since Bon Ami products are on numerous lists as cruelty-free and since they're one of the few cleaning choices so designated that's available in supermarkets, it's been a favorite for compassionate people. There's a rub, though, as Anthony Keys of Rhode Island let me know. He's been in contact with the Faultless Starch Company, makers of Bon Ami, and learned that Bon Ami Cleaning Powder and Bon Ami Cleaning Cake are very old products and therefore were never tested on animals. However, they do contain soap that includes an animal byproduct. Bon Ami Polishing Cleanser, Bon Ami Glass Cleaner, and Faultless Spray Starch were added to the line much later and were tested in 1980, 1972, and 1966 respectively. The polishing cleanser, however, unlike the original, does not contain the animal-based soap. The company's stand on testing is: "We do not intend to test future changes on animals, if we can anticipate the hazards without this testing. However, if we should use a large amount of a different chemical, we must test on animals according to the law. We would prefer not to do so and will adopt alternate non-animal tests when they are accepted by the government." (Note: Governmental regulations apply to cleaning products that do not apply to cosmetic preparations.)

Good Eating: The Vegetarian Alternative is a nifty little booklet put together by Walter Simpson and Nan Lampka Simpson, R.N. It introduces meatless eating in an inviting question and answer form. The booklets are \$.50 each and can also be ordered in bulk at a reduced rate from the Simpsons, P.O. Box 43, Amherst, NY 14226.

Eureka! I Found It! Just when it seems that there is no cruelty-free alternative to a certain product, one manages to present



itself. Some of those brought to my attention recently include: a de-tangler spray, especially welcome when dealing with children's hair, from Aubrey Organics. It's called "Primrose Tangle-Go Hair Conditioner, Lusterizer and Styling Spray," and it also moisturizes damaged hair and gives it a great shine... Aubrey also has mousse, non-tested and free of animal ingredients. "Natural Body High-Liter Mousse" comes in three shades to bring out the best in blond, brown, or black hair. (Aubrey Organics are available at most health food stores.)... Annemarie Borlind, a German company now distributing here, makes a cruelty-free nail polish remover that's kind to nails as well as animals since it contains no formaldehyde or acetone. Some of their other unique offerings include lipliner pencils in a rainbow of shades, and a product called "Sunless Bronze" for tanning without the sun. For information, write P.O. Box 1487, New London, NH 03257... VitaWave (7131 Owensmouth Ave., Suite 94-D, Canoga Park, CA 91303) makes vegan, non-animal-tested perms and permanent hair colorings, as well as other hair and skin care products.



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4BUNDX

Varmints

Continued from page 18

ters. "They have just as much right to live as we do. I just try to keep them off the porch," says Pat philosophically. Boy, do I hope she succeeds.

Like 'em or not, they all have a place

I suppose getting a sheep rancher to love coyotes will be about as easy as getting a lamb to lie down with lions. Or me to lie down with fire ants. Or you to get in a sleeping bag with rattlesnakes. Varmints are just about as "objectionable" for those of us in the animal liberation movement (a varminty bunch if ever there was one) as they are for plain folks in suburban Poughkeepsie or the alleys of Austin.

As I go around the country talking to different groups of people about animal liberation, the question always comes up: "How do you stand on fire ants?" ("Gracious, I usually try not to!") The same question has metamorphosed at various times into: "What would you do if you had a rattlesnake on your back porch?" And sometimes: "How would you like to be put out of business by a pesky coyote?" We have all had to answer this question in all its many forms.

The more my work with Varmint causes me to think seriously about these questions, the more I realize that the answer is simply: "All life is sacred." My yellow-

As hard as it may be for us to accept, there is no scale at all. No hierarchy but the ones we humans invent.

haired cat (who long since got bored with my pecking at this typewriter and is now basking happily on a branch in the leafless mulberry tree outside my window) is not lower down some imaginary scale than I am. He and I are not higher on the scale than rattlesnakes or coyotes or fire ants. As hard as it may be for us to accept, there is no scale at all. No hierarchy but the ones we humans invent. And it's the task of animal liberationists to spread this idea to a withering world.

