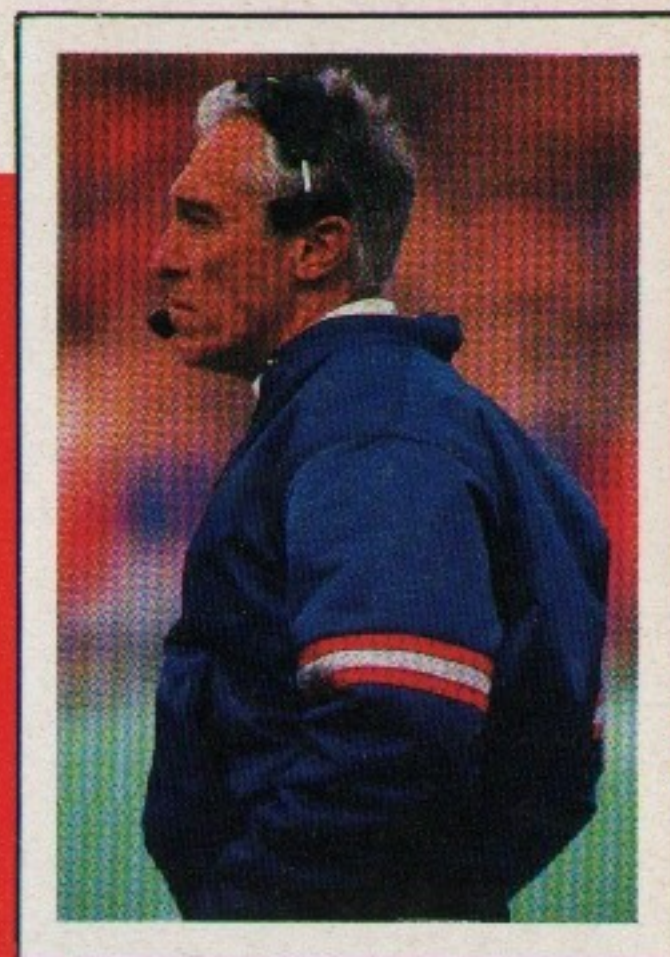


COACH MARV LEVY: ON THE ANIMALS' TEAM

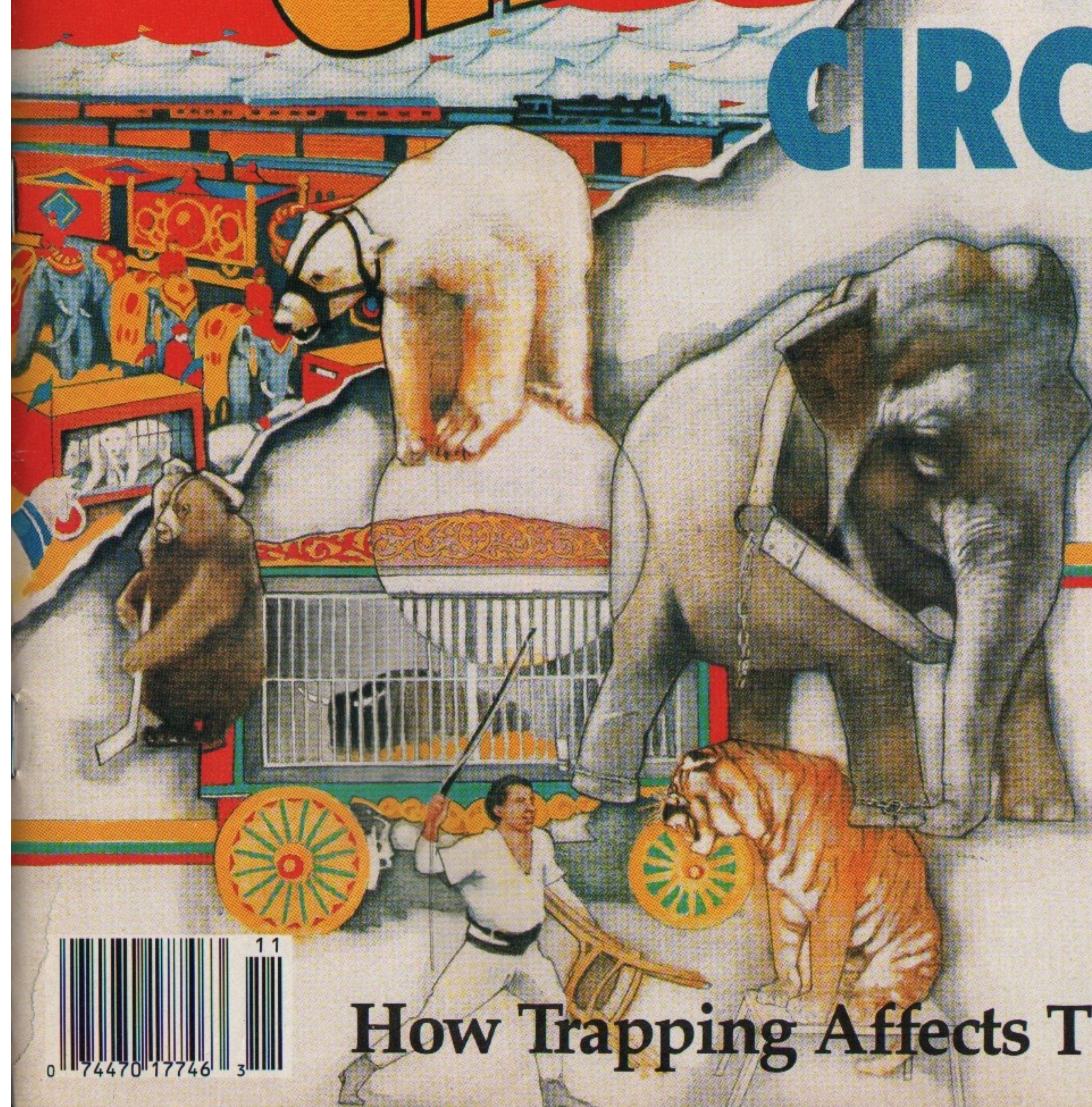
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NOVEMBER 1989 VOLUME IX NO. 10

20 Making Holiday Dinners Work

BY STACY TAYLOR AND ROBERT EPSTEIN, Ph.D.

How vegetarians can survive holiday celebrations with relatives.

22 Where the Unicorn is King: A Look at the Circus

BY PHIL MAGGITT

Behind the glitter lies a spectacle of lifelong abuse for the animals.

42 How Trapping Affects the Forest

BY MERRITT CLIFTON

The evidence demonstrates that trapping upsets the balance of nature.

2 Page Two

3 Letters

7 Medicine: In Lay Terms

BY NEAL BARNARD, M.D.

Beyond the Myths About Osteoporosis

8 Profiles

Marv Levy ♦ Shelton Walden

16 Network Notes

30 Dateline: International

34 Animal Newslines

"Helping Hands" ♦ IRRC Identifies Lab Animal Users ♦ Outsmarting Birds Isn't Easy ♦ Green Party Policies ♦ Heflin/Helms Bills ♦ USDA Enforcement ♦ Good and Bad News for Bears

38 News Shorts

46 Reviews

The Ages of Gaia ♦ Thinking Like a Mountain ♦ Peacemaking Among Primates ♦ The New Vegetarians ♦ The Nonviolent Revolution

53 Compassionate Living

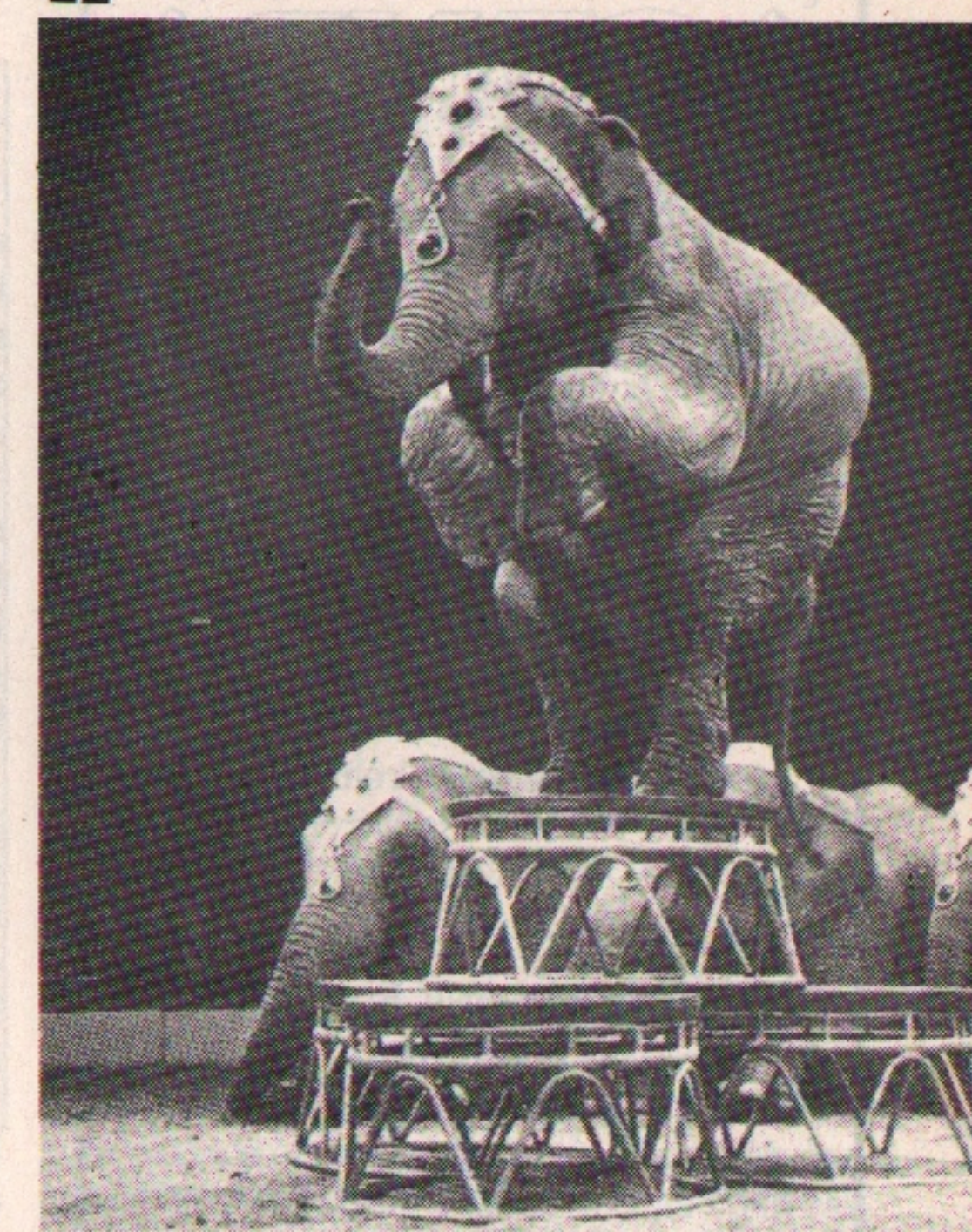
BY VICTORIA MORAN

Just Desserts

58 Classified

COVER: ILLUSTRATION BY KEVIN CONKLIN

22



42



7



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PAGE TWO

Are Rights the Real Issue?

In working to extinguish the animal holocaust now raging over the face of the earth, we tend to frame the issues in terms of "animal rights," usually defining them in terms of moral or natural rights and attempting to make distinctions reminiscent of fourth century theology. In the final analysis, however, does anyone of any species really have "rights" other than those established by law? And does it matter?

It is recognized that each human being has certain legal rights within human society; that these rights constantly fluctuate depending on the mood of the times and the temperament of the courts is natural and possibly desirable in the long run. Nonhumans, on the other hand, have yet to be awarded the most minimal legal rights. The laws presently in force to protect animals work by prohibiting specific types of human behavior.

Animals obviously require some sort of basic legal rights of their own: perhaps the right to live unmolested by humans if they are of a wild species; or the right to food, appropriate shelter, veterinary care, and an existence free of human-induced suffering if they are domesticated. But still we see that the real question is not so much one of what rights animals have but what justification humans have in harming or exploiting them. Thus the problem of animal suffering might best be addressed in terms of human behavior.

Human conduct towards animals illuminates the present depressed state of human morality, says Czech author Milan Kundera in his 1984 book, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*: "Mankind's true moral test, its fundamental test (which lies deeply buried from view), consists of its attitude towards those who are at its mercy: animals. And in this respect mankind has suffered a fundamental debacle, a debacle so fundamental that all others stem from it." Cruelty to animals is at the root of human evil.

"Humane" is a word that has fallen from grace these days among animal defenders who prefer their work described as "animal rights" or, perhaps more clearly, "animal liberation." The word "humane" is considered old fashioned and is associated with the "animal welfare" school of philosophy which directed people not to stop using or killing animals but to do it kindly. But while it has direct implications for animals, "humane" is an adjective used to describe civilizing human activities or the better qualities of human nature. It is a word not to be despised.

Whether we call our work and our movement "animal rights," "animal liberation," or "humane," our efforts have extremely broad implications for human morality. The movement that attempts to raise the status of animals and improve their treatment is, in reality, a human potential movement. For if we succeed in transforming human behavior toward animals, humankind can pass its "test" and move on to a new level of consciousness.

A matter of style

Readers may have begun noticing some changes in the look of the magazine last month. It's the work of our new art director, Daniel Donnelly, who comes to us from *The Animals' Voice* magazine. We're delighted to have him with us. Expect to see some format changes and a general spiffing-up in the months to come. Daniel takes the place of Jean Griffin, who left *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* in August to pursue other interests. We're very grateful to Jean for her years of service to the magazine.



A hand for the bands

Thanks to all the terrific singers and musicians who performed at the July 30th benefit for *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* at Wetlands Preserve in New York City: Aztec Two-Step, Cloud Ten, Jeannie Gagne and Restless Spirit, Jay Mankita and the Low Budget Butterfly Band, Paulette Ray, Rex and the Social X-Rays, and Rich Siegel. A big hand is also deserved by the evening's master of ceremonies, Shelton Walden of WBAI radio, who is profiled in this issue.

—The Editor

The Armadillo and the Pussycat

We spent the better part of yesterday driving on Route 87 from San Angelo to San Antonio, Texas, and back home again. On our return journey we passed a rest stop and I spied a calico cat looking through the garbage can for food. Because there are no houses in this locality we became concerned that the cat may have been abandoned at the rest stop. After a quick family powwow, we decided to turn back and check the situation out. We already have 12 formerly abandoned cats at home, but we can always make room for another if push comes to shove.

The cat, a beautiful tricolored manx, made no effort to run. Instead she quietly watched our arrival. She had obviously been domesticated. My daughters saw a "grey cat" running with her and told me she had a running-mate. When we got closer we realized that what my daughters had mistaken for another cat was actually not a cat at all but a young armadillo.

Putting this down to sheer coincidence, we kept trying to coax the cat to come to us, but the armadillo would not allow her to come too close. My husband pursued the armadillo while the rest of us attempted to catch the cat. Wherever the cat walked, the armadillo followed; when the armadillo turned, the cat followed him. We watched with great amusement. Finally the cat came to me, with the armadillo following several paces behind. When I picked the cat up, she purred and rubbed me, but when I attempted to move her away from her sidekick, she put an end to it with a few scratches. Returned to the ground, she followed the armadillo back to the rest area.

This was something out of a Disney movie. Here were two companions of different species who had formed a relationship so very special.

The family held a second conference. The cat was lean but very healthy and we could not hope to capture her without a trap if we intended to leave the armadillo behind. To take an armadillo out of his natural environment into captivity was out of the question. As we talked, the friends angled into the long grass, side by side. Somehow breaking up this relationship seemed wrong. Time and maturity will probably send the two their separate ways, we reasoned, but for now they were inseparable.

We will return to the rest stop to make sure all is well. We'll hope to find the two animals there. If you happen to travel Route 87, please take the time to visit the

The future of *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* depends on the generosity of its supporters. We are extremely grateful for the substantial financial assistance provided by these individuals and organizations.

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Thanks also to our 1989 **Sustainers**. For information on becoming a Benefactor, Patron, Sponsor, or Sustainer, please see page 14 of this issue.

rest stop 15 miles south of Mason city, for there are a couple of buddies who just may appreciate a donation of a meal. In return, they'll offer you a lesson in cooperation, love, and unity.

—D.E. Auchmoedy
San Angelo, TX



MORE LETTERS NEXT PAGE

Wiccans for Animals

The writer of the letter in the September issue regarding the drawing of the dagger with a snake-shaped hilt stated, "It's along with same line as those who equate black cats with witches and other evil things."

Witchcraft or Wicca, is a Goddess religion predating Christianity. It is nature-oriented, stressing a balance and harmony with the Earth and all life. Witches do not believe in a personification of evil (the devil); therefore, we cannot be satanists. There are excellent books about the Wiccan religion. One is Margot Adler's *Drawing Down the Moon*.

The animal rights movement has many

LETTERS

friends in Wicca. Please do not continue the myth that witches are evil. Readers may contact me for more information.

—Kimberly Bryant
P.O. Box 498
Clemmons, NC 27012

X-Ray Ownership

The article "Patient or Property" in the February 1989 issue contained the following erroneous statement: "Request all medical records regarding treatment, including X-Rays (if taken). These records belong to you, and you have a legal right to them."

Radiographs or X-Rays are the property of the dentist, hospital, physician, or veterinarian, and remain so even if the patient or client elects to seek treatment or service elsewhere. The radiographs are part of the patient record and as such remain the property of the person or institution making them. Most dentists, hospitals, physicians, and veterinarians will, however, provide patients or clients with copies of the radiographs. A modest fee is usually required for this service.

—Bruce W. Little, D.V.M.
American Veterinary Medical Association
930 N. Meacham Rd.
Schaumburg, IL 60196-1074

The Peace Pilgrim

Mention was made of the work of Peace Pilgrim in June's *Compassionate Living* column. Our organization exists to disseminate her message, and we will happily send a free Peace Pilgrim booklet to anyone who writes.

—Friends of Peace Pilgrim
43480 Cedar Ave.
Hemet, CA 92344

The Good Luck Charm

As my own consciousness is daily being raised by the proliferation of articles about animal rights, I find myself remembering my fascination as a child with the rabbit's foot charms I used to buy each time I visited Old Abilene Town. Whether with my parents on a sunny weekend or with my schoolmates on a field trip, this reconstruction of the original Kansas cowtown—complete with saloon, stagecoach rides and railway station—thrilled and delighted.

The last stop on these visits was inevitably the souvenir shop full of coiled leather whips, rubber arrows, and every kind of toy gun imaginable. My favorite things were the colorful jumble of rabbit's

Continued on next page

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

foot charms. Each foot was about two-inches-long and furry. Rarely were they a real rabbit color; my favorite was bright green. The charms felt good in my hand, smooth and silky, and smelled good, too. Before buying, I would apprise each foot carefully, feeling it for the right furry texture, a thick bone, and the absence of any sharp claw that would tear a pocket.

My dad, the same individual who discouraged my brother from owning a gun, and who never hunted animals himself, told me rabbits' feet brought good luck, and I believed him. How strange it seems now that such objects should have power over a child who naturally loved animals as much as all children do, but whose natural empathy for animals was twisted into a desire for small furry pieces of them.

This past January while vacationing at a seaside resort, I was surprised to find a box packed with colorful rabbit's foot charms in one of the discount markets. A handwritten sign above them said, "Rabbit's Feet \$2.00." I looked very closely, but didn't touch. Through the years,

I had rubbed enough of these little totems to know their sad, bony feel. I stared at this rainbow of rabbit feet and a deep sadness came upon me. There they were—red, purple, yellow, and my once favored green. Jumbled up in tiny silver chains awaiting the naive young consumer of animal misfortune.

—Julie Wilson
West Medford, MA

Feral Felines

We commend you for attention to the tedious problem of surplus companion animals and in particular the plight of feral cats in the May issue. However, the article, "Feral Cats: Controlled Colonies are Sometimes a Solution," skirted the tough stuff. Trapping/neutering/returning feral cats to a location of safety, shelter, and continuous food supply is noble work resulting in reduced births and, as follows, deaths. Unfortunately, probably 99 percent of the world's feral cat population has no such place to return to. At our organization we rejoice in returning a feral cat to a situation in which survival is possible; but we are inundated with cats

who have no chance of survival in the hostile environment from which they have been rescued, and we in conscience cannot dump them back there. Euthanasia is sometimes unavoidable.

For those who can accept suffering and slow or violent death just as long as it comes by "nature's hand," there is no dilemma. One assumes these people successfully preserve their own "innocence" and ensure they rarely encounter these animals personally. For others of us, as HSUS's Phyllis Wright says with intelligence and caring, it's "what's good for the cat" that matters more to us than the illusion of our purity.

It's time for the animal rights/welfare community to face up to this enormous area of animal suffering with the compassion, honesty, and courage it calls for.

—Dorothy D. McLean and
Susan I. Harrison
Animal Welfare Associates
P.O. Box 10752
Stamford, CT 06904

In reference to your article on feral cats, doesn't anybody care about the poor

birds? There is a massacre going on in my neighborhood by feral and "pet" cats. I recently saw a bird whose chest was ripped and head torn off. I found a young bird wandering about in agony with her wing torn by a cat—not eaten, just injured. A veterinarian said the bird could never fly again. I was going to try to find a home for her, but it was discovered there was an infection and the bird had to be euthanized.

I called a "cat lover" in an effort to borrow a cat trap for two feral cats who live, unwanted, in the basement of a building—in the area where the dead and injured birds are found. She was appalled when I told her I was going to take them to the ASPCA, because they might be euthanized there. (It was all right for the birds to get killed.) When I asked if she would like to find homes for the cats, she quickly said no. She said taking the cats away is "not the solution" and that she didn't want to hear "any stories." When I proceeded to tell her about the baby bird with the ripped wing, she hung up on me.

—Marie Leduc
Jackson Heights, NY

Saving Strays

In "Help Me...I Found a Stray" (*Activists' Agenda*, July/August), nowhere was the finder of an animal advised to go

where the "owner" will go to look for a lost animal: the local pound. Many pounds keep lost-and-found lists (in California, they are required to by law), and signs should go up there, too. In some areas, people are legally required to take strays to an animal control facility.

Finders can usually take animals to pounds and get "case numbers" so they can keep track of them. They can tell the pound they want to adopt the animals if unclaimed after the holding time is up (usually three days). Then the animals are legally theirs to keep or adopt out to someone else. If one fails to comply with regulations and the "owner" finds them, they can be accused of theft and lose the animal. And animal groups can get into big trouble for placing strays who don't belong to them. Whether one chooses to use the local pound or not, all activists should be aware of the laws concerning strays.

The article suggested a follow-up visit after placing an animal, but didn't suggest going to the home as part of the adoption process. Never, never just take an address. Thousands of dogs and cats have disappeared that way. The animal can be escorted to the prospective home.

The "adopters" can be told in advance that the animal is being taken to several homes that day before a decision is made.

That gives the activist an automatic out if he or she doesn't want to leave the animal there.

—Virginia Handley
The Fund for Animals
Fort Mason Center
San Francisco, CA 94123

The article on rescuing strays stated, "Cats can undergo a 'pregnant spay' (abortion) right up to delivery with absolutely no danger to the mother's health." This statement could mislead some readers. Spaying requires the administration of general anesthesia, and there is always some risk. It is true that the benefits of spaying far outweigh the risks, but inaccurate statements subtly undermine the effectiveness of spay/neuter advocacy.