AP

Charles Allen Dews is president of Varmint (P.O. Box 14195, Austin, TX 78761), co-president of the Austin Vegetarian Society, and founder of the Green Party in Texas. He is a writer and television producer, and, as a former owner of a black leather jacket, he now likes to think of himself as the Lyndon B. Johnson of the animal liberation movement.

Longer Life Expectancy

Continued from page 45

healthy diet. Likewise, in infant mortality, America does far worse than many other countries. Why? Because of economic factors and the uneven distribution of resources. Animal experiments can never rectify the enormous death rate caused by political and social causes.

Some improvements have occurred, however. In recent years, heart disease has begun to decline in this country. Again, the major reasons appear to be related to lifestyle—reductions in smoking and more attention to diet—rather than any element of biotechnical magic.

Cancer is still a tremendous problem. Despite a two-decade "War on Cancer," in which millions of animals have been killed, the cancer death rates have increased steadily. John Leavitt, Ph.D. of the Linus Pauling Institute of Science and Medicine stated in 1985:

Human cancer may have critical mechanistic differences [from rodent cancer] which may in

turn require different, uniquely human approaches to achieve cancer eradication.

And John Bailar, M.D., Ph.D. stated in the May 8, 1986 *New England Journal of Medicine*:

We are losing the war on cancer. . . A shift in research emphasis from research on treatment to research on prevention seems necessary if substantial progress against cancer is to be forthcoming.

So let us give credit where it is due: by far the strongest measures for health relate to diet, standard of living, lifestyle, and sanitation. It would be a far healthier world if we would spend less time shifting the sewage and simply take the handle off the pump.

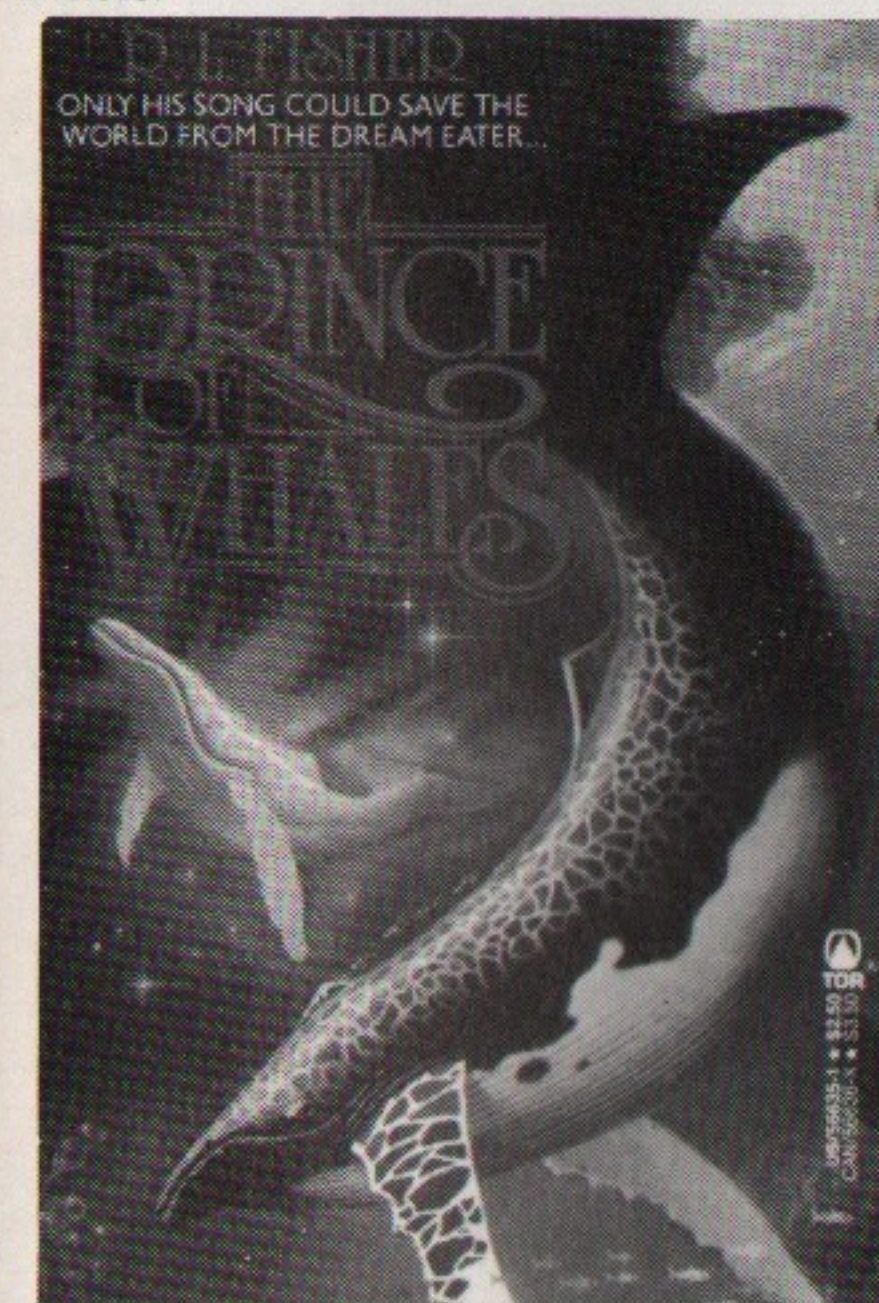
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Dr. Barnard is chairman of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, P.O. Box 6322, Washington, DC 20015; (202) 483-1312.