—Cecily Westermann
St. Louis, MO

The ANIMALS' AGENDA welcomes letters from readers, and regrets that they cannot all be published or answered personally due to the large volume of mail. Succinct, typed messages of no more than 250 words are preferred. We reserve the right to edit all letters chosen for publication. Address them to: LETTERS, The ANIMALS' AGENDA, 456 Monroe Turnpike, Monroe, CT 06468.

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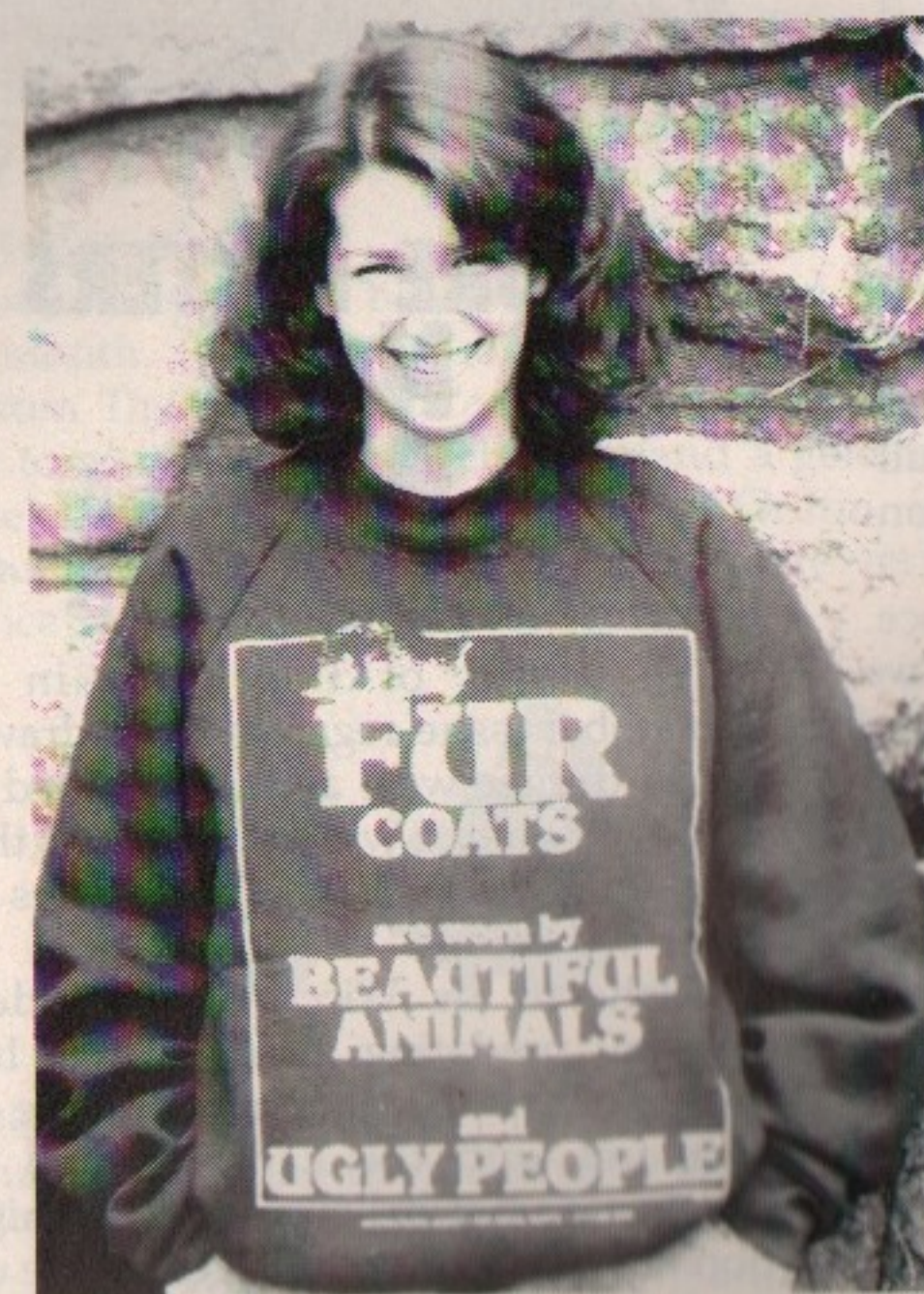
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MEDICINE: IN LAY TERMS
BY NEAL D. BARNARD, M.D.

Beyond the Myths About Osteoporosis

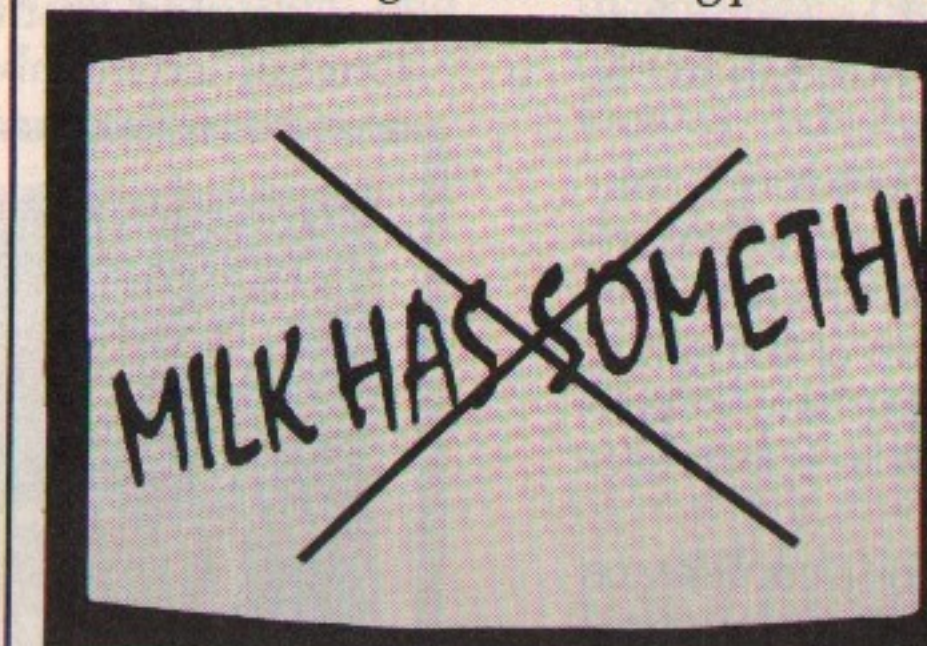
If you have been watching much television lately, you may have noticed that the dairy industry has been backing off from its claims that milk prevents osteoporosis. Several scientific studies have shown that, for adult women, there is essentially no relationship between milk consumption and osteoporosis.

Osteoporosis is a disease of bone loss. It occurs mainly in post-menopausal women. At menopause, there is a sharp drop in estrogen, a hormone which helps to keep calcium in bones. As the estrogen supply dwindles, bone loss occurs. Women who are small-boned, are physically inactive, have poor nutrition, or eat diets high in protein are most susceptible to this disease. Osteoporosis is also promoted by smoking and alcohol consumption.

Some have suggested that osteoporosis is caused by a lack of calcium. But studies show that increasing calcium intake after bones are formed does not prevent or reverse osteoporosis. It now appears that the amount of calcium women consume has nothing to do with the rate at which they lose bone mass with age. *Science* magazine (August 1, 1986) noted "the large body of evidence indicating no relationship between calcium intake and bone density." Dr. B. Lawrence Riggs of the Mayo Clinic measured bone densities and calcium intake in women for several years. He reported: "We found no correlation at all between calcium intake and bone loss, not even a trend."

Studies now show that high levels of protein—particularly animal protein—in the American diet drain calcium from the body. Observations of various populations worldwide show that societies with high protein consumption have a high incidence

of osteoporosis. Eskimos, for example, eat large amounts of protein due to their heavy consumption of fish. Their diet is also extremely high in calcium, yet they suffer from high rates of osteoporosis. It is not entirely clear why amino acids released in the body tend to deplete calcium from the bones. But it is clear that this happens. The *Journal of Nutrition* in 1981 reported two studies showing that increasing protein in-



take causes a marked calcium loss in normal volunteers.

Those who consume smaller amounts of protein and avoid animal protein require less calcium in order to stay in calcium balance. Vegetarians have a lower incidence of osteoporosis than those on a meat-based diet. This is probably due to two factors: they eat more reasonable amounts of protein, and they avoid animal proteins.

Exercise is another important feature of an osteoporosis prevention program. At about age 35, human bones begin to lose mass. To prevent osteoporosis, one must build bone mass early in life in order to withstand bone loss in later years. This is accomplished by weight-bearing exercises such as walking, dancing, and playing tennis. There is evidence that adequate calcium intake in childhood and early adulthood is important in building a strong skeleton.

If one chooses to increase one's calcium intake, milk is probably the poorest choice

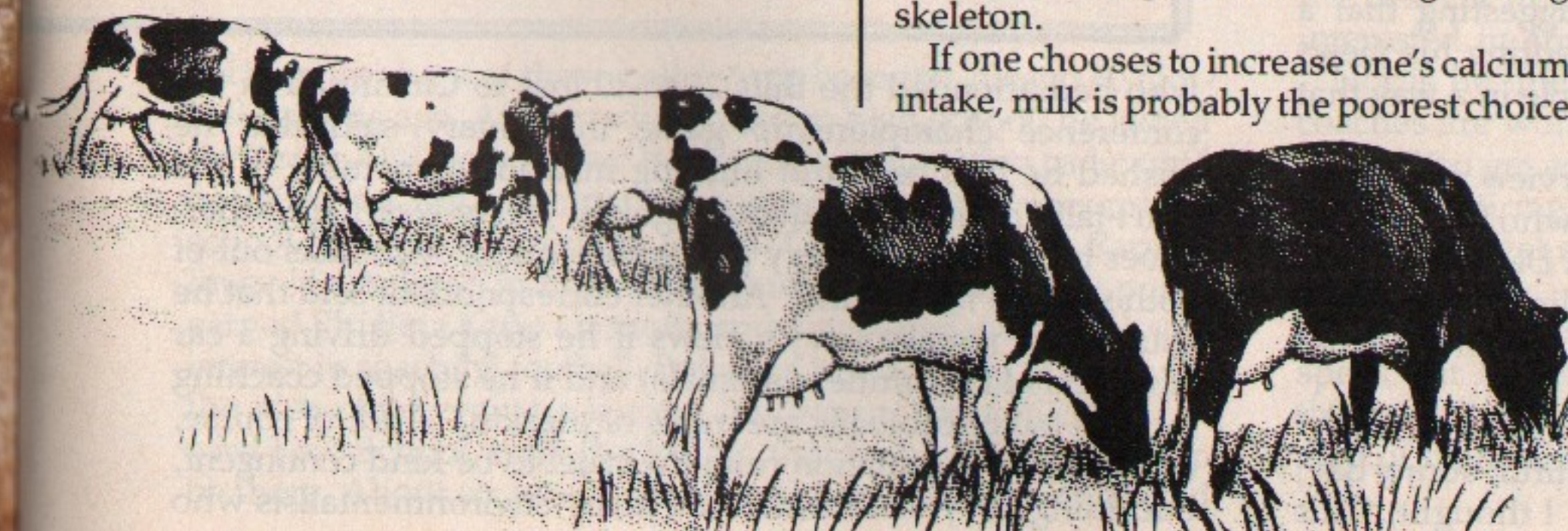
for a calcium supplement. Dairy products do contain calcium, but they also contain saturated fats, cholesterol, and concentrated proteins (remember, excess protein is a cause of osteoporosis). There are also numerous reports of toxic chemical contaminants in milk, such as pesticides, heavy metals, steroids, and antibiotics. In addition, milk proteins frequently cause subtle allergic reactions, such as nasal stuffiness, canker sores, and skin problems. Fortified orange juices are rich in calcium with a high bioavailability. Calcium carbonate (e.g., Tums antacid tablets) is also a rich source.

Most importantly, many plant foods are excellent sources of calcium. Broccoli contains more calcium per calorie than any other food. Kale, spinach, and other dark green vegetables, fruits, almonds, sunflower seeds, and tofu are good sources. The National Research Council has set the recommended daily allowances (RDA) of calcium at 800 mg. per day, but notes that people can maintain a calcium balance with lower levels: "Children do in fact grow healthy bones and adults remain in calcium balance despite lower calcium intakes." A recent report from Dr. Forrest H. Nielsen, a research nutritionist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, indicated that the element boron may also be important in preventing osteoporosis. "The best way to get boron," Dr. Nielsen writes, "is through a balanced diet containing an abundance of fruits, vegetables, nuts and legumes." Milk is very low in the element, and meat and eggs have no detectable boron.

Many doctors prescribe hormones to prevent osteoporosis, which has recently raised concerns about increased cancer risk. This is something every woman should discuss with her doctor.

Because of the combined effects of their moderate protein intake, higher consumption of calcium-rich vegetables and, possibly, the boron present in plant foods, vegetarians are consistently shown to have less risk for osteoporosis than meat-eaters.

Dr. Barnard is president of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, P.O. Box 6322, Washington, DC 20015; (202) 686-2210.



NOVEMBER 1989

The ANIMALS' AGENDA

Marv Levy : Buffalo Coach Tackles

When a professional football coach appears in the "Lifestyles" section instead of the sports pages of the newspaper, chances are he's opened a restaurant or shot a hole in one in a celebrity golf tournament. But when Buffalo Bills head coach Marv Levy stepped out of the sports section of *The Buffalo News* last spring, the occasion was as heartening to animal rights activists in western New York as the Bills 12-and-4 season had been to the area's football fans in 1988. For Levy's comments about certain lifestyles carried the *whomp!* of a 245-pound fullback hitting the line with helmet lowered and knees churning vigorously.

"Where is the joy in snuffing out an animal's life?" demanded Levy in a plain-spoken interview. Football is a sport, he asserted, but shooting a deer is not. Nor is it anything he considers macho. "The odds are so much in the hunter's favor, there's no macho in it at all," said Levy. "And as far as furs go, I'm against that, too. No woman looks beautiful to me in a fur coat."

If life were a game of football—and no one has proven conclusively yet that it isn't—Coach Levy's remarks would be tantamount to catching the defense off guard and throwing an 80-yard touchdown strike on your first possession of the game. But the Buffalo populace, which reacted to Levy's pronouncements with a blizzard of letters to the *News* sports section, should have seen the bomb coming.

Last January, when the Bills were preparing for a conference championship game with the Cincinnati Bengals, a reporter asked Coach Levy if he had any hobbies. Pausing for a moment, Levy replied that if he did, hunting wouldn't be one of them because he didn't "see the sport in taking the life of any living thing."

This remark caught the attention of Walter Simpson, co-founder, with his wife Nan, of the Animal Rights Advocates of Western New York. Simpson wrote to Levy, sending him literature on animal rights and vegetarianism. "I was struck by the fact that the interviewer hadn't solicited Coach Levy's views on animal rights," says Simpson. "The coach made his comments voluntarily. I wanted to let him know that there was an animal rights group in town and to indicate our support for the comment he had made about hunting."

Quicker than you can say "Red Dive Right, on 3," Levy wrote back, telling Simpson that he was aware of the work being done for animals in the Buffalo area. "I have long been tremendously pained," said Levy, "by the callous exploitation of innocent animals which marks the conduct of far too many people." With his reply Coach Levy sent a donation to the group.

"From the tone of his letter, it was obvious that Coach Levy is an extremely intelligent, sensitive, and articulate man," says Walter Simpson. "I wrote to him again, suggesting that a human-interest story in the newspaper presenting his views on animal rights would reach many new people in a way that we could not."

Thus it was that Levy agreed to an interview with Dan Herbeck, a staff reporter for *The Buffalo News* who had written a piece about the Animal Rights Advocates last December. During this interview Levy explained that his feelings concerning animals were shaped by a riveting incident which occurred when he was 12.

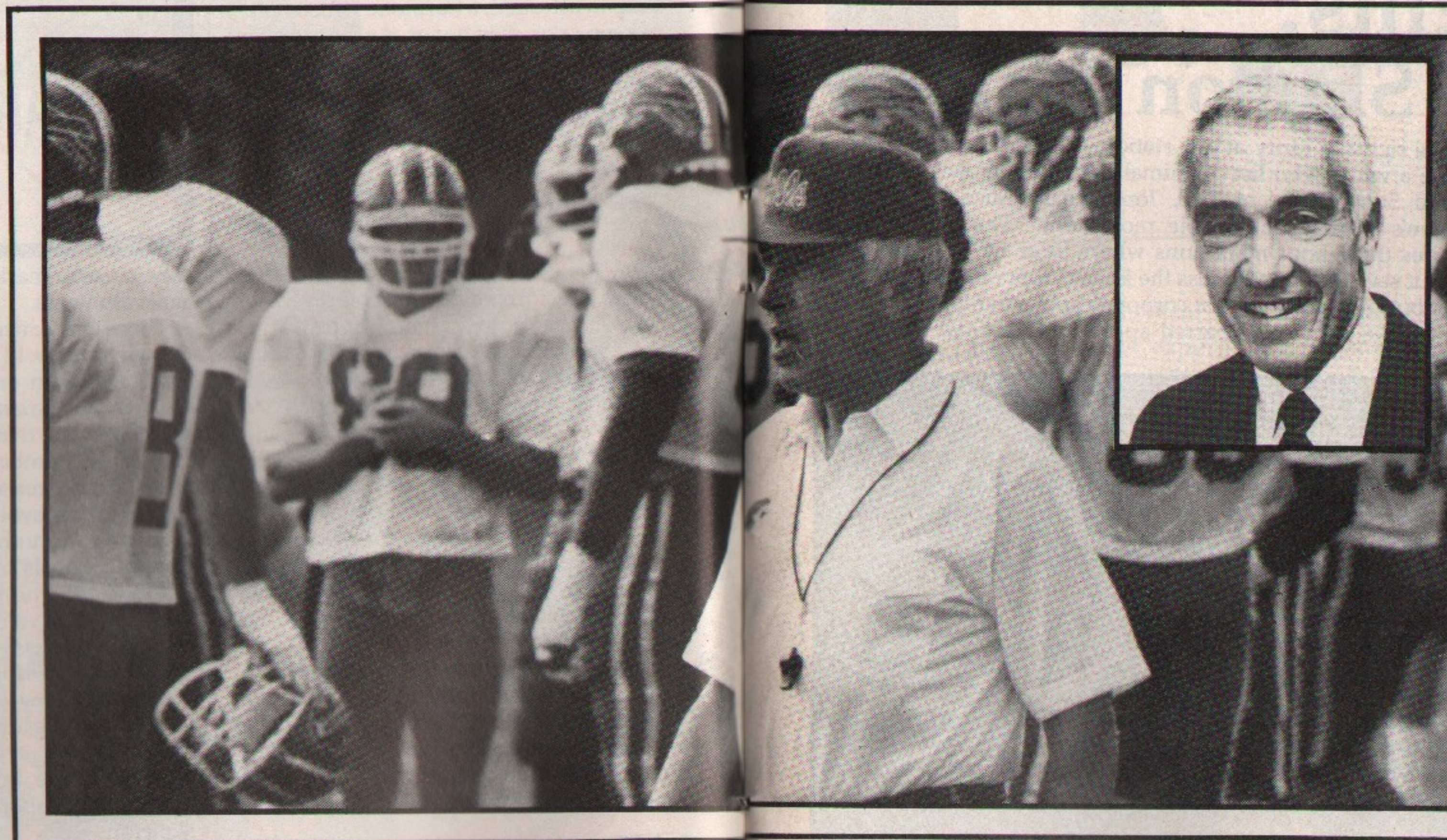
"A friend of mine and his father took me hunting with them," said Levy, "and they shot a bird. It was a beautiful, sunny day; and there was the bird, lying on the ground. I thought, 'This

bird was as happy as I was when he woke up this morning. I don't like this at all.'"

Which is the way many sports fans within shooting distance of a mailbox felt about Coach Levy's interview. It's one thing for Joe Namath to model pantyhose or for a player to engage in recreational drug use—as long as he checks into the Betty Ford Clinic during the off season and gets straight in time for two-a-days in summer camp—but public criticism of the camouflage set? There ought to be a constitutional amendment against that.

For three Sundays following Coach Levy's interview, the letters section of *The Buffalo News* sports pages reverberated with the potshots of outraged deerslayers and their defenders, many of whom sounded like the guys in the cheap seats who show up at football games in mid-December with the home team's colors painted on their bare chests.

One ruffled member of the National Wild Turkey Federation



who had attended the Bills' 21-to-10 loss to Cincinnati in the conference championship game in January said that he wished he had been out hunting instead. A member of the don't-talk-to-me-about-animal-rights-if-you're-wearing-leather-shoes brigade called Levy a "soapbox orator who talks out of both sides of his mouth." Another correspondent said that he could only respect Levy's views if he stopped driving a car (since cars kill countless animals) and if he stopped coaching football (since footballs are made of pigskin). And, of course, there was representation from the cruel-to-be-kind contingent, informing Levy that hunters are really environmentalists who

the Issues Head On

"support a great many of America's wild creatures." But the most indignant letter came from a disgruntled fan who reminded the *News* that there was "climactic playoff competition" taking place in the NBA and the NHL and, therefore, the *News* ought not to be devoting as much as 80 percent of its letters section to all this "ethical and philosophical dross."

Coach Levy responded with two letters of his own to the *News*. He questioned the motivation of environmentalists who kill "benefited" creatures, and he asked why these sportsmen don't simply "support the habitat project—period." He pointed out that even though football is a violent game, those who play it "have chosen freely" to participate.

"I'll bet a hunted animal would like to have the same choice," he concluded, adding that even though he was not "seeking to change anyone's eating habits," he did hope to "nurture an awareness that animals, like people, are God's creation, and that they, too, experience pain and fear."

to the graduate school of arts and sciences and got a master's degree in English history. Then I had a chance to go into coaching."

The chance was offered by the St. Louis Country Day School in Missouri, the first of 11 "previous positions" on Coach Levy's resume. In all he has coached for four colleges, including the University of California at Berkeley during the free-speech movement, where local sportswriters criticized him for having too many M.A.s on his staff, and students once prevented his team from practicing for a week by holding sit-ins on the football field. He has also worked in the pros as an assistant coach with the Philadelphia Eagles, Los Angeles Rams, and Washington Redskins, and as a head coach with the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League, the Kansas City Chiefs, the Chicago Blitz in the USFL, and the Buffalo Bills. In addition, he has worked as a commentator for NBC-TV, ESPN, ABC radio, and on radio broadcasts of UC-Berkeley football—which, like Levy, survived the free speech movement.

Levy's team won two Canadian Football League championships while he was at Montreal, and since signing on with Buffalo nine games into the 1986 season, he has effected what one sportswriter called "one of the National Football League's more dramatic turnarounds." The Bills went from 4 and 12 in 1986 to 12 and 4 in just two seasons, and they were one victory short of reaching the Super Bowl last January.

Coach Levy's resume and his devotion to football are similar to his peers'. But his Harvard connection, his occasional use of words like *felicitous* in the locker room, his white hair, cable knit sweaters, hush puppies, and fondness for Dickens novels invariably lead sportswriters to refer to him as "professorial" or to comment that he looks "more suited for standing behind a lectern than on the sidelines of a football field."

Levy is not altogether flattered by these observations, nor does he consider himself the odd duck out in the coaching flock. Indeed, his NFL colleagues voted him coach of the year for 1988 in a *Sporting News* poll. As for all this "professorial" talk: "I'm a football coach," he says emphatically. "If I had wanted to be a professor, I'd have become one. I do enjoy intellectual things, but I doubt if I would enjoy going to a lot of learned seminars." (Levy did allow once that he might be intellectual enough to begin a William F. Buckley, Jr., article, but he wasn't intellectual enough to finish it.)

His dislike of his professorial image notwithstanding, "there is evidence," wrote *The Sporting News*, "that [Coach Levy] is a breed apart" in his profession. And Buffalo Bills General Manager Bill Polian, who has worked with Levy on four teams, says that unlike "a lot of coaches I've run across [who] are concerned with how they look on television and with who has the best car in the lot, there's none of that in Marv. He's not interested in any of the ephemeral stuff."

Nor is he interested in speaking to booster clubs, as most coaches are wont to do. "They serve no purpose at all," says Levy. "You get asked the same questions you've answered 500 times. It's tiring. There's very little leisure time in coaching, and when I get some, I'd prefer to be off with somebody I like being with."

That the coach of one of the NFL's leading teams should speak out in defense of animals has not gone unnoticed by the animal rights team. Levy reports that he has received "quite a bit of literature" from animal rights groups and that the let-

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

ters that arrived at the Bills office following his interview—unlike those which appeared in the newspaper—ran about 10-to-1 in support of his views.

Yet he is puzzled that he has been called courageous for taking the stand that he did. "I don't see what's so courageous about speaking out for the humane treatment of living creatures," he contends. Nor does he understand why he "immediately became a political liberal" to some observers because of his compassion for animals.

"Maybe I am and maybe I'm not," he muses. "But I don't get it. I did vote for Bush, and I voted for Reagan."

Though his schedule precludes attending meetings of the Animal Rights Advocates while football is in season, Coach Levy, who doesn't feel that "preaching to the choir" does much good anyway, has agreed to help the group in any way in which he feels he might be effective. He has also agreed to appear in an advertisement for the Fund For Animals. The audience he would like to address is the "broad spectrum of people in the middle who—as information reaches them—begin to develop more of an awareness." (Although the 1980s have been

perceived as the get-yours-and-run-and-the-hell-with-the-other-guy decade, Levy says that "the animal rights movement provides pretty good evidence that there are still a lot of well-meaning, considerate people in this country.")

Part of Coach Levy's desire to pick his spots carefully in promoting animal rights is a function of his personality: This is a man who considers win-one-for-the-Gipper pregame speeches "counterproductive." A guy who tells his players that only three rules in life matter: Work hard, be on time, and be a good citizen.

What's more, Coach Levy confesses to a certain unfamiliarity with the animal rights playbook. "I haven't investigated every aspect of the animal rights movement," he says, "and I don't feel as though I could always come up with an answer that I'm convinced is right or that won't be subject to being dismantled. Therefore, I don't always articulate 100 percent of what I feel. But I am very much opposed to the cruel treatment of animals, and I want to do everything I can do to develop an awareness of these issues, particularly in minds that are malleable right now."

—Phil Maggitti

DJ of Animal Rights: Shelton Walden

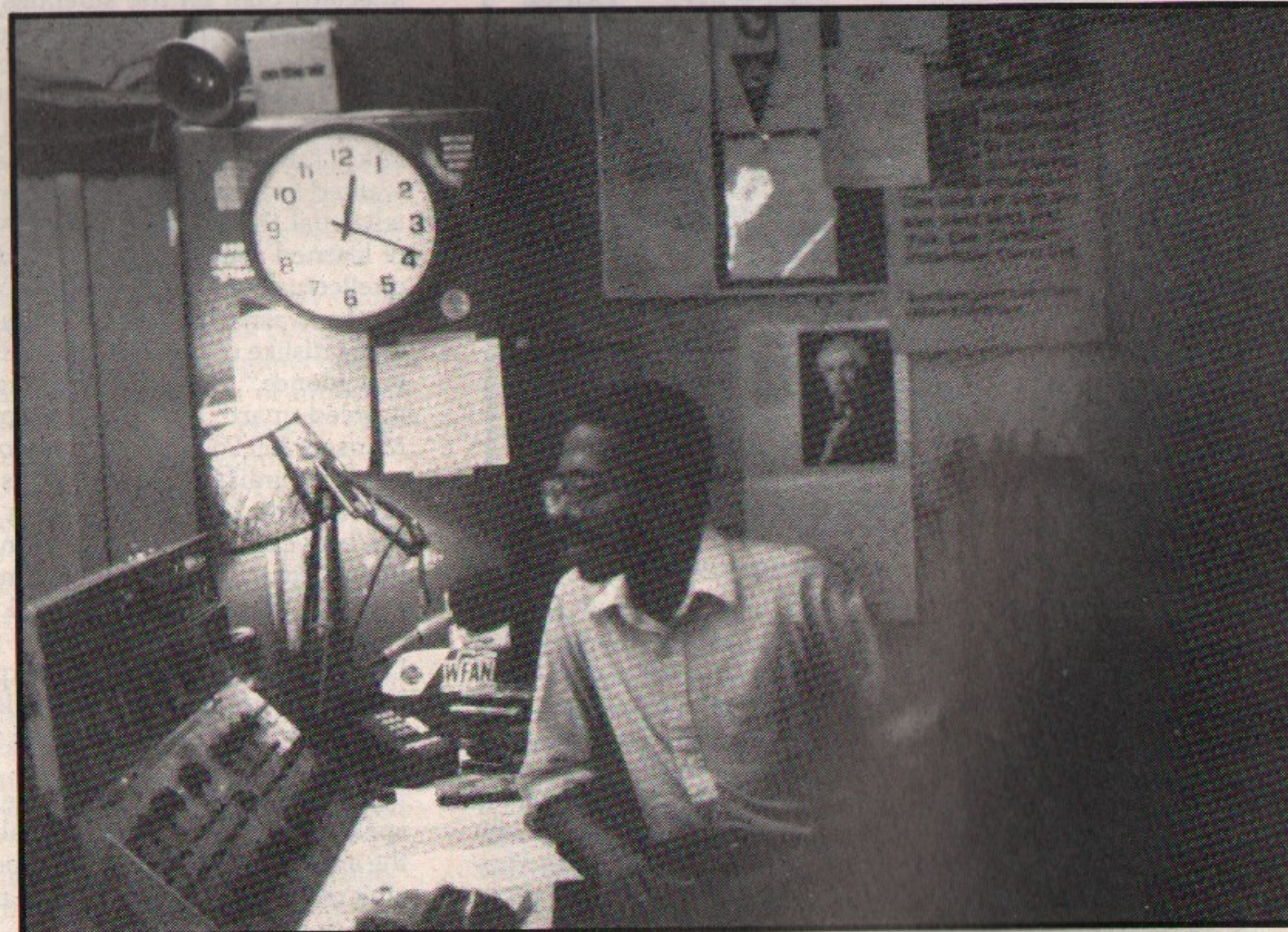
The time draws near. He sits at the control console, takes out a couple of blank recording cassettes, inserts them, and selects a soundtrack by jazz-great Miles Davis. Next he dials the guest and puts her on hold while a public service announcement is played. After two weeks of meticulous planning, the show can begin: "Good evening, this is another edition of *Walden's Pond*..."

The place is New York City, the radio station is WBAI, and the host of the show is Shelton Walden. But this is no ordinary talk show: *Walden's Pond* is dedicated to in-depth coverage of

animal rights, a rarity at any station—liberal or conservative.

Like a who's who list of animal rights, his guests have included Steve Siegal of TSU, Tom Regan, Alice Walker—in Walden's words, "the whole movement." The show often features three-hour marathons where listeners can hear not one but several guests discuss the issues. Supported by listener contributions and free from corporate sponsorship, Walden is free to take a no-holds-barred approach to animal rights.

Continued on page 12



"It would be a much diminished place if all the animals were gone... much sadder."

THE CRUEL DECEPTION

The use of animals
in medical research

Dr Robert Sharpe
Foreword by Julie Christie

Reacting to powerful moral arguments against the abuse of animals, experimenters insist that vivisection is not only essential for human health but that without it we would still be living in the dark ages.

But what are the scientific and medical arguments? Are the benefits really so great, and what are the alternative approaches to research and health care which do not depend on the ruthless exploitation of animals?

Dr. Sharpe demonstrates that animal experiments not only fail to advance our health, but actually add to the burden of disease. For decades, powerful vested interests have used emotional blackmail, preying on the fear of disease to sustain public acceptance of vivisection. He strips away the veneer and exposes the myth.

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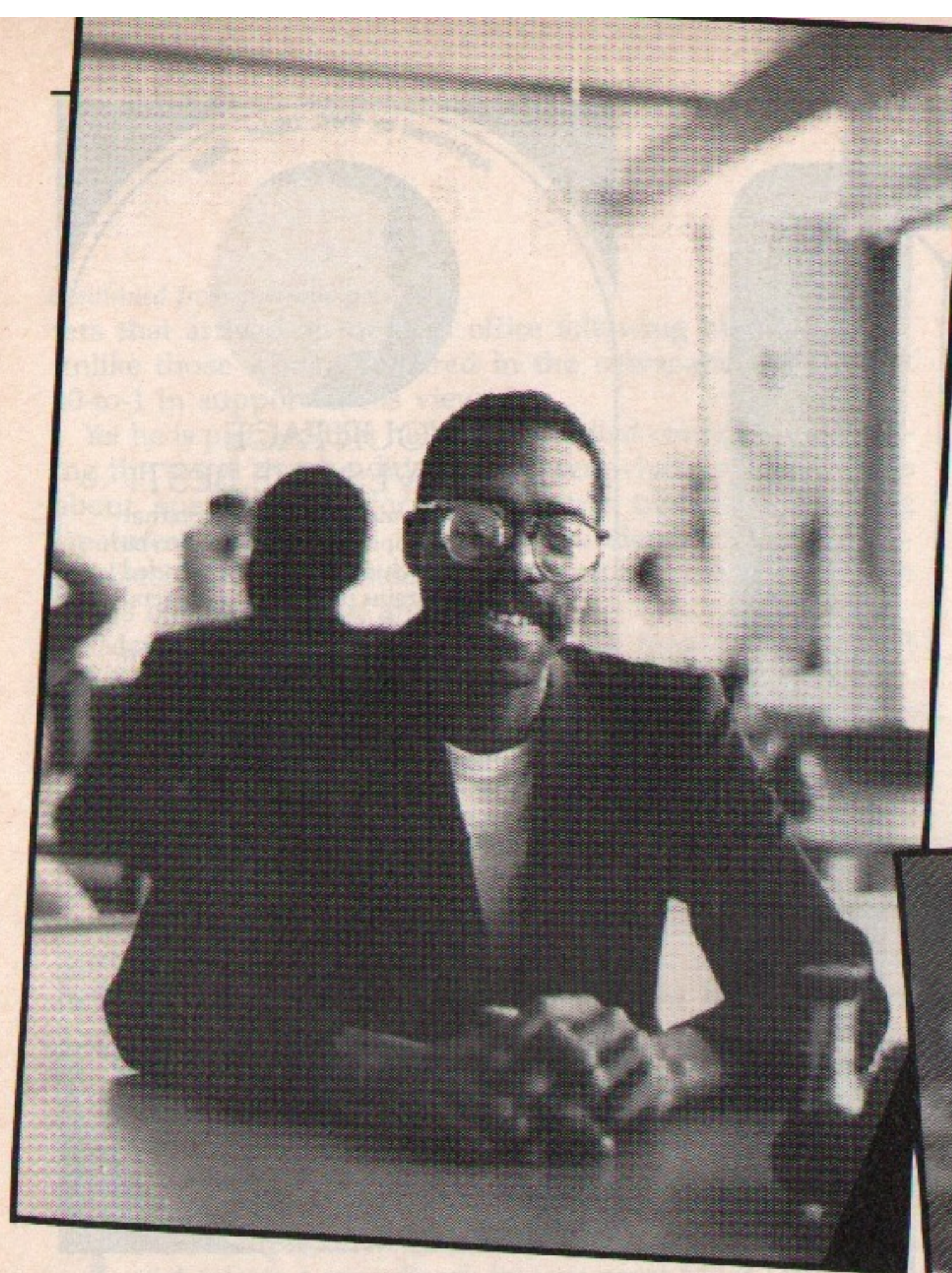
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The World Next Door

After "gradually pulling away from meat and dairy," Walden says he became a vegan in 1984. Today he is continually surprised at the things people consider tasty. "It's amazing what people eat. Sometimes you pass delis in New York and they're eating tongue. They have this great big sandwich made of an animal's tongue." Shelton remembers family barbecues where a pig was the main course. And he still recalls the revulsion the odor of the cooked animals caused him.

Animal rights became a big part of his life after listening to fellow WBAI host Gary Null interview Nancy Payton about the work of the International Society for Animal Rights. "A light bulb went off in my head. I called ISAR and they told me who to contact in the city." He picked up a copy of Peter Singer's *Animal Liberation*, attended meetings, and became an avid reader of *The ANIMALS' AGENDA*. "That's how I got in-



Yet it involves more than just grabbing a microphone and asking questions. For each show, Walden spends days researching, learning as much as possible about the guest(s) and mapping out what will be discussed. "I make sure I'm prepared. I want to get the right message out and make people think we are not fanatics but responsible citizens."

"It's a great public service...the animal rights movement is very well represented on the show," says PETA's Ingrid Newkirk. Although his audience is as diverse as New York City itself, Walden says the callers are "very favorable towards animal rights." Recent shows on the animal-sacrificing Santeria religion and the Fran Trutt case have garnered the most response, he says. "People have even called off-the-air with their comments."

Several years ago, Walden, a Manhattan native, joined the staff at WBAI as an engineer. He became the host after presenting a proposal for an animal rights show. Despite initial skepticism by management, the show became a success. "When I first began they thought a lot of what I was doing was not as serious as topics such as South Africa and the homeless. But after awhile, it won respect."

How did Walden become such an avid supporter of animal rights?

Vegetarianism, he asserts, was the key. "When I was six I went to this alternative school. This was the late sixties and many of the kids were vegetarian and I wanted to become one. When I asked my mother she said no. That was the religion worry." Like many potential vegetarians, Walden was discouraged from rejecting meat because of parental beliefs.

But vegetarianism continued to intrigue him. One day, he and some high school friends went to a fast food restaurant. Walden describes his reawakening: "We went to Burger King and I ordered a Whopper or something. I bit into it and it tasted sour. I remember saying, 'This tastes sour, really nasty.' I just put it down and from that time really started limiting the amount of meat I was eating. It just didn't feel right in my stomach."

involved," recalls Walden.

Despite the growth of the animal rights movement and the participation of celebrities such as Dick Gregory and Alice Walker, he does not see a large number of blacks becoming involved in animal rights. This, he says, is because "many blacks have so many other issues of concern—racism, economic problems."

But more people in general will become involved "when they know the connection between animal rights and the environment, and between animal rights and slavery," he adds. On a recent show featuring Marjorie Spiegel, author of *The Dreaded Comparison*—a recent book drawing parallels between human slavery and the incarceration of animals today—Walden brought the issue to his listeners.

For the future, Walden is considering syndication and more coverage on vivisection. But he's also intent on reaching an international audience with an animal rights and ecology message so "people in non-Western countries can get more involved in ecology in an animal rights structure."

Walden agrees with the adage "animal liberation is human liberation." "President Bush is always talking about a kinder and gentler nation. This [animal rights] is the way to make it kinder and gentler and more thoughtful and less oppressive. I think it has to do with bringing people closer to nature, the environment, and the animals we share the planet with. It would be a much diminished place if all the animals were gone...much sadder."

—Karen and Michael Iacabbo

For program tapes of *Walden's Pond*, write to Sheldon Walden, P.O. Box 20605, New York, NY 10025.

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The animals rights movement has made great advances of late, and The ANIMALS' AGENDA has played a major role in the changing public consciousness. But the animals still need a lot more help than they're getting.

While there are many national and grassroots groups addressing animal rights, The ANIMALS' AGENDA continues to serve as the nucleus of the movement and its most reliable source of information. Reaching out to the general public and inspiring those who are already committed, The ANIMALS' AGENDA presents the issues and provides a forum for rational dialogue.

The ANIMALS' AGENDA must continue its work, educating people worldwide and developing a new ethic for animals. In doing so, we strike at the fundamental cause of animal abuse—for unless basic attitudes are changed, the need to treat the "symptoms" of human cruelty will never end.

As subscriptions provide only half the funds needed for publication, the steady financial support of contributors is vital. We must appeal to you to make a pledge of support.

Contributions are tax-deductible. For further information, please contact **Carolyn Comerford, The ANIMALS' AGENDA, 456 Monroe Turnpike, Monroe, CT 06468, or call 203/452-0446.**

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NETWORK NOTES

Letters

Boston has shelved plans to introduce carriage horses downtown, under pressure from the Alliance for Animals, but may still site a 70-horse riding stable on one acre in Jamaica Plain. Protest to Mayor Raymond Flynn, 1 City Hall Square, Boston, MA 02201. ♦ Volunteers for Animal Welfare hope to reform a multispecies factory farm run jointly by Cornell University and the Suffolk County, New York, Farm and Educational Center. To help, write Box 509, Northport, NY 11768. ♦ While White Sox pitcher Barry Jones recently apologized for even joking about wearing boots made from endangered species, quarterback Boomer Esiason of the Cincinnati Bengals is part-owner of an exotic leather bootery offering elephant, shark, and snake products. Protest c/o the Bengals at Riverfront Stadium, Cincinnati, OH 45202. ♦ The New Hampshire Animal Rights League convinced the New Hampshire Health Care Association to keep the balloons tethered at a benefit balloon launch. Address thanks for a wise decision to Raymond Mailloux, Nursing Home Services, 215 Myrtle St., Box 686, Manchester, NH 03105. ♦ The World Council of Churches is still considering the report on animal welfare excerpted in the April 1989 issue, but the position paper could be stalled if officials feel there's insufficient interest. Letters are needed complimenting the council on the document and inquiring about its status. Correspond with Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, Director of the Church and Society Sub-Unit, The World Council of Churches, 150 Route de Ferney, P.O. Box No. 66, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland (U.S. overseas air-mail postage is \$45).

Save a Turkey

Farm Sanctuary is once again sponsoring Thanksgiving adoptions of turkeys rescued from factory farms and slaughterhouses, and will deliver the birds personally in their "Turkey Express Van." The folks at the farm report that turkeys make wonderful companions and cost only \$10/month to feed. For a "Cruelty-Free Thanksgiving Packet," which contains turkey-

EDITED BY MERRITT CLIFTON



Gene and Lorri Bauston with some young turkeys in need of a home.

free cooking tips as well as Adopt-a-Turkey info, contact Farm Sanctuary, P.O. Box 37, Rockland, DE 19732; (302) 654-9026. The group can also provide guidance on holding public vegetarian dinners.

"Nuisance" Animals

Bobbie Orr of Redding, Calif., identifies snakes in homes or yards for \$20, and removes them for \$10 more, helping prevent many needless killings. ♦ Barbara Monroe of Great Neck, Long Island, N.Y., feeds raccoons leftovers to keep them out of her trash. This won't work for everyone, but is worth a try. ♦ San Diego Animal Advocates have posted beachfront signs in Carlsbad, Calif., warning visitors against feeding overabundant squirrels, and have humanely trapped and relocated as many as possible. If their effort fails, the city may use poison.

Lyme Disease

Keep your companion animals tick-free to avoid Lyme Disease, a degenerative ailment of both animals and humans, spreading rapidly in the northeast. The Animal Medical Center warns that one should wear rubber gloves when doing tick removal, and should flush ticks down the toilet, rather than trying to crush them.

ron dissect a cat who died of natural causes, rather than one bred and killed specifically for lab use. *Washington Times* columnist Wesley Pruden offered to have his dog kill a cat for her. ♦ The Schenectady Animal Protective Foundation posted \$1,000 reward for the arrest of whoever severely tortured a kitten, and outraged citizens put up \$1,400 more. The incident brought a surge in adoptions from the SAPF shelter. ♦ Bradlees Department Stores defends their decision to stock "Crushed Kitties," stuffed toys designed to dangle out car windows and trunks, on grounds that removing them "would place us in an inappropriate posture of making moral judgements for our customers." Do they also stock hard-core pornography and/or racist hate literature? Inquire, at Box 100, Braintree, MA 02184.

Offerings

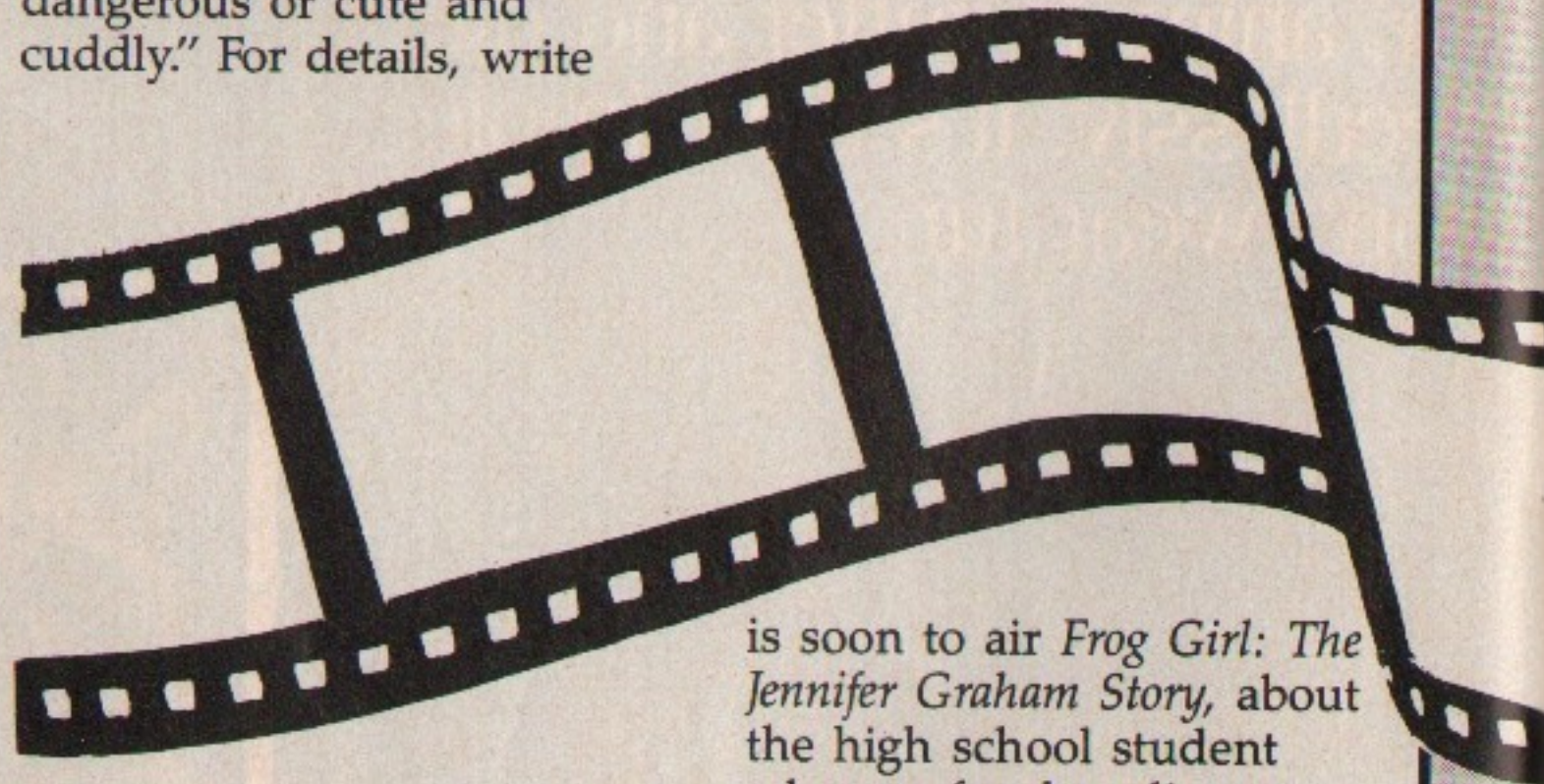
The Greenhouse Crisis Foundation has published a list of 101 *Ways To Save The Earth*, practical suggestions for every

Fighting Cat Hatred

The Community College of Rhode Island has agreed to let nursing student Roseann Char-

On The Screen

The 13th annual International Wildlife Film Festival will be held April 3-8, 1990, in Missoula, Montana. Entries are due by March 10. The festival also includes contests for children's wildlife art and wildlife photography. The event is "a response to the stereotypical wildlife films of the 1960s and '70s that portrayed wildlife as either fierce and dangerous or cute and cuddly." For details, write new animal programs debuted on cable TV's Discovery Channel this fall: *Bill Burrud's Animal Odyssey: Predators and Prey*, about the fierce, and *Orphans of the Wild*, about the cuddly. Check your local guide for listings, and let us know what you think. ♦ We'd also appreciate your views on *Peaceable Kingdom*, a new CBS series about a woman zoo director. ♦ CBS



the festival c/o Rankin Hall, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812. ♦ Two

is soon to air *Frog Girl: The Jennifer Graham Story*, about the high school student whose refusal to dissect brought about passage of California's new Student's Rights Bill.

household; included is vegetarianism. The list is being distributed by nearly two dozen major national youth, service, environmental, and educational groups, but it can also be obtained from the foundation at 1130 Seventeenth St. NW, Suite 630, Washington DC 20036; 1-800-326-5963. ♦ For a list of 35 medical schools that don't dissect/vivisection animals or that offer alternatives, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Physicians' Committee for Responsible Medicine, Box 6322, Washington, DC 20015. ♦ The Athene Trust distributes a wide range of materials on factory farming, c/o First Floor, 20 Levant St., Petersfield, Hants GU32 3EW, United Kingdom. ♦ *Stepping Stones*, a nonprofit, multicultural quarterly written by and for children, promotes ecological thinking. It's \$15/year, from 80574 Hazelton Road, Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

Adopt A Rabbit

Adopt-A-Rabbit, a project of the Fund for Animals, seeks sponsors for over 200 rabbits kept at a 30-acre sanctuary in South Carolina. The former lab, pet, show, and farm rabbits live as natural a life as possible; bucks are neutered. Write Box 554, Faith, NC 28041.