Prince of Whales

Continued from page 51

Now, R.L. Fisher's *The Prince of Whales* takes this approach even further, with a story of mystical fantasy about whales and spiritual unity. *Prince of Whales* tells the story of a messianic humpback whale destined to bring peace between his species and the malevolent humans. The central character is a young humpback with the rather hackneyed name of Toby, who is troubled by dreams that make him "dream-sing"—to the botherment of other pod members who'd rather sleep. Toby's uncontrolled dreamsinging eventually leads to his being outcast from the whale pod when the Grand Council of Elders decides his vociferous dreamsinging may lead the pod into danger from the Iron Beasts who hunt them. Eventually, Toby realizes his dreamsinging is a gift from whale spirits which will unite all species through the emotions elicited by his music.



While Fisher's intentions are noble ones, *The Prince of Whales* fails to rise above the simple fable of its concept. As a work of modern fantasy fiction, it falls into the juvenile category. Not only is it highly predictable and anthropomorphic, Fisher's whale society and the clichéd attitudes forced upon its members are wearisome and familiar to the avid reader of fantasy.

Nevertheless, animal rights supporters may enjoy the novel. Even if the whale's emotions and thought patterns are derived entirely from the human model, readers may be captivated by the book's childlike sense of wonder and its vision of a world of universal spiritual/species harmony.