Recipes Wanted

Ethical Edibles seeks vegan recipes for inclusion in *The Cookbook of The People of The Animal Rights Movement*. Deadline is Nov. 30. Send them to Box 9130, Appleton, WI 54911.

Victories

The Woodstown-Pilesgrove (New Jersey) Board of Education has settled out of court with 15-year-old Maggie McCool, who sued over being flunked in science for refusing to dissect animals. The school must recalculate McCool's grades, pay her legal fees, and publish a statement in their student handbook exempting students from dissection if it infringes on their sincere religious beliefs. ♦ The Nature Conservancy has purchased a 60-acre meadow in Pennsylvania as a sanctuary for scarce bog turtles, and has signed an agreement to buy another 35 acres.

Coming Events

San Francisco State University will host a multidisciplinary conference on "Animal Rights and Our Human Relationship to the Biosphere," March 29 to April 1, 1990. Proposals for presentations must be in by February 15. For details, contact Lois Flynn, NEXA Program, S.F. State University, 1600 Holloway Ave., San Francisco, CA 94132; (415) 338-1301. ♦ The 1990 World Vegetarian Congress will be held in Ramat Gan, Israel, April 17 to 24. For details write 90-A Hayarkon St., Box 3190, Tel Aviv 61031, Israel.

Honors

Nominations for the 1990 Marchig Animal Welfare Awards are due March 1. Forty thousand Swiss francs are given annually for outstanding work in the development of alternatives to animal testing, the implementation of such alternatives, and in the general promotion of animal welfare. For details, write Marchig Animal Welfare Awards c/o World Society for the Protection of Animals, 106 Jermyn St., London SW1Y 6EE, United Kingdom. ♦ Wildlife rehabilitator Carol Krieg was among four Vermonters honored recently by *Vanguard Press*, a Burlington newspaper, for "making the world a better, safer, cleaner or healthier place."

♦ The International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals recently gave Distinguished Service Orders to Ethel Thurston of the American Fund for Alternatives to Animal Research, William Cave of the American Anti-Vivisection Society, and Martha Gutierrez of Argentina's Asociacion para la Defensa de los Derechos del Animal. The IAAPEA also sent \$12,000 (including a grant of \$10,000 from AAVS) to the University of Chile, to be used in replacing medical school animal dissection labs with computerized simulation.

In Memoriam

Robert G. Hudson, executive vice president of the American Anti-Vivisection Society, died August 25 of cancer at his home in Bensalem, Pa. Hudson, 66, had been working to help animals since the age of 14, and at the time of his death also

held key positions with United Humanitarians of Philadelphia and the International Foundation for Ethical Research. A biologist, Hudson published more than a dozen articles in scientific journals, and authored two children's books, *Nature's Nursery: Baby Mammals* and *Nature's Nursery: Baby Birds*. Said William Cave of AAVS, "Bob will be sorely missed by all of us for his dedication to the ideals and philosophy of our Society, his willingness to go to any length necessary to advance the cause of humane treatment of animals, and his unfailing good nature and cheerful disposition."

only one month each year so that people don't put off bringing their animals in. ♦ Cartoonist Cathy Guisewite, who pushed pound adoption through her *Cathy* strip last fall, has drawn a poster promoting pound adoption, available to shelters and humane education groups via the American SPCA, 441 East 92nd St., New York, NY 10128.

Boycotts

The current edition of *National Boycott News* carries a 33-page section on boycotts called by animal rights groups, plus 12 pages of environmental boycott



Animal Rights Advocates of South Dakota debuted with a "Ban Fur" billboard that has the South Dakota Trappers Association convinced some big national group is backing them. No—just local people who are sick of the

carnage. For information, write ARASD at Box 90237, Sioux Falls, SD 57105-9062. ♦ The New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance reports much successful public contact through a float in the Voorhees July 4 parade.

Spaying

The Good Shepherd Foundation, of Nevada County, California, has cut the number of animals killed in local pounds from 5,000 to 3,000 over the past three years, even as the human population has grown by a third. For one month a year, the Good Shepherds spay female companion animals of low income people at \$10 apiece. They raise funds for the balance of the fee (provided at minimum cost by local veterinarians) by running a thrift store. Director Tanja Keogh explains the subsidized spaying is offered for

info and sections on boycotts for human rights and peace. Subscriptions are \$10/year, from 6506 28th Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98115. ♦ St. Petersburg Beach, Florida has adopted a resolution supporting the international tuna netting "on dolphin," which kills around 100,000 dolphins per year. ♦ The Adolph Coors brewery, often the target of boycotts over labor practices, is now being boycotted by several groups for commercials that linger upon images of a roped calf falling down, a roasting pig, and a struggling hooked fish.

NETWORK NOTES

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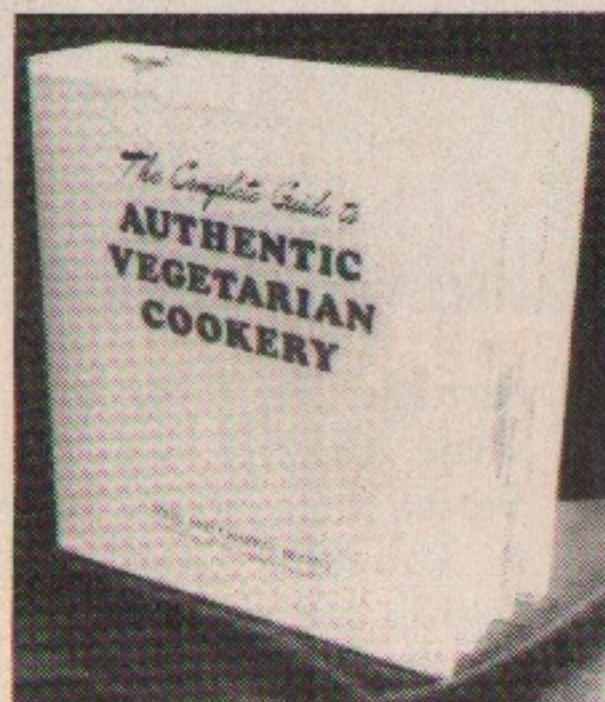
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Making Holiday Dinners Work

BY STACY TAYLOR AND ROBERT EPSTEIN, Ph.D.

As the holiday season approaches, vegetarians everywhere are gearing up for holiday dinners with family. Many wonder if this year they will again be interrogated about "whether you are still a vegetarian?" and "what are you going to eat for Thanksgiving dinner?" While Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners are touted as times of togetherness, for vegetarians they can also be a time for arguments about what is or isn't being eaten.

Holiday dinners don't have to be the setting for family battles, however. It is possible to experience pleasurable and rewarding dinners with relatives without resorting to defenses, debates, or sermons. But it's not easy, because during holidays like Thanksgiving, turkeys are generally the centerpiece of the dinner and the cook can often be hurt or angry when guests refuse to sample the roasted bird. While vegetarianism has become for many an accepted and legitimate lifestyle, family members may respond to vegetarians with derisive or mocking attitudes.

To survive the holiday season and make family dinners work for you, it's necessary to put some thought ahead of time into anticipating some of the typical questions you may be asked, and coming up with creative and effective responses. The key is to try different things and not to be afraid to take risks. A nondefensive attitude will probably affect your family in positive ways that may lead to fruitful discussions.

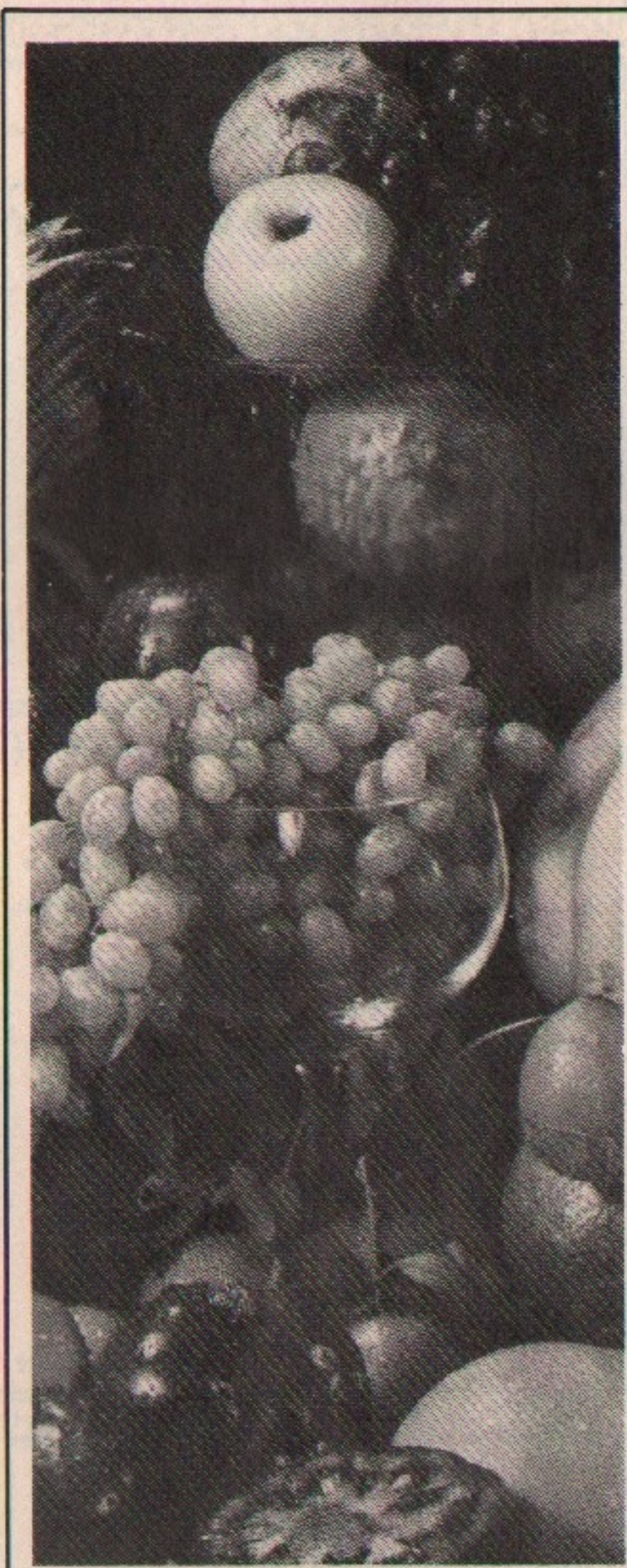
First, learn to recognize your own style of communication. When your grandmother asks you, "Can't you just eat a little turkey? Thanksgiving is only once a year," how do you respond? Do you cower and mumble a weak defense under your breath? Do you launch into a monologue about the history of vegetarianism, why it's wrong to kill animals, and how meat-eating is unhealthy?

Part of developing your own particular style is becoming aware of how you feel after an interaction like the one above. Do you feel misunderstood or criticized? Are you irritated? Do you feel guilty? If you experience any such feelings, then it's clear you need to try some alternative approaches.

Active listening

When your grandmother tries to pressure you to eat "just a little turkey," she is actually try-

ing to convey something important. Your grandmother's insistence may feel intrusive and inappropriate, but she's letting you know that cooking is important to her as a way of nurturing the family. By using active listening, you can detect the hidden statements and feelings. The heart of active listening is *empathy*—a willingness to see things from the other's perspective. Rather than argue with grandmother or block her out, you can respond,



"Grandma, I appreciate the care you've taken in cooking this meal. Although I won't eat the turkey, I'm certainly going to eat the potatoes, vegetables, and pie." If grandmother persists and responds, "But you're not eating any meat. How are you going to get protein?" you might be tempted to explain or ignore her. A response using active listening would instead be, "Grandma, you're worried about me. But I take good care of myself and you don't need to be concerned."

"I statements"

By using "I statements," you take responsibility for your own feelings and attitudes and convey these nondefensively to family members. You assert yourself in a powerful way without needing to attack or blame others. You also let the other person know honestly the kind of effect his/her comments are having in blocking communication. "I statements" are important also because they provide a model to other family members on how to communicate thoughts in a nonjudgmental way.

For example, your brother starts cross-examining you about vegetarianism, and it feels like he's trying to catch you contradicting yourself: "You say you don't eat meat, but you're wearing leather shoes. And what about killing vegetables?" Using an "I statement," you may want to say, "I'm feeling overwhelmed by your rapid-fire questions. It makes me feel like I have to defend myself which I don't want or need to do. I'd much rather we had an open conversation about this with each of us expressing our thoughts and views."

Set limits

It's important to realize that you have the power to begin or end any conversation about your vegetarianism. Your eating habits are a personal matter, and it's up to you whether you discuss it or not. It's okay to not respond to questions or to let people know that your vegetarianism is not an open topic for debate if you are feeling intimidated or disrespected. You can also be clear about when and how you'll engage people in this topic. One of the authors was asked by a cousin at a family dinner while she was enjoying her meal, "You say you don't eat meat but don't you realize that whenever you breathe you're inhaling tiny organisms, including bugs, and killing them?" Since this type of conversation was not enhancing her meal, she responded with, "I'll be happy to talk with you about this after dinner. But it stresses me to discuss this while I'm eating." If she had been categorically opposed to discussing this topic, she could have responded, "This is not an area I would like to discuss. If you're interested in reading about vegetarianism, I could give you some references." And, if the cousin had refused to end her questioning, it

would have been okay to say, "This conversation is making it hard for me to enjoy my meal. If you want to continue it, I can finish my dinner in the kitchen." Remember, you are entitled to have a pleasant and relaxing dinner, and if this is not possible, give yourself permission to leave and return when you feel comfortable.

Using humor

Many vegetarians—especially new ones—may be particularly sensitive to questioning from family. They may be tempted to debate with intensity every comment and question posed.

Sometimes it may be best to try to infuse humor into the conversation. For example, one of the authors was asked by his exasperated mother after he declined to eat even a "little turkey": "Why are you so difficult?" Although this question greatly irritated him, he instead smiled and said, "The devil makes me do it," which surprised the family, and made them laugh as well.

Using humor is a way of letting your family see that you are comfortable with your vegetarianism and can even joke and be playful about it.

A compassionate lifestyle

As a vegetarian, you have chosen an alternative lifestyle that involves respect for human and nonhuman beings. Many meat-eaters are threatened by people who don't eat meat because it puts them in touch with their guilt and self-doubt about being carnivorous. Some unconsciously criticize and attack vegetarians as a way of easing their own guilty feelings. In living compassionately, vegetarians may decide to take on the challenge of being understanding and empathetic when family members pose difficult questions about vegetarianism.

Part of living compassionately is also being compassionate toward oneself. It means that you are entitled to enjoy family gatherings without having to defend or explain yourself. When that happens, holidays can become times of togetherness when people of different lifestyles and personalities join in celebrating bonds of friendship and kinship.

Stacy Taylor is a social worker, and Robert Epstein is a psychotherapist. Both live in Berkeley, California.

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hour-long ABC-TV presentation of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, volume 119, rolled into living rooms and dens across America one fine Monday evening this spring.

The festivities commenced with a gee-golly-whiz parade, awash in color and perpetual motion. Banners were waved and capes twirled by performers in all three rings, while in the large, elliptical track encircling the arena were stilt walkers two stories high; elephants swaying solemnly in procession; clowns in fulsome, outlandish array; handsome young men and comely young women in costumes cut way up to here; and "your host for the evening, Michelle Lee," roosting atop a brightly painted wagon drawn by a two-horse team.

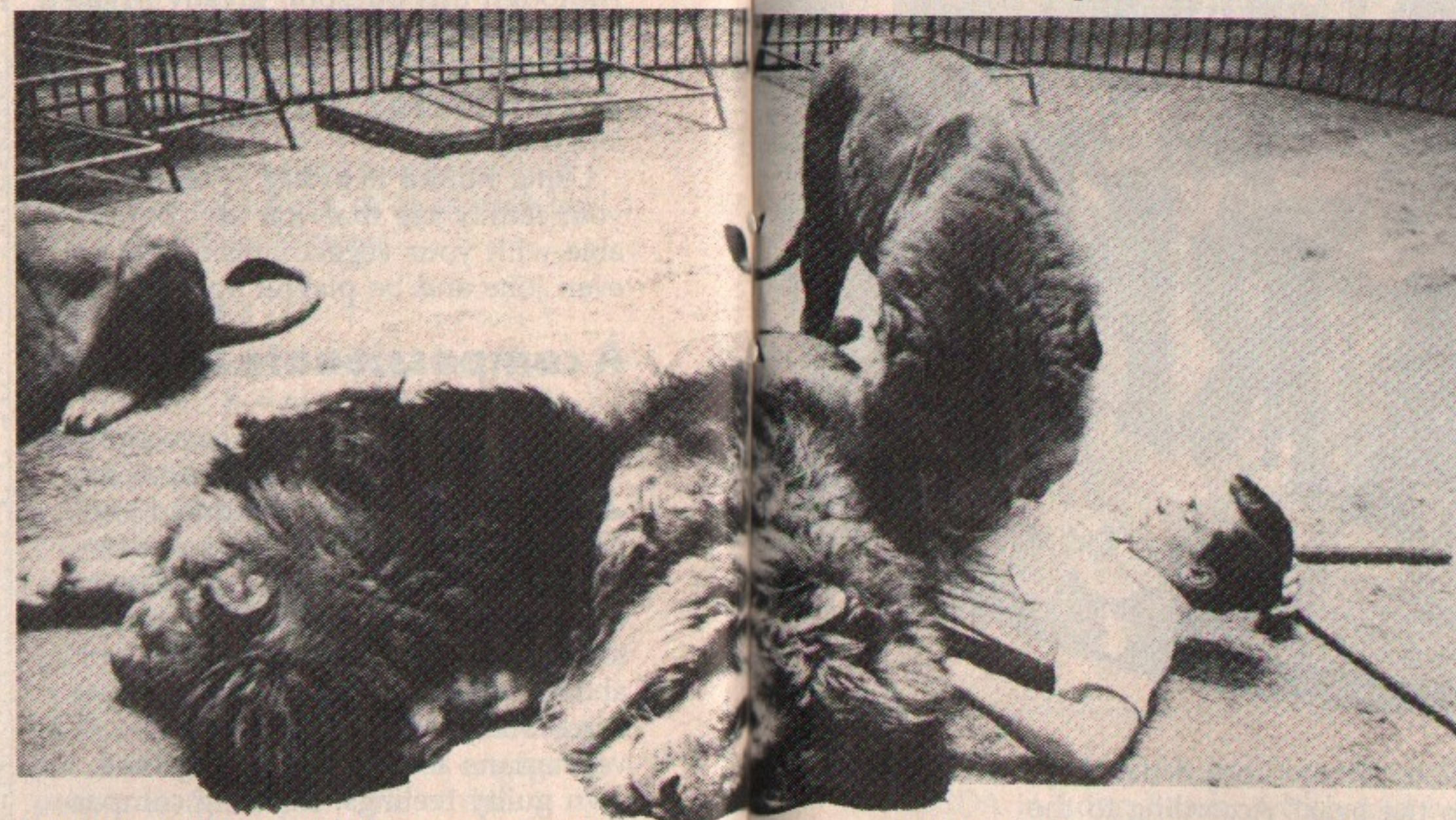
While Ms. Lee circled the arena singing the praises of the circus to the brassy accompaniment of a band, five-second previews of the evening's entertainment flashed on the television screen: tumblers and tightrope walkers; trapeze artists and acrobats; roller-skating dervishes and daredevils on skis; bears walking smartly on their front paws; and in a tall, cyclone-fence enclosure known as "the big cage," a coterie of performing tigers commanded by a whip-cracking, popinjay with supernatural white-blond hair.

It was in the latter's name that the congregation had been assembled. "We are here to celebrate and honor Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey's Lord of the Rings at the beginning of his farewell tour," Ms. Lee informed the communicants. "For over 20 years he's been performing live before an audience of more than 100 million people. He's the greatest circus performer of all time: Gunther Gebel-Williams."

Almost half the program was devoted to Gebel-Williams that night. Appearing in one Fredericks of the Jungle, sequined, star-spangled costume after another, he bossed a

variety of horses, elephants, and tigers around the big top in what Ms. Lee described as his "revolutionary, friendly approach toward displaying animals."

A different facet of Gebel-Williams' friendly approach can be seen on another Ringling Brothers video, this one supplied by the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) of Galt, California. At a railroad siding far from the gladdening crowds, circus animals are being unloaded from the Ringling Brothers train. While the elephants are aligned for the parade into town, the pidgin dialect Gebel-Williams employs with his animals



becomes audible, and the camera pans to the Lord of the Rings himself.

As Ms. Lee has previously told us, Gebel-Williams communicates with his animals in "a combination of German, French, English, and nonsense words [that] may not make sense to us, but that tigers understand perfectly."

A cynic might add that Gebel-Williams' performers also understand the whip and the hook perfectly, for on the PAWS tape he is inclined to apply them without hesitation when the elephants do not move quickly. Following his example, other circus employees use their sticks to crack the docile animals behind the knees. The hooks at the end of the sticks are sunk into the flesh around the

is King: A Look at the Circus

elephants' ears to urge the great beasts forward.

This unfriendly display is not an errant example of the circus being caught with its tents down. When Ringling Brothers disembarked in Washington, D.C., this year, representatives of the Washington Humane Society saw "animals appearing frantic for food and water, elephants with fresh sores and old scarring, and several handlers using hooks to beat elephants repeatedly as they walked in line." Thus, while multitudes gather in worshipful adoration along Gebel-Williams' farewell tour, animal rights groups are challenging the centuries-old tradition of the circus' exploitation of animals which he, more than anyone else, personifies.

"Gunther Gebel-Williams may be a hero to the people raking in money from this exploitation, but to the

meaning tricks for the benefit of impressionable children with half-eaten hot dogs in their hands and adults too jaded to teach their children well.

The case against the circus can be made on many levels. For even if circus animals were kept in palatial lodgings when they weren't performing and dined each day to contentment on sumptuous meals, even if they were transported in climate-controlled luxury and spent only three months of the year on the road, even if they frolicked the rest of the year on mammoth estates and retired to glorious plantations when their careers were through, one could argue—and rightly so—that removing animals from their natural habitat by stealth or by captive breeding and enjoining them to perform for the benefit of others is not justifiable.

But the circus animal's life does not approach anything like a sylvan existence. In truth, the routine of a circus animal—even in the "best" of circuses—never approaches an existence that could vaguely be considered humane. And conditions become more egregious as you travel from shimmering productions in huge coliseums to the ragged tents of the smaller "mud shows" that scuttle across the countryside following the weather and a fast buck.

"It is shocking to realize that most of the mud shows set out without providing for a basic necessity like water," says Sue Pressman, a former director of wildlife protection for the Humane Society of the United States who traveled incognito working as a clean-up person with several circuses.

"I really feel sorry for the tigers," says another circus observer. "Think how you'd feel if you had to spend all your life in one little spot, and the only time you got out was when you did the show. And the elephants, they're always chained. Just like prisoners."

These comments were made by an employee of Circus Vargas last year. They testify to the grievous conditions beneath the glitter and tinsel in which the circus is cunningly packaged. When circus animals are not in the ring or in training—that is, for 95 percent of their lives—they are entombed in small cages, many of them scarcely large enough to turn around in. Or, as one HSUS investigator learned while visiting a circus in the Midwest, "After the rhino and elephant had gone through their acts, they were chained all day in the heat with no relief."

One of the most arrogant examples

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page
of the cruel confinement of performing animals involved the Moscow Circus, which toured North America last year under the sponsorship of Lever Brothers Corporation. When David Bain, inspector for the Toronto Humane Society, visited the Moscow Circus enclosure in August 1988, there was no water in the bears' cages, which were too small to allow the bears to stand upright.

Circus manager Ted Thrasher explained that the bears "signalled their attendant" when they wanted water. He also told Bain that the circus was not aware the cages were too small, a curious response since the circus had been warned about cage size the year before in Ottawa.

After Bain's visit, the Toronto Humane Society gave the Moscow Circus 48 hours to supply larger cages and constant access to fresh water for the bears. When the circus failed to comply, the humane society filed criminal charges with an Ontario judge; but by the time the charges were considered—and dismissed—the Moscow Circus had gone its merry way.

Adding insult to inhumane methods, Patricia Roberts, a spokeswoman for the circus, later claimed that in every city along the tour "the circus and its treatment of animals has been given a clean bill of health."

In November 1988 two members of the Michigan Humane Society visited the Moscow Circus and found the same conditions David Bain had found in Toronto: adult bears living in cages 4' wide, 5' long, and 6' high, and young adults shoehorned into cages 3'6" wide, 4' long, and 5' high. The cages had wooden walls on as many as three sides; they lacked built-in watering facilities; and their dimensions violated the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) because they didn't provide the bears ample space to move around in freely. The bears' trainer, Vladislav Zolkin, claimed that the circus had a large exercise cage for the bears; but when he was asked where it was, he said it wasn't assembled at the time.

By December the Russians were in San Diego, cheerfully ignoring AWA provisions. What was surprising, however, was that two officials of the San Diego Zoo—Carmi G. Penny, curator of animals, and Donald L. Janssen, D.V.M., director of veterinary medicine—declared that "the cages currently used to house the bears are of sufficient size

to provide minimal and basic space requirements."

Penny and Janssen did allow that the bears were unable to "extend vertically to their full height," but the zoo keepers didn't think this restriction was serious enough to "compromise [the bears'] well being." As for stereotypic pacing and cage-gnawing behavior, yes, it was observed; but while this behavior is "potentially detrimental to breeding," said Penny and Janssen, "it provides a form of regular exercise." Which is like saying it's too bad an alcoholic has the DTs,



but at least he's working on muscle tone while he's shaking.

Mr. Penny recommended an exercise cage for the bears, and circus manager Ted Thrasher said he was planning to obtain one—an interesting reply since Zolkin, the bears' trainer, had told the Michigan Humane Society the month before that the circus had an exercise cage, but it wasn't assembled then.

Zolkin had also told a reporter from the Hartford Courant that he didn't "use a stick with the bears, as other trainers would. The bears do the tricks out of love and not out of fright." But such was not the case when Kristina Matousek went to the Moscow Circus at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas with her husband, Steven, and their two sons.

The Thomas & Mack Center is an

oval-shaped building. Three large, overlapping curtains had been stretched across one end of the arena, transforming the oval into a U. The Matouseks, who were sitting at the upper-right-hand side of the U, could see backstage through an opening between two of the curtains. During the bear act, when one of the bears refused to ascend a ladder, he was hustled promptly off stage to the area behind the curtains.

Steven Matousek, who was watching the bear and its handler as they left the stage, suddenly exclaimed, "My

God, Kristy. Look what they're doing to the bear." According to the Matouseks, the bear was struck with what looked like a steel rod. "The bear couldn't escape, although he tried, because he was on a leash," says Kristina. "We were about 100 feet away from the bear, and I know we weren't the only ones who saw what happened."

After the bear's brief retraining session, he ran dutifully back on stage and climbed the ladder. "When the bear left the stage again," Kristina adds, "I saw somebody kick him."

This maltreatment should not go unreported, the Matouseks reasoned, but when Kristina tried to file a complaint against the Moscow Circus, she was given the sort of bureaucratic flimflam that would make a shell

game look like a truth-in-lending exercise.

Accompanied by Linda Levine, a member of Independent Animal Rights Activists of Nevada, Kristina went to the United States Department of Agriculture in Las Vegas on January 9. There she learned that the USDA no longer had a representative in Nevada who handled complaints concerning the abuse of animals in entertainment. She was told to call the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in San Bernardino, California, which told her to call the USDA in



Sacramento, which told her to call the USDA in Long Beach, which told her to call the USDA in Los Angeles. LA said to try "the federal information people," who said to try a USDA veterinary-services office in California, who said to try an office in San Bernardino, who said that the person Kristina needed to contact was Dr. Gary L. Brickler, acting sector supervisor, animal care, western sector, USDA/APHIS veterinary service in Colorado.

In a letter dated January 23, Dr. Brickler informed Kristina that he had received her complaint and had forwarded a copy to the national animal care staff. Finally, on February 21, the APHIS assistant deputy administrator for regulatory enforcement met with Kristina Matousek and Linda Levine

in Las Vegas to take a deposition. He told them that because the circus had already left the country, his department could not investigate the matter any further, but Kristina's well-traveled complaint would be considered in deciding whether to issue an exhibitor's license to the circus in the future.

"The best thing to come out of all this," says Kristina, "is that my children will grow up thinking differently about the circus than I did. My son asked me the other day if there will ever be a circus without

animals that we can go to."

Kristina Matousek's odyssey demonstrates the pointlessness of depending on present government regulations to do much regulating with regard to circuses. And the Moscow Circus' bear-training demonstration, says Pat Derby, president of the Performing Animal Welfare Society, "may be the first time a member of the public has seen what really goes on at circuses. People like myself who have seen bear trainers work know what goes on, but the public generally doesn't because most people don't get to watch circus animals being trained."

Derby, author of *The Lady and Her Tiger*, is a former animal trainer turned activist. She and her companion, Ed Stewart, founded the Performing

Animal Welfare Society in 1984. They live on a ranch near Sacramento with nearly two dozen animals, some of them retired circus performers.

"Bear training," says Derby, "is especially rough. The classic method of breaking bears is by hitting them across the nose. We owned a former circus bear once named Sweet William. His nose was covered with lumps. It had been broken so often he looked like an ex-prize fighter. To the day he died if you raised your hand, he'd duck."

Despite lip service to a "revolutionary, friendly approach toward displaying animals," trainers are as loath to rehearse in public as magicians are. Nevertheless, reports from behind the lines—and the random confession of circus affiliates—believe trainers' claims that all you need is love to persuade an animal to jump through a flaming hoop.

Thirty years ago in *The Circus Kings*, Henry Ringling North described the prevailing technique used in training lions and tigers: "It is not usually a pretty sight to see the big cats trained . . . they are all chained to their pedestals and ropes are put around their necks to choke them down and make them obey. All sorts of other brutalities are used to force them to respect the trainer and learn their tricks."

Twenty-five years later this beat-'em-into-obedience philosophy had not been modified at all. Nick Connell, a reporter who traveled with Ringling Brothers circus, wrote that while the Antalek chimps were being trained for their four-on-a-bicycle routine, Louie, the lead chimp, was struck repeatedly with a "sturdy club" every time he caused the bicycle to fall. "The thumps could be heard outside the arena building," wrote Connell, "and the screams farther than that."

In addition to the severity of training methods, the tricks circus animals are obliged to perform can be harmful in themselves. According to Action for Animals in Oakland, California, jumping through flaming hoops is stressful for any animal; standing on their heads can produce hernias in elephants; walking on tightropes is painful to lions' and tigers' feet; and riding bicycles or motorcycles is dangerous for bears because of their poor eyesight.

Though circus animals' careers are sometimes as long as their tormentors—a few of Gunther Gebel-Williams'

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elephants have been part of his act for 40 years and some of his tigers have been with him for 20—the day eventually arrives when an animal faces retirement. It is not a day when a heavenly chorus begins singing “free at last.”

If some other entrepreneur can wring a few years’ worth of diminished performances out of an animal’s hide, he is sold to one of the minor-league circuses, deprived of what pitiful solace the familiarity of his former captive circumstances may have provided. Failing that, an animal

might be peddled to a roadside zoo, where he languishes in a cage while Mom, Dad, Junior, and Sis stop to gawk on their way from one Holiday Inn to the next.

Some former circus animals are sent to the sort of exotic game ranch Texas specializes in, where they are shot “on safari”—often at point-blank range—by some cholesterol-ridden, slack-bellied desk-jockey who can then return home to brag of his sporting prowess to his wife, kids, and mistress.

Other retired circus animals are condemned to less merciful fates in the research laboratory. “Five years ago,”

says Pat Derby, “when chimpanzee trainer Mickey Antalek died, Ringling Brothers made a big deal about setting up a retirement fund for his family. But his chimps were sent to a research lab in New Mexico. Ringling Brothers claimed it wasn’t responsible for the chimps because they were part of a contract act and weren’t owned by the circus.”

The Antalek chimps might have died at the hands of researchers—or worse—if the International Primate Protection League, the Elsa Wild Animal Appeal of Chicago, and other groups had not taken up their cause. Thousands of letters arrived at Ringling Brothers’ national headquarters (3201 New Mexico Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20016), and pickets appeared at Ringling Brothers’ stops in Boston and Chicago. The chimps were released from the laboratory after six months and sent to live out their retirement in Florida. When they were finally released, Alena Baloun, the sister-in-law of Mickey Antalek’s widow, said that family members would be visiting the chimps soon.

“This was a pleasant surprise,” noted one animal rights worker, “since the Antalek family had made no effort to get the chimps out.”

Continued, by popular demand

Despite all its moral deformities, the glittering gulag of the circus—about which more than 16,000 books have been written—is a towering, popular, and quintessentially American diver-

sion. Nearly as old as our constitution and, one might argue, more firmly entrenched in the national psyche, the circus marries a baseball-hot-dogs-apple-pie-and-Chevrolet appeal to the virtues of devotion to mom, the union label, and the flag. It is as corny as Kansas in August, as comforting as the paintings of Norman Rockwell, and as reassuring as the homilies of Norman Vincent Peale.

Yet despite this tradition and the recent increase in circus attendance, several animal rights groups are mobilized to turn the rascals out. “We think our society is sensitive enough now to understand that going to see baboons in skirts riding bicycles is no longer funny,” says Jean Goldenberg, a spokeswoman for the Washington Humane Society, which this spring called for a national boycott of the circus.

“It is time the public saw the other side of the circus,” says Goldenberg. “It is only the fear of beatings, hook punctures, paw burnings, and worse that produces much of the unnatural behavior seen in circus acts. If the public could see, we think people would demand that animal acts be abolished.”

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has recently joined in the call for a circus boycott. In July PETA launched a pull-out-the-stops campaign against animals in entertainment. “No effort ever undertaken by PETA has been more important,” wrote chairperson Alex Pacheco in a nationwide mailing that urged people to forgo the circus and to report instances of suspected animal abuse.

In order for the campaign against the circus to succeed, animal rights activists will have to overcome ignorance, inertia, and a public-relations counteroffensive from the big top and its goodwill machine. With straight, if garishly painted, faces, circus promoters dismiss charges of animal abuse as “unjustified and misdirected.” What’s more, says one Ringling Brothers publicist, “the Greatest Show on Earth has a proud record of humane care for its animals which reflects a high regard for the value of its attractions.”

Julie Strauss, a spokesperson for the circus, maintains that Ringling Brothers has been a “best friend” to wild animals during its 119 years and has recently been chosen by the USDA as an example to other circuses. (The Antalek chimps, to be sure, might have chosen a different role model.)

Nor is Ringling Brothers above rewriting geography and physiology in defending its treatment of animals. On a National Public Radio broadcast this year, a circus representative claimed that the proof of Ringling Brothers’ pudding could be seen in the longevity of its performers.

“His statements were laughable,” says Pat Derby, who appeared on the same broadcast. “This guy said that in the jungles elephants only lived to be five years old and tigers only lived to be two, but in the circus, elephants live to be 50 or 60 and tigers live to be 20.”

“If tigers and elephants lived such short lives in the wild, there wouldn’t be any left because they would die

before they reached full reproductive age.”

As a last resort, circus promoters will claim that animals are better off in circuses than they are in zoos. “This argument is pointless,” counters HSUS. “Humaneness is not relative.” (While acknowledging that zoos frequently mistreat animals, this argument curiously ignores the fact that circuses often sell their old performers to zoos when the animals’ careers are through.)

Another obstacle to circus reform is the media’s inclination to genuflect before the circus legend. While newspapers will report circus protests, most writers seem to reserve their editorializing and flights of poetic fan-

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—VanValkenburg/NEAVS

The History of the Circus in America

But for hangings, the entertainment choices of colonial Americans were meager. To help fill a barren social calendar, hunters who had shanghaied bears from the forest and sailors who had imported monkeys from across the sea exhibited their prizes at taverns or on village commons. While people oooohed and aahhhed and slapped their thighs in rustic wonder, the backwoods moguls who owned the animals circulated through the crowd passing the coon-skin hat.

Such primitive exhibits—which began around 1720—were the forerunners of the circus in America. Eventually other animals were added to the



venue, and some were taught a few rudimentary tricks in order to provide a better show for the *cognoscenti* and a better take for the animals’ masters. By the end of the century, lions, camels, bears, monkeys, and elephants had been exhibited in many of the colonies.

In 1792 a British stunt rider named John Bill Ricketts built an amphitheater in Philadelphia and produced this country’s first circus. It attracted large crowds, including this country’s first president. Before long, American entrepreneurs, already dedicated to the proposition that nothing succeeds like excess, would begin to transform the circus from a one-ring amusement

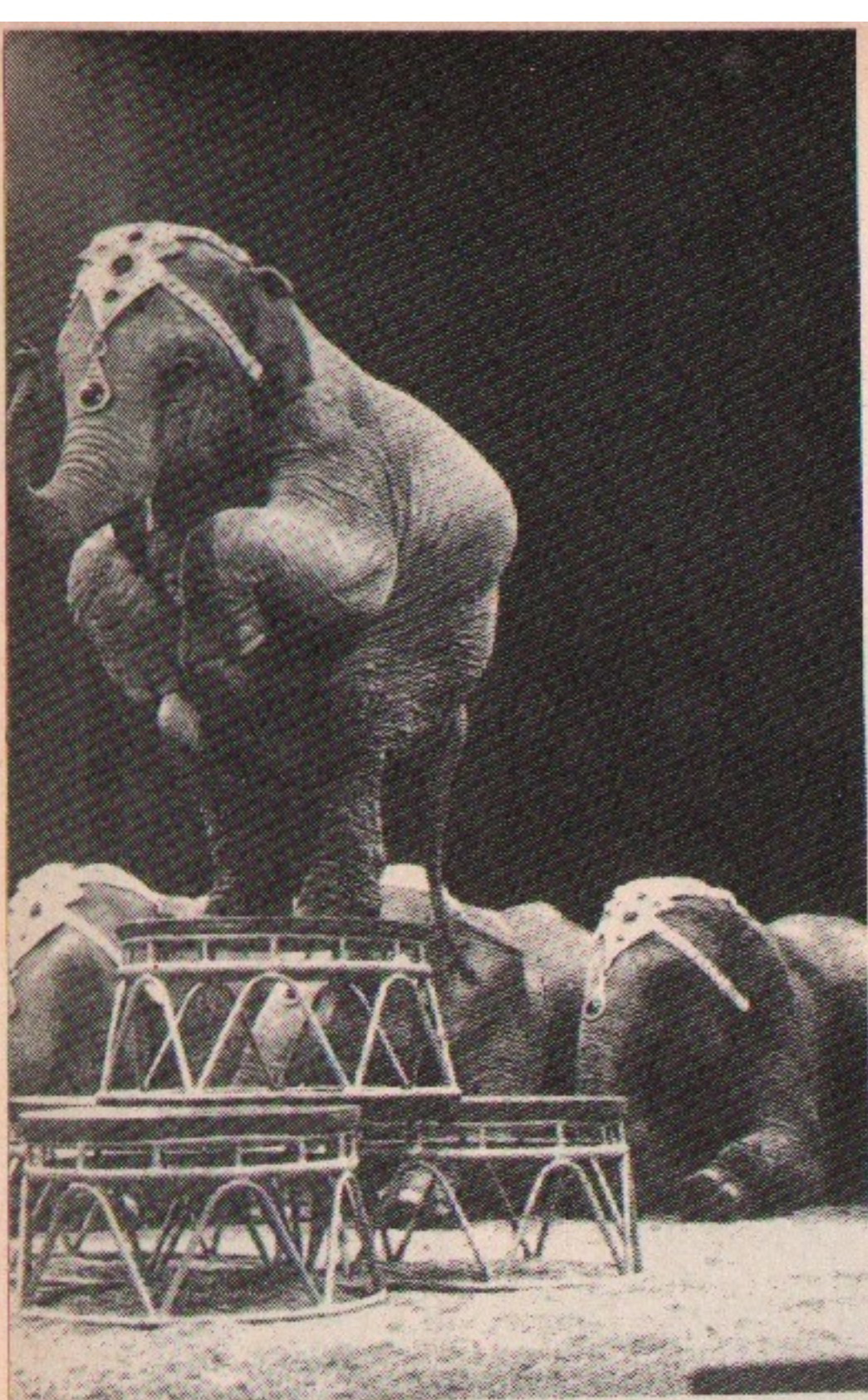
staged in a permanent facility into a traveling phantasmagoria for the senses.

In 1826 Nathan Howe and Aaron Turner set up the first big top, providing the American circus with a singular identity, distinct from its European forebears. In the 1830s Isaac Van Amburgh became the first animal trainer to enter a cage with the big cats. In 1837 the circus parade, a noisome advertisement, made its debut in Albany, New York. In 1853 the hippodrome was added to the outside perimeter of the circus ring, allowing promoters to recreate the spirit of the ancient Roman circus by mounting gargantuan processions, chariot races, and live hunts in which packs of hounds gave chase to frightened stags. In 1855 the steam



calliope was invented, a boisterous musical artifact most noticeable by its presence in the circus parade. In the 1860s the menagerie—an embellishment of the original one-trick-bear animal exhibit of colonial times—was combined with other attractions under the big top. In 1872 William C. Coup added the second ring to the American circus. Coup’s partner, one Phineas Taylor Barnum, had gotten his start in show business 37 years before when he purchased and exhibited a slave named Joyce Heth, purported to be 161 years old and alleged to have been the nurse of that old circus fancier George Washington. In 1881 Barnum, then 71, and his new partner, the 34-year-old James A. Bailey, added the third ring to their show. Barnum

Continued on page 56



Continued from previous page
cy for circus reviews. When the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals called for a boycott of the Ringling Brothers circus five years ago—after the Greatest Show on Earth had attempted to pass off four goats with surgically implanted horns in their skulls as “living Unicorns”—UPI Senior Editor Frederick M. Winship gushed that “whatever it is, Ringling’s unicorn is a lovely, silvery fleeced animal with a realistic brownish horn growing out of its forehead.” This “sensation of the ages,” Winship concluded, “isn’t as corny as it sounds.”

A person would expect to find this sort of piffle in college newspapers or local publications, and he wouldn’t be disappointed. A reporter for *Broadside*, the campus newspaper of George Mason University in Virginia, wrote after visiting the Moscow Circus that “Nikolai Pavlenko and his 17 Sumatran tigers showed what a smooth, mutually respectful man and animal team could look like.” Then, scarcely pausing to unravel his tangled syntax, the reviewer rhapsodized about the “religious philosophy” implied in a high wire act, opining that this philosophy “may have done a lot to dispel the ‘evil empire’ myth which has shrouded the Soviet Union in recent years.”

Across the country at *The Seattle Times*, a visit to the Moscow Circus threw one staff critic into an alliterative fit. The circus, she declared, is “dignified, daring, and daffy” without depending on “big, busy, but barren effects.” The only

thing this reviewer found to criticize regarding the circus was the “appalling commercialism inserted by tactless sponsors who had announcers make several mentions of their names” during the performance.

Ed Stewart of PAWS does not believe this kind of reporting is simply a matter of misguided metaphors. “One reason circuses have been able to get away with abusing animals for years is that they come into town trading advertising and tickets to TV stations and newspapers. Then they donate a little money to the Kiwanis Club. It’s a good racket they have going.

“We have a friend who is a television newscaster, and she said you wouldn’t believe the way Ringling Brothers lays it on for the media. Yet when she wanted to get a look behind the scenes, she was only allowed to see what the circus wanted her to see.”

At the conclusion of the Lord of the Rings TV special last spring, Michelle Lee sat in a darkened arena singing a treacly song which repeatedly asked, “Do we need another hero?”