—Randall D. Larson

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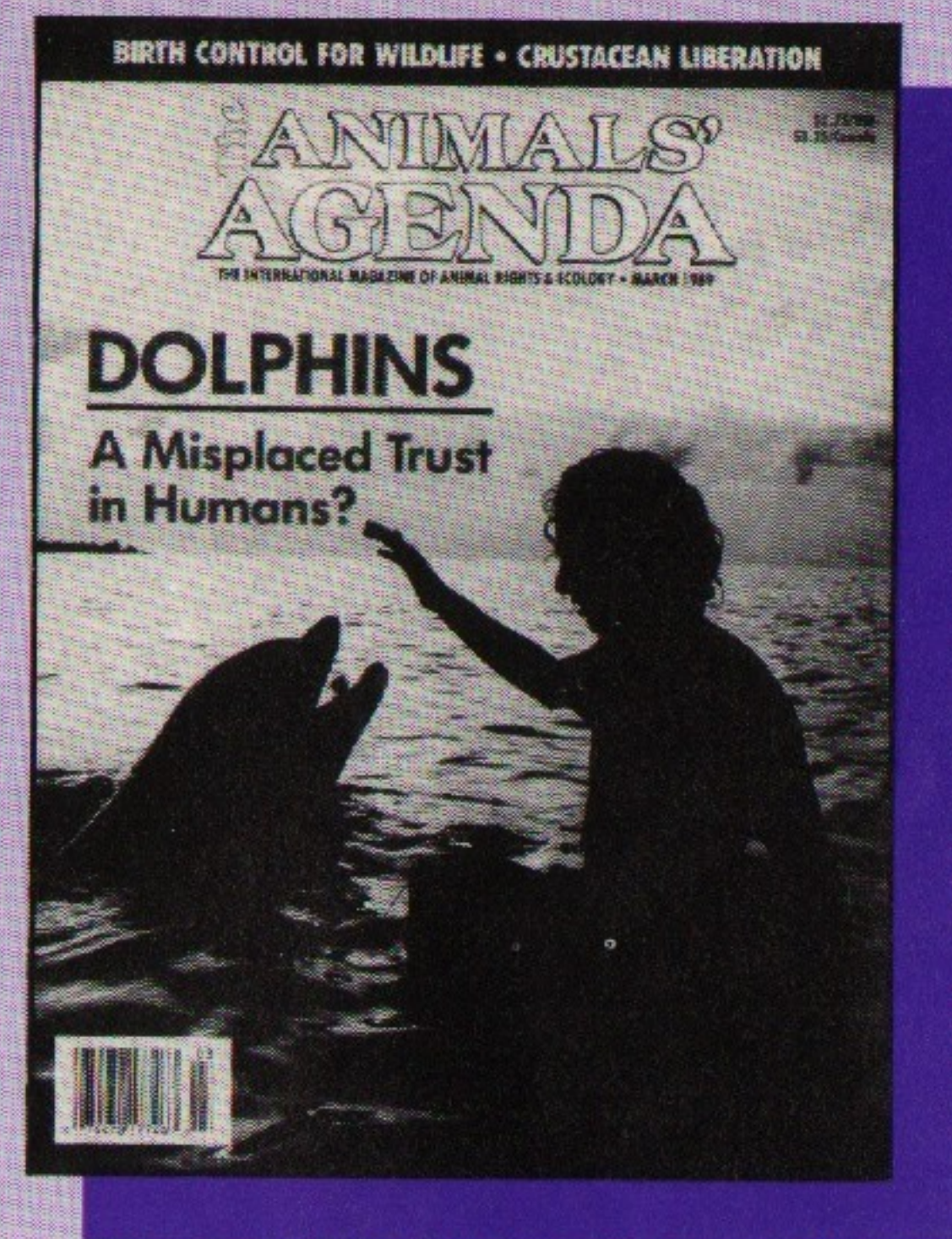
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LETTERS

Continued from page 6

TSU's contention that a scientific/factual argument for total abolition is by itself inadequate means acceptance of the vivisectors' line of reasoning—that the existence of any benefit from vivisection provides scientific (if not ethical) justification for its continuance. This approach reinforces the false notion that animal research is a "necessary evil." Likewise, SUPRESS' contention that a scientific/factual argument requires denial of any benefit whatsoever means acceptance of the same line—for it implies that vivisection *would* be scientifically justified if some benefit could be proven. This approach gets bogged down in squabbles over vivisectors' claims, and is unlikely to convince an audience believing in medical "miracles" that *nothing* useful has ever come out of animal research. By failing to put vivisection into realistic perspective, both sides promote an exaggerated notion of its clinical relevance.

The real question is whether a continued investment in vivisection is a sensible way to invest the public health dollar, and the answer is "no." The benefit of establishing a prevention-based health care system is greater than any benefit

vivisectors could claim—even if *all* their claims were true—that it doesn't even pay for society to split its investment between the two "investments." That is the message we should be delivering. It is a proactive stance, not merely a reaction to what vivisectors say and do. It gives us some initiative in planning a sane national health policy, instead of yielding that role to the disease-oriented medical establishment. And it emphasizes our positive commitment to the health of people and the planet, not just our protest against animal abuse.

—Steven Tiger
Fort Bragg, CA

"Cruelty-Free" Definition Too Narrow

I recently took the "cruelty-free pledge," and have been purchasing cosmetics and household products from companies that don't test on animals. Quite suddenly, I realized that I am now surrounded by more plastic containers and products containing phosphates than ever before. Can we truly call a product packaged in plastic

and containing phosphates "cruelty-free"? A fish slowly suffocating from algae growth in phosphate-infested water would not find it so, nor would a dolphin choking on bits of plastic.