The answer, as Ms. Lee rightly concluded, is yes. But we don’t need the kind of hero she had in mind. We don’t need another animal-exploiting superstar in gold lamé headband and disco drag. The heroes we need are people who will call the circus to task for the tasks it imposes on its four-legged performers. Heroes who will carry the signs and file the protests, no matter how many times they are put on hold or directed to call a different office. Heroes who will introduce legislation requiring greater accountability from those who would grow fat on the misery of performing animals. Heroes who will tell their children why it wrong to attend the circus. Heroes like the troupes of *Cirque du Soleil* from Montreal or the Circus Hassani in England who do not employ animals in their presentations. Heroes like the members of the 130 town and district councils in England which have refused to allow circuses that employ animals to perform on council-owned land.

For sure, Ms. Lee, we need all the heroes like that we can get. And when they have carried the day, children will no longer have to ask if there will ever be a circus without animals they can attend. ■

Philip Astley: Father of the Modern Circus

Philip Astley, a former sergeant-major with the 15th Light Dragoons, created the modern circus. The date usually advanced for this creation is 1768, and the alleged site is Halfpenny Hatch, near Westminster Bridge in London. But circus historian Anthony Hippisley Coxe challenges the traditional date and location on the basis of an entry found in a book called *Memoirs*, written by one Harry Angelo and published in 1830.

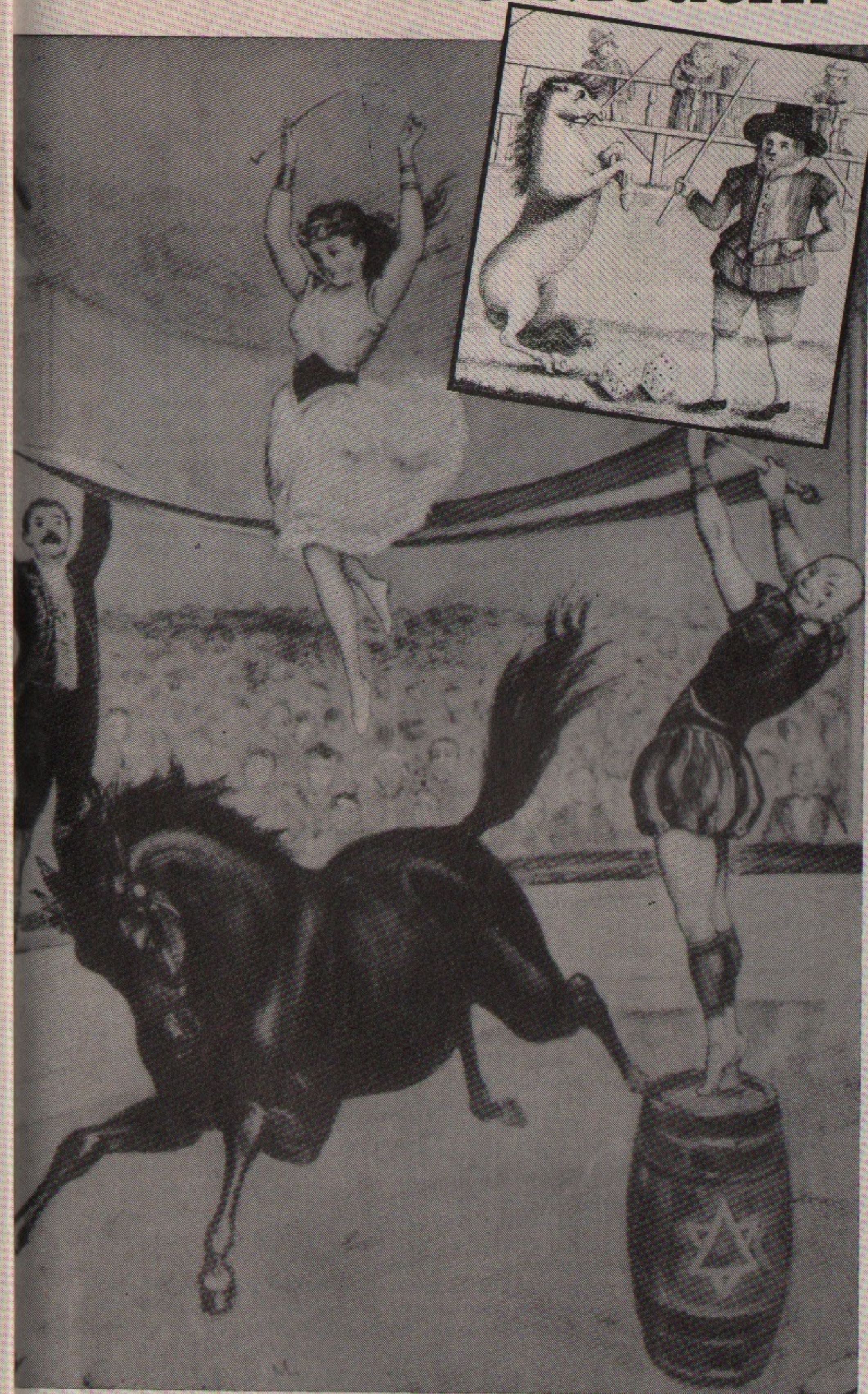
According to Angelo, “Corporal Astley astonished the common people of Wilton when one day his horse galloped in a circle, with Astley upon its back standing on his head.” Since Angelo referred to Astley as “corporal,” Coxe maintains that Astley’s performance had to have occurred around 1761 (after which, we assume, Astley was promoted). In addition, Angelo places Astley’s exhibition in Wilton, 130 kilometers west-southwest of London.

Discussions of rank and logistics notwithstanding, no one denies that Philip Astley was the ringleader in the development of the circus. The son of a cabinet maker of violent temper, Astley became enchanted with horses at an early age. He left home when he was 17 and joined the Light Dragoons.

After distinguishing himself as a horseman and soldier in the Seven Years War, Astley sought a discharge in order to open a riding school for members of the nobility. (Since the Seven Years War ended in 1763—and since Astley sought to be excused from the remainder of the conflict in order to start his academy—Coxe’s assertion that Astley first performed in public in 1761 seems creditable.)

Upon learning that the owner of a new inn at Derby had raised construction money for the inn by performing stunts on horseback in a field and then passing a hat, Astley determined to do the same. He was even more successful than the innkeeper had been, and as the take from his performances grew, Astley built a rough shelter for spectators and charged admission to his demonstrations instead of passing the hat. Soon he added what has been called the first circus band to the proceedings. It consisted of a boy beating on a drum in a pigeon house in the center of the ring where Astley performed.

Astley was as crude outside the ring as he was capable and self-assured in it. Noted for his eccentricities of habit, “he had a difficult nature, made few



friends, and quickly lost the few he made,” one writer observed. “Among his papers after his death were found scraps of doggerel verse in which were allusions to his wife and son, in-

variably unkind.”

This diamond-in-the-rough rider was also known for riding roughshod over the English language. He once complained about his horses’ large ap-

petes, declaring that they ate “most vociferously.” And during one trip to France he exclaimed to his son, “That there man can’t be the father of the Dolphin. Why, he’s omnipotent!”

Yet Astley was unequaled as a breaker and trainer of horses, and he made up in luck what he lacked in comportment. One day he found a diamond ring valued at 70 guineas. After no one had claimed it, he sold the ring and used the proceeds to obtain a mortgage on a new building. A month later the mortgagor went abroad and was never heard from again. Thus did Astley finance a new establishment for his performances. Opened in 1770, it was rebuilt and embellished over the years.

“What a place it looked, that Astley’s,” marvelled a Dickens character in *The Old Curiosity Shop*, “with all the paint, gilding, and looking-glass; the vague smell of horses suggestive of coming wonders; the curtain that hid such gorgeous mysteries; the clean white sawdust down in the circus.”

By the time of this observation, Astley had added tumblers, slack-rope walkers, and a clown named Burt to his show. The modern circus was officially in town. Later, Astley’s ten-year-old son, John, who danced, vaulted, and played the violin on a horse who was moving at full gallop, was also added to the troupe. In a dodge that established him as the father of modern-day circus hyperbole, Astley advertised John’s age as five.

Astley took his show to France in 1772 and performed there annually for many years. In 1791, when war broke out between England and France, Astley, then 49, rejoined his old regiment and distinguished himself in battle once again. He died in 1814 at the age of 72. By that time the circus he had originated was a popular diversion throughout Europe and in the United States as well.

Although Astley was the father of the modern circus, he was not without rivals in his time. Charles Hughes, a member of Astley’s company, eventually became Astley’s main competitor when he (Hughes) opened his own riding school and organized a show similar to Astley’s in 1782. Hughes’ show, called “The Royal Circus,” was the first entertainment in 14 centuries to be known by this ancient Roman word. Astley’s father, cantankerous and unreconciled with his son to the end, worked as an hostler in Hughes’ establishment.

—P.M.

A deeply-ingrained habit of putting a project's profitability above all other criteria has often committed the Bank to short-term gains at the expense of long-term ecological damage.



GLOBAL— World Bank Posture Threatens Delicate Ecosystems

As the biggest single lender for development projects in the Third World, the World Bank and its network of lending associates can often play a crucial role in the manner fragile ecosystems are treated. But, to the dismay of activists and scientists who watch closely what the Bank is doing around the world, the record to date is far from encouraging. Apparently there have been too many instances of environmentally destructive projects where the institution showed "a blatant disregard" for the ecological aspects underlying the program. Indeed, if the recent past is any indication, the Bank seems far more interested in deflecting censure through clever public relations maneuvers and tokenism than in implementing serious environmental safeguards. The result is a "business as usual" posture highly damaging to the world's

ecosystems.

The Bank's unenlightened attitude stems chiefly from two factors that dominate its ideology. One is the deeply-ingrained habit of looking at projects exclusively in terms of bottom-line "economic" benefits—as bankers do. This often commits the Bank to short-term gains at the expense of long-term ecological damage. The second rationale is basically political. As an important financial instrument controlled by the capitalist superpowers, the Bank has a pronounced interest in seeing a measure of infrastructural development and economic progress occur in the Third World, if only to supply something of an escape valve for the constantly building political pressures threatening these societies with anarchy, chaos, or revolution.

At least in regard to two major environmental issues—the

fate of the world's rain forests and the so-called "greenhouse effect"—the Bank is likely to prove a formidable obstacle to real progress.

The fragility and ecological significance of the rain forests has been recognized for decades. This, however, has hardly slowed down the spread of agriculture (mainly triggered by human overpopulation and the marginalization of the poor), uncontrolled logging, and other developments, all of which have reduced rain forests in Latin America, Asia, and Africa to less than half their original area. Mature rain forests take centuries to grow back—if ever—so they are far more akin to a nonrenewable resource than a renewable one. Further, experts believe that unless something dramatic is done to reshape rain forest "management," they may be reduced by another 20 to 40 percent by the turn of the cen-

tury. How has the Bank reacted to these realities?

The notorious Polonoreste project in Brazil provides an answer. Designed to develop agribusiness in Brazil's north-west frontier and to build a highway right through the heart of the Amazon rain forest, the \$434-million project caused massive deforestation in an area the size of Italy before critics and subsequent congressional pressure brought it to a halt in 1985. In the wake of this disaster, the U.S. Congress directed the Bank—among other things—to institute a high-level environmental review and to stop funding large-scale capital intensive projects. Temporarily contrite, the Bank promptly cranked out numerous press releases proclaiming a more "environmentally sensitive" posture.

The truth, however, lay elsewhere. With literally hundreds of projects in the pipeline worth billions of dollars, the Bank deployed no more than a handful of bureaucrats to assess its programs' ecological impact.

The Bank's policy toward the possibly catastrophic "greenhouse effect" is equally

myopic. As the press revealed in late August, confidential memos prepared by the Bank conclude that "predictions of global warming are too uncertain to justify limiting loans for development in Third World countries on environmental grounds alone."

The Bank's memo, which outlines options for addressing the greenhouse effect, says that the bank's lending policies should aim "for immediate and obvious" economic benefits, "without having to deal with the issues of uncertain global externalities." The paper goes on to call scientific predictions of global climate change, which forecast a massive dieout of animals far greater than the last global extinction wave, "conjectural."

The policy statement comes at a time when the bank is seeking billions of dollars in additional financial support from the U.S. and other developed nations to fund low-cost loans to poor countries. As might be expected, many poorer nations have welcomed the Bank's statement. Facing powerful internal pressures to raise their nation's living standards, many Third World politicians argue that industrialized countries are primarily responsible for such environmental threats as the greenhouse effect, and that they should bear the brunt of solving them. With the lines so drawn, environmental and animal issues are quickly becoming another source of political friction between the "have" and "have not" nations of the world. As to the role of the World Bank and similar institutions, it would seem that activists will have to apply far greater pressure if a real turnaround in policy is to be effected. **Main sources:** Rainforest Action Network, Jeremy Rifkin, *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

by Merritt Clifton & D.P. Greanville

Muscovy ducks eat up to 326 flies an hour, killing 15 to 85 times more than commercial anti-fly products. The University of Guelph, Ontario recommends use of the ducks in barns and stockyards.

Beauty Without Cruelty (India) stopped a local plan to ship surplus dogs from Calcutta to South Korean meat markets. The group continues combatting dog overpopulation with Talsur, a chemical castration agent not yet on the international market. Inquiries from other groups active against companion animal overpopulation are welcomed, however; address Diana Ratnagar, P.B. 18, Poona 411 001, India.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals continues a large-scale conventional spay/neuter campaign directed at feral dogs in Colombia and Costa Rica.

Inspectors from the Toronto Humane Society were barred from return visits to the Moscow Circus in August, after finding conditions for the bears had not improved significantly since last year, when THS tried to prosecute the circus for cruelty but ran up against a lack of legally established caging standards. Although Eileen Liska of the Michigan Humane Society expressed satisfaction that the bears now have an exercise cage, which the circus agreed to provide after protracted negotiations with her and other U.S. groups last year, Barry Kent Mackay of THS said they had an exercise cage while in Canada last year, too—but the bigger bears weren't given adequate chance to use it.

Annual forest fire damage in Canada increased from 600,000 hectares in 1967 to 2.3 million hectares in 1986 and is now rising even more sharply, reports the Atmospheric Environment Service. The fires may reflect a warming trend provoked by the "greenhouse effect" and are combining with climate change to devastate wildlife habitat. Rising seas caused by the greenhouse effect will do even more damage by 2050, predicts Stephen Lewis, former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations. Flooding of coastal cities will quadruple the number of international refugees (even without population growth),

as shoreline habitat floods and low-lying forests and fields become lakes (or diked enclaves protected by energy resource-draining pumps.) Most species' habitats have only a narrow climatological margin, and even a few degrees in temperature change can often cause far-ranging negative consequences for the animals involved.

Genetic defects have already appeared in hedgehogs and shrews living near the Chernobyl nuclear plant, Soviet scientists report. Boars, foxes, rabbits, fish and insects are also still highly radioactive, over three years after the plant almost melted down, while births of deformed calves and pigs are common more than 50 kilometres away. Sweden and Norway have also reported cases of animal radioactive contamination traceable to the Chernobyl disaster.

former wife Joy raised the lioness Elsa, whose life was documented in the films *Born Free* and *Living Free*. Joy was killed in 1980 at the Shaba game reserve by an employee she had fired for theft. Friends of Animals responded to the killings with a plan to raise \$500,000 to support increased anti-poaching activity in both Kenya and neighboring Tanzania. FoA already hires rangers to protect 13 rare white rhinos at Nepal's Royal Bardia Wildlife Refuge, none of whom have been poached since the program began.

Bald eagles from British Columbia are being introduced to National Seashores at Point Reyes and Big Sur, Calif.

Sixty Dutch nuns are offering themselves as volunteer product testers for Penders personal care products, in lieu of animals.



Conservationist George Adamson and Connecticut Audubon Society member Marie Magdefrau Ferraro were among five people killed in Kenya by poachers during August. At least five others were wounded. Kenyan wildlife minister Richard Leaky blamed ethnic Somalis, who may have been reacting to the government's anti-poaching crackdown. An ethnic Somali shopkeeper was arrested in connection with the Adamson slaying. A former professional safari hunter who came to oppose hunting, Adamson, 83, and his

Britain's five million cats annually kill 70 million small mammals and birds, according to University of London researchers John Lawton and Peter Churcher. The two kept records on 77 cats' kills for one year. Of 1,100 kills, 64 percent were rodents, while 16 percent were sparrows.

Refusing to enforce the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which it has ratified, Nepal allows open sale of furs from endangered

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INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

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leopards and wolves on the main streets of Kathmandu. Most of the furs are illegally imported from Kashmir, India, where the animals are also illegally killed and made into garments. Protest to Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah, The Royal Palace, Kathmandu, Nepal; B.N. Upreti, Director of Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Box 860, Kathmandu, Nepal; and Dr. Hemanta Mishra of the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation, Box 3712, Kathmandu, Nepal.

In a long overdue development, "Kindness Clubs" promoted by World Society for the Protection of Animals advisory director Sophie Montezinos are introducing African youth to humane care of animals.

Beijing, China is again purging dogs, accused of biting 17,000 people in six months. Under the late Mao Tse Tung, city dogs were massacred at least once previously as alleged social parasites. The present purge employs troops brought to Beijing to quell student protests in early summer. Despite Buddhist influence, which generally injects a gentle approach toward other animals, China has traditionally exhibited a highly speciesist attitude. This suggests, once again, that economic underdevelopment and its attendant conditions of extreme poverty can have a profoundly negative effect on the manner people relate to animals.

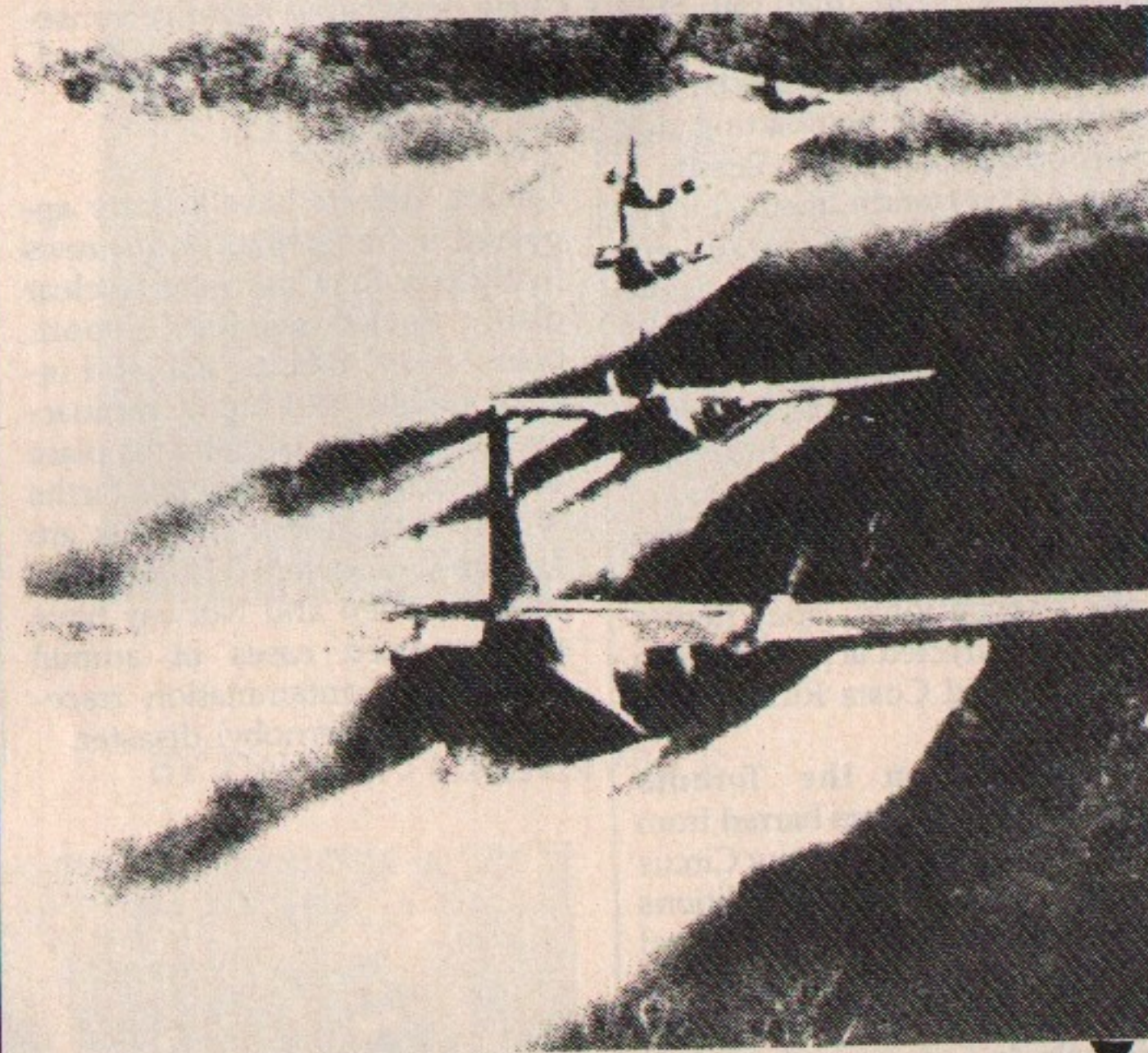
As cocaine growers defoliate the Peruvian Amazon to establish plantations, U.S.-funded anti-drug troops attack the coca plants with strong doses of herbicides, thereby helping to turn the jungle into a desert. Even the herbicide industry is appalled: Eli Lilly has refused to sell the herbicide 'Spike' for use in the drug war; DuPont advises against use of its rival herbicide, 'Velpar'; and Dow ceased selling its herbicide 'Garlon-4' to the anti-cocaine push in 1985.

Confiscated items made from the skins of endangered species are rotting in warehouses, the Brazilian government says, because even groups that clothe the poor don't want them.

Rural Quebec tourism is largely based on fishing, but at least two major attractions, the Matane River and Lake Memphremagog, are fished out. Acid rain, erosion, and pollution long since destroyed

their spawning streams.

The last two dolphin colonies in British coastal waters are close to extinction due to pollution. Britain had 69 surviving dolphin colonies after World War II.



U.S. songbirds are declining from loss of tropical forest to which they migrate, says the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Over the past decade, the wood thrush has declined 30 percent, the northern oriole by 23 percent, and the scarlet tanager by 10 percent. Major U.S.-based conservation groups are now beginning to react to this challenge by setting up habitat-protection programs abroad.

Restaurants serving insects and cactus worms as traditional native fare are the latest rage in Mexico City.

Horseback riders again pulled the heads off live geese hung by their feet at the annual fiesta in El Carpio de Tajo, Spain. As a concession to protest, the geese were drugged.

The World Bank is helping Brazil spray DDT in the Amazon rainforest to fight malaria. Malaria cases have leaped from 51,000 in 1970 to 560,000 last year, as settlers have invaded mosquito habitat. Brazilian leaders, responding to nationalistic pressures, have begun

to speak out against "foreign meddling" in the country's affairs, frequently denouncing international proposals to cancel or replace development projects which might yield short-term economic benefits but which damage ecosystems in the long run. An example of this attitude came recently, when Brazilian authorities ousted British scientists who documented rainforest destruction.

Sotheby's Australian auction house has been fined and put on probation for possessing a rug made from 40 skins of the endangered duckbilled platypus.

Montreal Hunt Club field master George Caluori is now promoting polo in nearby Knowlton; whether this is to be an alternative to fox hunting or a recruiting ploy is still unclear.

Proposed revisions to the Criminal Code of Canada would move offenses against animals from property statutes to a new

section, "Crimes Against the Natural Order"—but also may weaken anti-cruelty provisions by exempting the "reasonable, necessary" activities of trappers, hunters, farmers, and researchers.