Our current definition of "cruelty-free" is too narrow, and only serves to distance us from the ecology movement. I would like to see manufacturers that don't test on animals take a pledge not to use polluting chemicals, not to package in plastic, and not to use strong dyes in their labels.

—Judy Werlin
Irvington, NY



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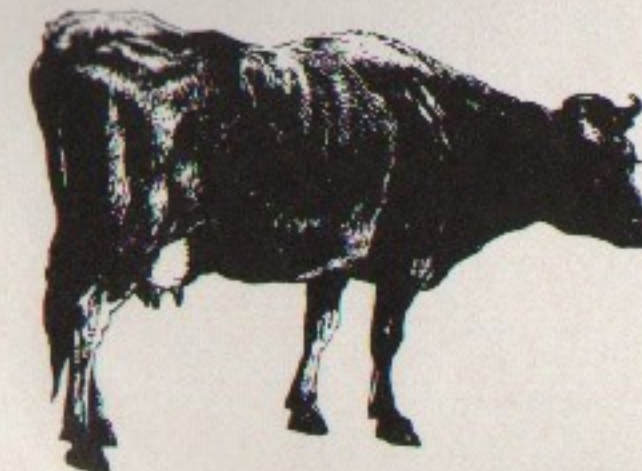
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Announcing The NEAVS 1989 Creative Arts Competition For Students



CASH SCHOLARSHIPS

Theme:

EXPRESSIONS OF ANIMAL RIGHTS

The New England Anti-Vivisection Society is offering students an opportunity to express their concepts of animal rights through three different creative mediums: writing, art and photography.

"Animal rights" suggests that animals have the right to share our planet without being harmed; that they be permitted to live out their lives in ways appropriate to their species without being oppressed or exploited by human beings. Examples of animal exploitation include the use of rabbits, dogs and monkeys in lab experiments; the confinement of cows, pigs, and chickens in "factory farms;" the killing of raccoons, foxes and lynx for their fur; or the use of animals such as bears and lions in circuses and bulls, goats and horses in rodeos.

Categories:

Creative Writing: a short story, poetry, play or other creative writing of any length. Must be typewritten, double spaced, on 8½ x 11 white paper.

Art: Painting, pen and ink drawing, collage, sculpture, or any other creative art form. Submit color slides only of your work. Do not mail original artwork to NEAVS.

Photography: Black and white or color photographs or videotapes. Prints must be 5x7 or larger, unmounted glossy finish. Slides may be entered. Photographic film must be 35mm or larger format. Videotapes must be one-half inch VHS format of any length.

Rules:

1. Any entry that exploits or harms animals in any way will be disqualified.

2. To enter, you must be a student enrolled in an accredited school grades 6 through 12 or a high school equivalency program for the school year of 1988-89 anywhere in the United States.

3. You may submit only one entry in each category.

4. You must have completed your entry after September 1, 1988.

5. Each entry must be identified with your full name; address including zip code; telephone number including area code; social security number; the name, address, and

telephone number of the school or the program in which you are enrolled, your principal's name, and your grade.

6. Send your entry in a heavy, manila envelope or other secure packaging.

7. Mail your entry to CREATIVE ARTS COMPETITION FOR STUDENTS, NEW ENGLAND ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY, SUITE 850, 333 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108-5100.

8. All entries must be postmarked by June 16, 1989 and received within one week.

9. All entries become the property of the New England Anti-Vivisection Society and may be reproduced and distributed, in whole or in part, by NEAVS at no charge. NEAVS is not responsible for lost entries and no entry will be returned.

10. The decisions of the judges are final and judges may choose not to award prizes in any category if quality or number of entries is deemed insufficient.

11. Winners will be announced on or about September 15, 1989.

12. The New England Anti-Vivisection Society 1989 Creative Arts Competition For Students is subject to all local, state, and federal regulations.

13. The immediate families of Employees, Officers, and Directors of the New England Anti-Vivisection Society are not eligible.

Judging And Prizes:

Entries in three categories will be judged in two age groups — grades 6 through 8 and grades 9 through 12 for the school year of 1988-1989. Entries will be judged on creativity and impact of the message that is conveyed. First and second prizes will be awarded in each category and at both levels.

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