Algae blooms caused by septic pollution from Italy, Yugoslavia, and Albania caused fish kills across the Adriatic Sea last summer.

A net costs 30 times as much as a stick of dynamite, so Tanzanian fishermen have blown up 80 percent of the nation's coral reef, wiping out spawning areas and causing severe shoreline erosion.

At the instigation of EPA head William Reilly, the U.S. has granted \$1 million to the World Wildlife Fund, with which to buy \$2.1 million of Madagascar's foreign debt at a discount. In exchange, Madagascar will initiate rainforest conservation. This is the first debt-for-nature swap using U.S. federal funds.

The Philippines shipped 83,439 monkeys to the U.S., Japan, and France, in the period 1981-1988.

Emergency Relief for Animals Needed in Wake of Hurricane Hugo

In Puerto Rico and other islands of the Caribbean, funds are exhausted from helping hundreds of animals injured or left homeless by September's Hurricane Hugo. The small Vieques Humane Society urgently seeks donations to continue its work. Vieques Island in Puerto Rico, which has an extraordinary large free-roaming dog and horse population, was among the hardest hit of all the Caribbean islands; it is also one of the poorest. Relief contributions may be sent to the Vieques Humane Society at Box 1017, Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765 (U.S. mail rates apply). Details on the Vieques situation are available from Ann Cottrell Free at (301) 229-8160.

When Captain Richard Whibley refused to take the Dutch-registered vessel Greenpeace away from a Trident missile test launch in international waters, the U.S. Navy responded, "We're telling you to get your ass back to the Netherlands. Go back and save the whales."

Solveig Wagner seeks U.S. petitioners in support of her effort to ban animal experiments in Denmark. Write her c/o Paradiso, Borgevangel 13, 9330 Dronninglund, Denmark.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals has released in Uruguay 875 nutria confiscated from a bankrupt Dutch fur farm. The nutria now inhabit preserves where trapping and hunting are forbidden.

A cougar hasn't been killed in Quebec since 1943, and authenticated sightings are fewer than sightings of huge unidentified reptilian creatures in lakes Champlain, Memphremagog, and Pohenegamook, but the Fish and Game Department believes about 30 cougars survive—somewhere. The Gaspé caribou, beluga whale, and wolverine are also officially endangered in Quebec, along with 25 bird species, of which the loggerhead shrike, piping plover, and Caspian tern are at imminent risk of extinction.

West Germany has banned genetic engineering creating hybrids of humans with animals, as part of an Embryo Protection Law also banning sex selection and surrogate motherhood.

Mexico impounded all 800 animals at the Guadalajara Zoo after the zoo purchased two baby gorillas from notorious animal smuggler Walter Sensen, who is already under indictment in his native West Germany. The Mexican authorities were tipped off to the illegal deal by the International Primate Protection League.

U.S.-financed counterinsurgency warfare and plantation agriculture featuring intense use of pesticides and herbicides (many banned in the U.S.) have left "virtually every original ecosystem in El Salvador

in ruins," according to *Earth Island Journal's* latest Green Paper. "The country's once-dense forest cover has all but disappeared," along with most wildlife. Massive chemical defoliation, used throughout Indochina during the Vietnam war, is strategically important to the U.S.-supported Salvadoran government because it allows it to use its superior air power to spot and destroy guerrilla concentrations. For the full paper, send \$3.00 to Earth Island Institute, 300 Broadway, Suite 28, San Francisco, CA 94133-3312.

About 300 members of the Hunt Saboteurs Association walked in front of hunters on opening day of the English grouse season. An epidemic of parasitic worms in the grouse further discouraged the hunt.

The midyear body count from Zimbabwe's war on poaching showed nine dead poachers, against 22 dead rhinos and a huge number of dead elephants. The Zimbabwean black rhino population has dropped to under 4,000, from 70,000 in 1970.

Sweden has given a kosher chicken slaughterhouse a three-year exemption from a law requiring animals to be stunned before killing. Denmark and Britain already exempt kosher slaughter from similar laws. The Swedish Society Against Painful Ex-



periments is campaigning to keep the exemption from being renewed.

Poison-squirting South American cane toads, introduced to Australia in 1935 to fight graybacked beetles, haven't controlled the beetle population but are outcompeting native amphibians, reptiles, birds, and cats in pursuit of other prey. Dopers who hallucinate on the cane toads' poison are their only Australian predator.

The International Wildlife Coalition and Progressive Animal Welfare Society are suing Chicago's Shedd Aquarium and Tacoma's Point Defiance Aquarium, seeking release of three young beluga whales who were trapped in the Arctic and are now held at Point Defiance pending completion of the Shedd facilities. The belugas were rushed to Point Defiance as PAWS sought an injunction to bar their admission to the U.S.

A young black bear suffered for three hours as Calgary police shot him repeatedly in a suburban backyard. A Cambridge, New York hunter who smuggled a six-week-old, eight-pound baby bear home with him from Quebec meanwhile faces charges. The hunter contends he rescued the bear after someone else shot the mother.

Montreal is planning a \$40 million transformation of a bicycle racing track into a Biodome, to include replica tropical and boreal forests stocked with 218 animal species, plus a tank of beluga whales. The object is increased tourism. Protest to Quebec premier Robert Bourassa (the same man leading efforts to redirect water from James Bay to the U.S., cutting 20 percent of the flow to the Arctic) c/o Hotel du Gouvernement, Quebec City, Quebec G1A 1A4, Canada; and Montreal mayor Jean Dore, Hotel de Ville, 275 Notre Dame, Montreal, Quebec H2Y 1C6, Canada.



"Helping Hands" is a Cruel Hoax, Trainer Tells Congress

The "Helping Hands" program to teach capuchin monkeys to look after quadriplegics is a cruel, costly hoax, former trainer Alison Paska told Congress recently. Paska's testimony was backed by Wallace Swett, director of Primarily Primates, who had just inspected the "Helping Hands" facilities.

A zoologist and lab animal health technician, Paska volunteered to work with the "Helping Hands" monkeys on a daily basis in 1981. She then raised the funds to have herself hired as training director. She remained with "Helping Hands" despite growing doubts until the program moved from New York to Boston in mid-1986.

"Helping Hands" has cost taxpayers \$975,000 so far, with only eight monkeys permanently placed, said Paska. About 100 monkeys are in the program. Many placements have ended in failure. Cruelty begins, according to Paska, in the "Helping Hands" breeding colony at Disneyworld, where the parent capuchins form an exhibit. Disneyworld donates the babies at six to eight months of age, over a year before they would normally be weaned. The babies are captured, Paska says, "by chasing the mother around the cage until the baby falls off her back. Then you grab the baby and run out the door, and I've done this myself."

The baby capuchins next go to volunteer human foster families, who are screened by questionnaire. Costs are covered by sponsors, including civic groups and schools, who put up \$2,300 per monkey. In return, "The monkeys become show-and-tell exhibits," Paska states. Frightened, they sometimes bite people. "Even at that age," Paska notes, "they bite pretty hard, and eventually someone's going to get sued." The foster families keep the monkeys for three to four years, during which time they "are given clothes and diapers, and receive attention like any child." Some capuchins are lost: a dog killed one, another drank bleach, and others have died of respiratory infections. But in general, the capuchins are well treated, and the families "are kept under the impression that the monkeys will continue to be well treated as they move on through the program."

Instead, as the capuchins reach sexual

maturity and become aggressive, they go to "Helping Hands" headquarters. Having become emotionally attached to their capuchins, some foster families acquire capuchins of their own, Paska notes, contributing to depletion of the species in the wild. Meanwhile, "The foster parents send along all kinds of toys, clothes, recipes, and notes about their care," Paska remembers. "All of these are trashed."

Then comes full-mouth tooth extraction. "All of their teeth are removed at one

time when they come into the training program," Paska recounts. "The monkeys are restrained with liquid Valium. They don't get any painkillers. Two monkeys died in my lap of complications during this procedure," which is repeated six months later for monkeys who arrive with their milk teeth. The full-mouth tooth extraction, according to Paska, is the key to the program, since without it the capuchins can become extremely dangerous. But it also makes them

IRRC Identifies Lab Animal Users

The Investor Responsibility Research Center, a nonprofit firm based in Washington, D.C., has released a special report identifying the 50 most prolific academic users of lab animals and the 100 most prolific corporate users, and reviewing the influence of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals in reducing lab animal use.

According to IRRC, working from USDA data which excludes mice and rats even though they "account for 80 to 90 percent of animal use," industry accounted for 49 percent of the animals used in 1987 (868,446), to 51 percent (907,248) for hospitals, universities, and other nonprofit institutions—which may, nonetheless, do research for industry. 1987 is the latest year for which data is available.

"The top-ranked corporate users used many more animals proportionately than companies lower on the list," the IRRC noted. "The top 100 corporations used 94 percent" of the animals, "the top 50 used 82 percent, and the top 10, 38 percent." Companies doing product testing "accounted for 90 percent of all unrelievedly painful tests."

The major corporate users were led by American Cyanamid, a pesticide manufacturer, at 55,460 animals; the Rorer

Group, 39,984; Bayer, 38,983; American Home Products, 38,033; Ici Americas, 34,065; Smith Kline Beckman, 33,011 (none used in unrelievedly painful tests); Merck, 28,499; Johnson & Johnson, 22,541; and Schering-Plough, 20,162. Top institutional users were the seven University of California campuses, 76,698; the several University of Texas campuses, 33,253; the Wilmington Medical Center, the largest single user at 30,604; the University of Southern California, 25,116; the University of Wisconsin, 23,477; and the University of Illinois, 19,111. None of the Wilmington, USC, and University of Wisconsin experiments reportedly involved unrelieved pain, against 4,500 unrelievedly painful tests in the University of California system and 4,244 by American Cyanamid alone. Bayer, however, did unrelievedly painful experiments on 25,550 animals, more than twice as many as runner-up Wellcome (10,490), and three times as many as third-place Boehringer-Ingelheim.

"Although the data show few major changes overall since 1986," the IRRC noted, "most of the companies that received shareholder resolutions from PETA did report using fewer animals in 1987." Johnson & Johnson, Bristol-Myers, and Avon seemed most responsive to PETA, cutting their use of animals by 30 to 40 percent each. Johnson & Johnson made the biggest cut, nearly 10,000 animals, but also hired a private eye to investigate the two PETA members who proposed their 1988 shareholders' resolution, and refused to permit debate on the resolution at their annual meeting.

—M.C.

mistrustful of humans: "They know what's been done to them, and they remember who did it." Aftereffects include personality changes, jawbone deterioration, and loss of the ability to live like a normal monkey.

"From then on," continues Paska, "they are fed monkey chow soaked in water, not fruit juice, and they receive a minimum of fruits and vegetables as part of their regular diet, because the training program wants them to perceive these foods as rewards that they get only for performing tasks correctly." Nuts are among a capuchin's favorite foods, but after the tooth extraction they can no longer eat nuts at all.

Even then, Paska warns, "the monkeys will still attack when they become aggressive. They just find other ways than biting. They scratch, or pull hair," and one capuchin learned how to force her quadriplegic owner to dispense rewards by pushing the owner's head against a breath-operated command panel.

Kept in isolation between training sessions (since they will have no chance to socialize with other monkeys anyway after placement), the capuchins "hold blankets and rock in their cages like autistic children, and often mutilate themselves, pulling out hair or scratching themselves until they get infections." The training sessions are "behavior modification," using a combination of rewards and electroshock punishments, lasting from 20 minutes to two hours each. The shocks come from battery packs adapted from dog training. Having shocked himself on one to find out, Swett rates the charge as stronger than that of the typical cattle ranch electric fence. The electrodes are attached to the base of the monkeys' tails. The program "uses inexperienced college students as primary trainers," Paska claims, "with a consequent high rate of turnover."

And still the capuchins don't give quadriplegics the independence the program claims to offer. Capuchins naturally defecate every 10 to 15 minutes, and always defecate upon getting shocked, "so a lot of quadriplegics' houses wind up filled with monkey crap," Paska states. "Quads with the monkeys are restricted to a single room, where the environment is totally changed, with no knickknacks or nice furniture that might be damaged." Able-bodied attendants are still needed to strap the monkeys into their shock packs. The monkeys prefer able-bodied human companionship, and will neglect the quadriplegics, given a choice—"and given the opportunity," Paska adds, "will

always escape." Nor is their brutal training permanent. If a quadriplegic is inconsistent about applying shocks, the monkeys gradually forget their commands.

"Helping Hands" monkeys presently cost an average of \$65,000 apiece to train and place. Dogs are trained to do many of the same tasks at \$7,500 to \$10,000 apiece by such organizations as Canine Companions for Independence of Santa

Rosa, California, and Independence Dogs Inc. of Chadd's Ford, Pennsylvania. The dogs are more responsive to training, more loyal and affectionate, cleaner, and don't need to be subjected to tooth removal.

Concludes Swett, who would like to see the animals released from the "Helping Hands" program, "Those monkeys still belong in trees," even after lives of torture.

—M.C.

Senators Heflin and Helms Sponsor Anti-Animal Rights Bills

Two Senate bills introduced to combat alleged "animal rights terrorism" would actually define only one new crime—and most of the criminals would be public servants and journalists.

Under S.727, the Animal Research Facilities Protection Act of 1989, it would be illegal "to possess or use records, material, data...or in any way to copy or reproduce records or data of a research facility knowing or reasonably believing such records, materials, data...to have been obtained by theft or deception or without authorization of the research facility."

"If someone is legitimately working in a lab and things are not as they should be, it is my understanding that this clause would impede an honest effort to correct abuse," stated Adele Douglass of the American Humane Association. Humane Society of the United States president John Hoyt told S.727 author Howell Heflin (D-Ala.) that his wording would "cut off legitimate scrutiny of whether laboratories are adhering to the Animal Welfare Act, which Congress has made the law of the land." S.727 would even have made a criminal out of former U.S. Senator William Proxmire, who gave animal research labs many satirical Golden Fleece Awards based on budget information leaked to him by lab employees concerned about misdirection of tax dollars.

Journalists who receive documentation of lab abuses anonymously in the mail would also be liable to prosecution, in direct contradiction of First Amendment guarantees.

S.727 otherwise only forbids breaking and entering, arson, and other deeds already thoroughly covered by the criminal codes of every state—and such crimes against federal property or facilities receiving federal funds are already federal crimes. A companion bill, S.1330, authored by Jesse Helms (R-N.C.),

would extend similar redundant coverage to "farm animal facilities engaging in food production or agricultural research from illegal acts, and for other purposes."

Write to your Senators and Congressional representatives to point out that S.727 and S.1330 are ill-conceived, unconstitutional, and unnecessary.

—M.C.

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Trying To Outsmart Birds Isn't Easy

Psychology professor Edward Wasserman of the University of Iowa has discovered pigeons can recognize human facial expressions, even on strangers, an ability thought to be learned rather than inherited, and previously believed unique to higher mammals.

Perhaps that's why plastic owls don't scare pigeons for long, as learned by the New York Dept. of General Services. New York is now spending \$1.7 million on high-tech anti-pigeon systems, including anti-roosting spikes, netting, and ultra-sound alarms. Other places are looking on, eager to find pigeon control that works. Officials at Oregon's Trojan nuclear power plant are worried that pigeon dung is corroding pipes, while in San Diego, County Agriculture Dept. riflemen are killing pigeons with air guns even inside Union Station.

Pigeons aren't the only avians under siege. St. Louis is spending \$5,000 to reduce the number of Canada geese in city parks, by unspecified methods, claiming that the geese dig up lawns to find bugs and foul ponds with excrement.



Mute swans, whose population is reportedly growing by 30 to 40 percent per year, are blamed for similar problems along the Atlantic Seaboard. Rhode Island officials have found the best way to control the swan population is to find swans' nests and shake the eggs. The swans continue watching the dead eggs until too late to lay a second clutch.

Populations of both pigeons and swans are encouraged by the human propensity for leaving edible litter, but they're not considered a problem everywhere. Sanford, Florida, recently repealed an old law requiring police to kill pigeons on sight. —M.C.

Good And Bad News For Bears

Following cancellation of California's 1989 bear hunt, as a result of a suit filed by the Fund for Animals and the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Louisiana-Pacific ended "depredation permit" hunting in company forests, and switched to nonlethal means of protecting trees from bark-eating bears, most of whom are females with cubs. (See "Bear-ly There," September 1989.) Superior Court Judge Cecily Bond noted that California hasn't done a full study of bear population since 1976, and couldn't even find a copy of that study. Issuing as many as 12,000 bear permits a year without a current study, Bond said, is a "prescription for extinction."

Bears also got help from the Utah Wilderness Association. Though not anti-hunting, the group asked the state to bar the use of hounds and bait in hunting both bears and cougars. The Utah bear kill jumped from 18 in 1983 to 88 this year, as the number of hunters went from 176

to 662. Utah has already proposed selling only 142 bear permits next year. The UWA also wants an end to trapping scarce pine martens and a 24-hour trap check requirement.

The U.S. Forest Service, meanwhile, has approved a ski resort in the South San Juan Mountains, Colorado's last known grizzly bear range. A bowhunter killed the last grizzly seen there in 1979, but HSUS believes the bears could be successfully reintroduced if the resort is not built. Protest to Perry Olson, Director, Colorado Division of Wildlife, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216; William Sexton, Forest Supervisor, San Juan National Forest, 701 Camino Del Rio, Durango, CO 81301; and John Spinks Jr., Deputy Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225.

—M.C.

Animal Welfare Tightens

The USDA is getting more aggressive in enforcing the Animal Welfare Act, according to the Secretary of Agriculture's report for the fiscal year 1988. Although the average number of inspections per facility dropped to 1.73 in 1988 (from 2.15 in 1986), the number of prosecutions jumped to 184 (from 99 in 1986) and the number of convictions climbed to 179, from 112 in 1986 and 1987 together.

The number of registered animal research facilities is up over the same time from 1,241, maintaining 2,730 sites, to 1,308, with 2,878 sites. Licensed animal dealers have increased from 3,708 to 4,233. Statistics on animals used in painful ex-

Act Enforcement

periments gives a mixed picture. The number of animals in non-painful experiments has dropped from 59.4 percent of the total to 35.7 percent. Unrelievedly painful experiments now use 5.5 percent of the animals, down from 6.3 percent, but 58.7 percent now require anesthesia, compared with 34.2 percent three years ago.

The statistics don't cover mice and rats, who are exempted from AWA protection. Of protected animals, 28 percent in 1988 were rabbits, 26.4 were guinea pigs, 20.3 percent were hamsters, 10.9 percent were various wild animals, 8.6 percent were dogs, 3.2 percent were primates, and 2.6 percent were cats.

—M.C.

Greens Consider Animal Rights

The environmentally-oriented West German Green Party has adopted a strong Proclamation of Fundamental Animal Rights, which argues that "The principle of justice demands that like be treated alike, and unlike be treated unlike. All living creatures must therefore be treated equally in respect of those aspects in which they are equal." It affirms that animals have a right to life, to protection from human violence, a right to freedom from invasive experiments, and a right to appropriate habitat. Although the proclamation stops short of demanding an absolute end to animal-based agriculture, vivisection, and the keeping of animals in captivity, it does include provisions that would limit such practices to circumstances where the animals could be viewed as participating from their own preference.

At the recent U.S. Green Gathering in Eugene, Oregon, the Life Forms Working Group recommended that a similar policy statement be included in the U.S. Green platform. The proposal did not achieve consensus in the general assembly, however, and a revised version will be brought up at the next Green gathering scheduled for Boulder, Colorado in September 1990. For details, call the Clearinghouse for the Green Committees of Correspondence at (816) 931-9366.

—M.C.

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NEWS SHORTS

EDITED BY MERRITT CLIFTON

■ **The Buck Center for Research on Aging** tried to stop protest against their animal experiments by assuring the Marin (Calif.) Humane Society that "only rodents" will be used. Citizens for Appropriate Planning and Land Use then asked Buck Center architect I.M. Pei to withdraw, rather than be known for designing "an animal torture chamber."

■ **A dog's mouth is cleaner than a human's**, and less likely to transmit disease, says Dr. Gary White of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

■ **The Gulf World, Florida marine park** caught four dolphins in August to hold in a "petting pool," a day after members of the Sea Shepherd Society jumped in to their nets in protest.

■ **Utah hunting advocates** Dennis Vario and Theron Taylor were among five men caught in a poaching crackdown. Vario was already charged with threatening a witness in a previous case. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources estimates poachers kill 100,000 animals a year, including 76,000 deer.

■ **Cornell University began field testing** a genetically-engineered anti-cabbage looper caterpillar virus in late summer, near Geneva, New York.

■ **Utah issued 100 permits** to shoot sandhill cranes this year; only 600 survive in the state.

■ **Antibiotics used in poultry and cattle feed** contaminated Inter-County horse feed in late summer due to a manufacturing error. At least 14 horses died.

■ **New York State Supreme Court Justice Robert Coutant** has refused to bar the Tim Rivers Diving Mule Act from the Saratoga County Fair, apparently because the mules, pony, and dog forced to jump 30 feet into a water tank were not injured in a previous local performance.

■ **Hunting writer Mary Grenoble** and National Wild Turkey Federation chairman Gene Denton were among 21 hunters shot by accident (none fatally) during Missouri's turkey season. A record 35,688 turkeys were massacred.

■ **Fundraising rubber duck races** increase plastic pollution of waterways, while onlookers cause bank erosion trying to follow the ducks downstream.

■ **Boston is claiming success** in a Charlestown rat-poisoning drive, amid controversy over rat control plans for downtown as the harbor is renovated.

■ **Federal District Judge Stanley Sporkin** has ordered Ralston Purina to pay Alpo \$10.4 million in damages as a result of a misleading ad campaign for puppy food, but also ruled that Alpo ads have included false claims. Ralston Purina Puppy Chow was said to prevent canine hip joint disease, while Alpo was said to be preferred by veterinarians by a 2-to-1 margin.

■ **The former Central Meat Packing plant** in Boulder, Colorado has become the White Wave tofu plant.

■ **Competing for college scholarships worth up to \$600**, 752 boys and 456 girls joined the mayhem in this year's 41st Annual High School Finals Rodeo at Pueblo, Colorado.

■ **Hunting and fishing license sales rose slightly** in 1988, for the second straight year, reports the Department of the Interior. Just under 16 million people bought hunting licenses; 31 million bought fishing licenses.

■ **The U.S. wild duck population is down again**, to 31 million, barely above the all-time low reached in 1985, and 24 percent below average for the past 25 years. Habitat loss and overhunting are the causes.

■ **Las Vegas' Stardust Hotel cancelled** Bobby Berosini's orangutan act after the Performing Animal Welfare Society and PETA released videotapes and affidavits apparently confirming accusations that Berosini routinely beats his orangs with a tape-wrapped steel bar before they go on stage (the tape would prevent visible bruising). Cleared of abuse by the Humane Society of Southern Nevada, which rarely interferes with animal acts, Berosini filed a \$20 million defamation suit against PETA—who countersued, asking the state to confiscate the orangs.

■ **Some children as young as five** have excessive cholesterol levels, says the American Health Foundation, blaming foods fried in animal fat.

■ **Three Glen Rock, Pennsylvania boys** were charged with cruelty after killing 75 flightless hens by using them for softballs. They also allegedly poisoned 200 guinea pigs.

■ **Biodynamically grown food** isn't cruelty-free. A basic tenet of biodynamic agriculture is fertilizing plants with burnt animal and insect "pests," whose residues are believed to keep other pests away.

■ **Defending chemical lawn sprays** against the charge that they kill birds, Chem-Lawn staff toxicologist Roger Yeary says, "You have to recognize that there are about 3.5 million birds that die every year running into windows." Experts believe, however, that many of those birds are intoxicated by pesticides.

■ **Dominique LeFort is still tormenting cats** to amuse Key West tourists, despite an appeal to the Florida State Attorney by the Humane Society of the U.S., seeking to shut his act down. (See *News Shorts*, June 1989.)

■ **Protest over U.S. Surgical Corporation's use of dogs** in sales demonstrations of surgical staples hasn't hurt company profits, up from \$7.6 million to \$23.2 million since 1983. U.S. Surgical stock climbed 27 percent in the first half of 1989, despite the revelation that president Leon

Hirsch hired *agents provocateur* Mary Lou Sapone and Marc Mead to set up Fran Trutt in the so-called bombing attempt in the USSC parking lot.

■ **Rhode Island now requires** a veterinarian to be present at all rodeos, and has banned flipping roped calves to the ground.

■ **The desert tortoise** is at last on the U.S. endangered species list, due to outbreaks of respiratory disease as well as severe habitat loss and predation by both birds and human vandals. The General Accounting Office has charged the Bureau of Land Management with inadequately protecting Mojave desert turtle habitat, finding that 35 of 57 required habitat management plans were still incomplete after eight years. Of 22 wildlife plans, 46 percent hadn't even been started.

■ **Former Pentagon spokesman Ronald Duchin** and two associates are marketing a research report on the Natural Resources Defense Council at \$1,500 a copy. The firm of Mongovin, Biscoe, and Duchin says it has also monitored the United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church, because of their alleged support of animal rights.

■ **The USDA estimates that 37 percent** of the chicken carcasses that pass high-speed inspection are contaminated with salmonella; the Federal Centers for Disease Control say this causes 2.5 million human salmonella cases per year.

■ **Inmate rehabilitation** at New York's Mercer County Correction Center includes running a wildlife rehab program.

■ **At least 70 cats** have been torn apart in Orange County, Calif. yards over the past few months. Authorities blame coyotes, who have never been linked to such killings elsewhere, while others suspect a maniac or Satanic cult.

■ **The U.S. military should toss heavier birds** into aircraft engines during stress

tests and maybe hurl some against airframes too, says the General Accounting Office. Some 16,000 plane/bird collisions from 1983 to 1987 cost \$318 million, downed nine planes, and killed six pilots.

■ **Animal rights ranks** with catastrophic health care, Social Security policy, and gun control in generating mail to Congress, says House postmaster Robert Rota.

■ **Seeking to meet a chronic blood shortage**, Massachusetts General Hospital wants to test modified cow's blood in transfusions to human patients.

■ **The Louisiana Board of Veterinary Medicine** and Veterinary Medical Association have no right to bar New Orleans SPCA vets from offering discount services, the First Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled.

■ **Forty-one members of Congress** have petitioned President George Bush for the release of the nine surviving Silver Spring monkeys, rescued from the notorious Edwin Taub research lab in 1981 but still in the possession of the National Institutes of Health.

■ **Keeping anencephalic babies** (born without most of their brains) alive on respirators to provide transplant organs is impractical, Dr. Joyce Peabody stated in a recent issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, because the babies then take too long to die. She concluded that doctors shouldn't have to wait for death before doing transplants. Her research was done at the Loma Linda University Medical Center in California, site of the Baby Fae baboon-to-human heart transplant and of a landmark Animal Liberation Front raid in 1988.

■ **The risks and limitations** of keeping rare species in captivity were underscored recently by the deaths from unknown causes of four young black-footed ferrets and a beluga whale. Survivors of the last known wild colony, the ferrets had increased from 18 to 120 since being taken into protective custody in 1985. The beluga was one of three brought to

Baltimore's National Aquarium, also in 1985.

Coming to a theater near you in November is *The Bear*, a new film based on a 1916 novel by James Oliver Curwood. Directed by Academy-award winning director Jean-Jacques Annaud, *The Bear* may be the most powerful anti-hunting movie ever made.



■ **A survey of environmentalists** by the *Los Angeles Times* found skepticism of the Bush Administration regarding wildlife and land use, but most praised EPA chief William Reilly. Reilly meanwhile slammed Exxon for slacking on the Valdez oil spill cleanup. Exxon cut two-thirds of the wildlife rescue boats it had hired, including those supposed to scout otter habitat, just as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released the first 22 of about 180 otters slated for return to the wild. Pressure to resume business as usual rose as ARCO announced discovery of yet another major oil field near the Arctic Wildlife Refuge.

■ **Shrimpers were ordered to use turtle excluder devices** by U.S. District Judge Thomas Hogan, but Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher suspended enforcement of federal law mandating their use, instead telling shrimp fishermen to check their nets every 105 minutes. Even if the 105-minute requirement could be enforced, turtles can survive only 90 minutes underwater.

■ **Bovine Growth Hormone**, which stimulates milk production, "could induce premature growth and breast stimulation in infants, and possibly promote breast cancer in adults," says Dr. Samuel

Continued on next page

NEWS SHORTS

Continued from previous page

Epstein, author of *The Politics of Cancer and Hazardous Waste In America*. BGH is not yet in common use, but milk from cows experimentally treated is going for human consumption.

■ **The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** has upheld the 25-year license suspension and \$40,000 fine imposed last year against lab animal dealer James Hickey, for gross violation of federal care and record-keeping requirements.

■ **As the supply of ivory** from African elephants drops due to import bans and the near wipe-out of the species, walrus poaching for ivory has exploded in the Far North. About 8,000 walrus are legally killed for food by U.S. and Soviet Eskimos, while another 4,000 are killed but sink before retrieval, says University of Alaska at Fairbanks professor of marine science Francis Fay, who believes walruses were already in trouble. So far, an estimated 400 have been killed just for their tusks, in violation of international

agreement.

■ **The American Heart Association** has organized the Biomedical Research Alliance of Connecticut to fight animal rights activism in the home state of The ANIMALS' AGENDA and Friends of Animals.

■ **The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries** encouraged hunters to hook and shoot or club to death 850 alligators before the regular hunting season opened, to check the health of the population.

■ **Florida busted 484 lobster poachers** in two days recently, including three men caught with 399 lobster tails when the limit per person is six.

■ **Barred from injecting illegal drugs** into guinea pigs during classroom talks,

Dr. Phillip Hollander of Ohio State University shows video of the exercise instead. The National Anti-Vivisection Society asks why he doesn't just show a video of human users in detox wards.

■ **Sport fishermen massacred immature tuna** last summer off the New Jersey coast, after one giant tuna from the vicinity fetched \$31 a pound at auction in Tokyo. Most of the catch went for \$1 a pound or simply rotted.

■ **Eight months after the New Orleans Times Picayune** exposed neglect at the St. John the Baptist Parish dog pound, Legislation in Support of Animals found that excrement still collects for days inside cages, which are then hosed with the animals still inside. Without bedding or resting boards, dogs lie in their own feces. Eight months after The ANIMALS' AGENDA exposed comparable abuse at the East Orange, New Jersey pound, Humane Society of the U.S. inspectors have confirmed that conditions aren't im-

proving there, either, while funds to build a new shelter at nearby West Orange remain in escrow.

■ **Vermillion flycatchers**, seaside sparrows, loggerhead shrikes, snowy plovers, Harris' hawks, and Henslow's sparrows are vanishing so fast from habitat loss that they should be declared endangered, says Gregory Butcher, director of Bird Population Studies at Cornell University. Butcher reviewed 30 rare bird species for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Sixty-one birds are already officially endangered.

■ **Easthampton, Long Island** natural resources director Larry Penny has installed turtle crossing signs where box turtles migrate across city streets, and suggests local curb designs should be changed so that the turtles can cross the streets in safety.

■ **Cable TV baron Ted Turner** is replac-

ing 3,000 head of cattle on his Montana ranch with bison—and selling elk hunting rights.

■ **All charges were dropped** against six ranchers and ranchhands accused in Nevada's horse massacres, due to insufficiently specific evidence.

■ **The California Fish and Game Commission** and Department of Fish and Game are suing to overturn the leghold trap ban passed last year by Nevada County voters.

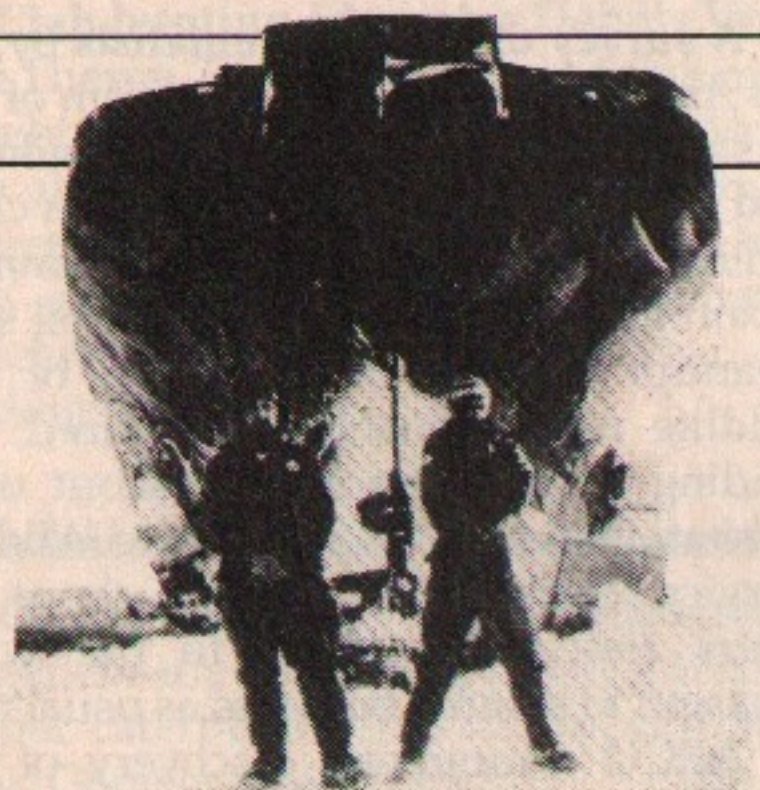
■ **"The time has come to reject the animal test** as a simple means of extrapolating the cause of cancer in humans," states Dr. Elizabeth Whalen of the American Council on Science and Health. The Chlorobenzene Producers Association is suing the National Toxicology Program for trying to list a chemical used in mothballs and air

fresheners as a carcinogen, claiming the cancer-causing effect on rats occurs through a protein not found in humans.

■ **Bighorn sheep, quail, and deer didn't mate** in the Sierra Nevada and Southern California mountains this year, due to drought and lack of forage. Hungry bears wandered down into Los Angeles suburbs, where several were shot. But the drought helped bark beetles, who destroyed four billion board feet worth of timber.

■ **Sheriff's deputies have broken up a weekly outlaw rodeo** at Saugus, Calif., rescuing several injured and underfed animals.

■ **A University of Pennsylvania team** has successfully transplanted human chromosome fragments into mice. The sponsoring firm, Cytogen Corp., hopes the mice can make human-compatible antibodies for genetic disease.



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How Trapping Affects the Forest

BY MERRITT CLIFTON

"Trapping is an essential tool of professional wildlife management," trapping advocates recite, but as an ecologist I hear echoes of the general who explained, "We bombed the village in order to save it."

Just as bombs indiscriminately kill and maim soldier and civilian alike, trapping tears apart the balance of delicate ecosystems. The claim that trapping controls overabundant "nuisance" animals stands up no better than a case for bombing as birth

control—and trapping does no more to fight disease in wildlife than bombing New York would do to stop AIDS.

Further, like bombing, trapping has adverse ecological impacts going far beyond the deaths of single animals or even the extirpation of whole species.

"There has been very, very little written on the subject of how trapping affects an ecology as a whole," observes environmental studies professor John Livingston of York University in Ottawa. Yet a great deal has been written about the interactions of woodland mammals and plant species, the bulk of which indicates that the animals most prized by trappers are also among those most essential to the habitat. Take away the squirrels and raccoons, who hide seeds in rotting stumps, bury them, or deposit them in old leaves with their feces, and new forests simply don't get started. A decade of research by Stephen Cross of Southern Oregon State College shows young coniferous forests further depend upon small furbearers to spread mycorrhizal fungi, which the trees need to help in collecting soil nutrients. And the importance of beavers to the wild should be clear to anyone concerned about the recent drastic decline of migratory ducks and geese. Every beaver dam that breaks after the beavers have been trapped out takes away a "hotel" for migratory waterfowl, a place where they can eat, sleep, and breed. The trend toward heavy drainage of agricultural lands over the past decade has only accelerated the harm done when trappers eradicated the beaver from much of North America. Take away beavers and an area shortly loses otter, muskrat, herons, bass, and a hundred or a thousand kinds of insects who depend upon the water behind the dam for habitat. The stream itself may dry up, with nowhere to conserve the water during peak runoff periods that will provide a flow during drought. The contribution of beavers to water conservation in drought areas was underscored recently when their timely dam-building was credited with saving the town aquifer at Grant City, Missouri.

Trappers often claim to kill only "surplus" animals. In fact, no myth about trapping is more insistently repeated than the argument that it controls populations. Yet even superficially this claim defies logic. Some 70 mammals are native to the Northeast, including the Great Lakes states, Pennsylvania, New England, Quebec, and Ontario. This region includes 144,350 of the 439,500 licensed trappers in North America, or one-third, who in 1987-1988 sold approximately eight million pelts, well over a third of the 23 million animals trapped on this

continent. Counting rabbits and hares, not included in the official government pelt totals, only 22 of the 70 mammal species were trapped intentionally. Apparently the other 48 species, among them mice and rats, don't need any population control, nor does population control seem necessary for any non-insect invertebrates. The much-trapped foxes, coyotes, raccoons, ermines, weasels, mink, lynx, cougars, otters, fishers, martens, wolverines and bears seem to be handling the non-furbearers well enough, thank you, with the aid of raptors, whose primary cause of premature death, according to studies done in Nevada and Minnesota, is accidental trapping. Of those trapped furbearers, meanwhile, the latter eight species are all scarce to the verge of becoming endangered in most of their range. While state and provincial wildlife agencies pretend quotas and season limits protect the rare furbearers, such measures are at best a calculated risk. Wildlife managers have little firm knowledge of animal populations when setting trapping quotas and season dates, often as long as a year ahead, and even less control over natural circumstances that influence population growth or decline.

"To determine how many animals there are," Steve Best of the International Wildlife Coalition explains, the Canadian Wildlife Service uses "a dangerous and scientifically unjustifiable rule of thumb: the total number of animals is ten times the number of animals trapped. The absurdity of this deduction is obvious... the more trappers there are trapping animals, the more animals there will be... To demonstrate just how flexible this rule is, in 1983 environmental groups were informed by the Canadian Wildlife Service that the rule was five times the number of animals trapped equalled the total animal population—which of course meant there were fewer animals." Canada increased the multiplication ratio only after animal rights groups pointed out that five-times-the-number-trapped would indicate dangerously small numbers of almost every native furbearer but muskrat.

State wildlife agencies use essentially the same technique, augmented occasionally by scat studies, warren counts, and counts of roadkills. Any of the latter methods, if thoroughly applied on a regular basis in representative areas, could yield a reasonably accurate animal population census. However, these methods are labor-intensive. Far easier—and cheaper—to count this year's trapping take and guesstimate next year's from it.

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Although trapping can seriously deplete scarce predator populations, it demonstrably doesn't control fast-breeding "nuisance" animals. Burrowing rodents such as gophers, woodchucks, and prairie dogs are often blamed (erroneously) for damaging fields and pastures. Yet farm trade journals advise attacking burrowing rodents with poisons, smoke bombs, firearms, and carbon monoxide. Trapping is rarely mentioned, in part because traps can as readily harm livestock as the target species. Conversely, publications for trappers make little reference—if any—to trapping "worthless varmints" whose pelts are unsalable. Instead, trappers pursue the very predators who keep burrowing rodents in check, most notably foxes, coyotes, weasels, ermine, bobcats, and wolves.

Nor do trappers accomplish coyote control. As many as 250,000 coyotes a year have been trapped, shot, poisoned, and burned to death in their dens each year since 1931, yet during this time the coyote has expanded its range from the southwest to include the entire continental U.S. and southern Canada. The cost of attempted coyote control over the past 50

years has exceeded the cost of coyote predation by at least a factor of 10.

The spread of coyotes neatly coincides with the intense trapping pressure placed on their territorial rivals, fox and lynx. Wherever wild fox and lynx have been trapped into scarcity, the faster-breeding, more adaptable coyote has quickly taken over—unless trappers wipe it out, too, in



which case the territory temporarily goes over to feral cats and remnant foxes until the coyote returns. I witnessed and recorded the process myself at Brigham, Quebec, where I surveyed approximately one square mile of woods and field on foot at least four mornings a week from May 1977 through May 1989. According to then-district deputy game warden Walter Hawthorne, coyotes were rarely seen in the vicinity before 1977, with no sightings before 1968. Foxes were plentiful, however, until the trapping

boom of 1978-1982, and there was a remnant lynx population. The last lynx was trapped in January of 1979. By the spring of 1982, the foxes were trapped out. Coyotes became as plentiful as foxes had been, establishing a pack of five to ten members, until the winter of 1986-1987. Then, as coyote parkas came into vogue, trappers annihilated the coyote population. The rabbit and hare populations exploded during the spring of 1987; occasional foxes reappeared in midsummer, but feral cats were the dominant predator. Coyotes reclaimed most of the woods during the winter of 1988-1989, until a single trapper wiped them out a second time in just two nights. He didn't find a pair of newly-arrived young foxes before winter ended, I moved, and my observations ceased.

Trapping pressure can actually increase populations of rodents, coyotes, foxes, and raccoons, if enough animals of breeding age survive. As Peggy Morrison and Susan Hagood summarize in the *Defenders of Wildlife* handbook *Changing U.S. Trapping Policy*, these species "tend to produce more young when populations are reduced. Fewer animals exerting pressure on the resources of the habitat result in an abundance of food

and cover for the remaining individuals. With plentiful resources, the population produces more young per breeding female, more animals survive to maturity, and the population increases." In southern Texas, a 1972 study found coyote litters jumping from 4.3 pups where coyotes were abundant but not trapped, to 6.9 pups where habitat was suitable but trapping was frequent. A 1971 South Dakota study found similar results among foxes.

According to John A. Kirsch, associate curator in mammalogy for the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University: "Trapping is ineffective in controlling natural populations because typically wild animal populations are effectively regulated by natural factors, including their own density, and do not go on increasing forever. It is nearly impossible to depress permanently a population by means of trapping." Adds Dr. Sidney Anderson, curator of mammals for the American Museum of Natural History: "Clearly, trapping is not the only thing standing between us and wall to wall muskrats." Greg Linscomb of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Bill Good of the state's Department of Natural Resources have

recently circulated materials purporting to show how "eat-outs" of shoreline vegetation by muskrats and nutria have caused soil erosion in coastal wetlands so severe as to threaten the Louisiana shrimp fishery. But shrimp fishing mostly takes place farther offshore. The greatest threats to shrimp in recent years have come from toxic algae and chemical pollution. Silting along coastal Louisiana has always been heavy, since the Mississippi River dumps eroded topsoil from all over the Midwest in a broad delta extending far into the Gulf of Mexico; and hurricanes plus constant dredging of shipping lanes has always kept the silt shifting. The wildlife-based industry in the most trouble in Louisiana is not the shrimp fishery, but rather muskrat and nutria trapping. Louisiana trappers skinned as many as 100,000 muskrats and 200,000 nutria per year throughout the 1980s, but as fur sales fell the past few years, small, low-priced muskrat and nutria pelts became a glut on the market. This translates into major loss of revenue for the state government, Linscomb and Good's employer.

Having seen photographs of the alleged "eat-out," Livingston for one is skeptical. "Muskrats don't do that," he

says. "No animal, except possibly man, destroys its own habitat to that extent. If muskrat and nutria have gotten that far out of hand, Louisiana must have allowed the complete extermination of all their natural predators," including bobcat, cougar, coyote, and especially alligators, whose eggs are now collected at the rate of 75,000 a year to stock game ranches.

Trapping for disease control simply doesn't happen—and wouldn't work anyway, as Dr. William Winkler of the Center for Disease Control has repeatedly explained ever since the Woodstream trap manufacturing company quoted him out of context a decade back in a booklet titled *Trapping In Wildlife Management*. The misrepresented Winkler statement also appears in the *Fur Takers of America* brochure "Essential Facts on Trapping." Responsible for controlling rabies in the U.S., Winkler argues against trapping, since traps are as likely to kill immune and healthy animals as diseased ones. Lowering the population of an infected species only increases the likelihood that the whole surviving population will become infected. Further, rabies itself has proven to be the fastest, most effective means

Continued on page 56

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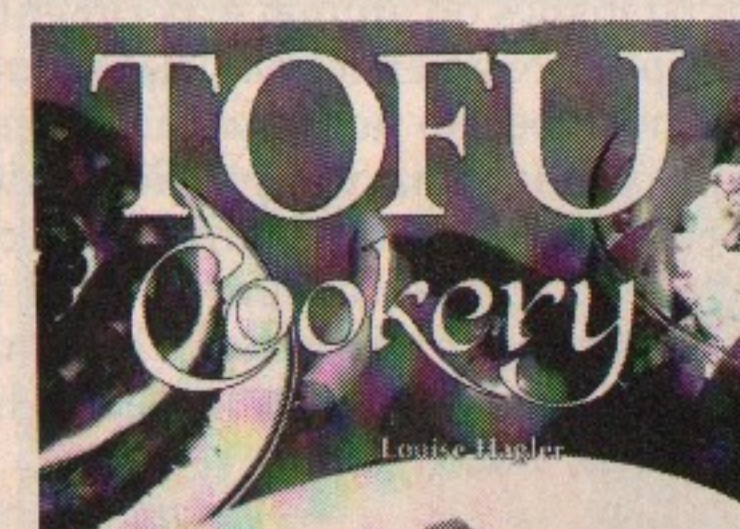
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Towards Personal and Planetary Peace

The Nonviolent Revolution

By Nathaniel Altman; Element Books (Shaftesbury, Dorset, U.K.), 1988; 176 pages, £6.95; Distribution in U.S. by Great Tradition, 750 Adrian Way, Ste. 111, San Rafael, CA 94903, \$12.95 paper

The *Nonviolent Revolution* has its own history. I first met its author nearly 20 years ago when we were both young workers for the same organization. He was writing his first book, the vegetarian mainstay *Eating for Life*, and I recall that we were involved in a major protest to prevent our employer from chopping down an evergreen at Christmas time. In more cases than not, that kind of youthful idealism fades over time into pragmatic self-centeredness. For Nat Altman, it has instead grown, and the prolific writer has now produced his *magnum opus* of sorts, the book he has wanted to write since 1973.

Subtitled *A Comprehensive Guide to Ahimsa, the Philosophy of Dynamic Harmlessness*, it treats the theme of compassion and respect for life as it relates to other people, the earth, other animals, and even plants (that holiday pine must not have been forgotten). The purpose of the book is transformation, one individual at a time. "By transforming our own consciousness," Altman writes, "we will be helping to transform the consciousness of humanity." He suggests that the power of change lies within each of us; we can use it to create inner harmony for ourselves and to bring about planetary healing on every level. This is not, however, a hocus-pocus manual of New Age rhetoric, but rather a useful guide to the principles and practice of compassionate living in its many forms and with its far-reaching ramifications.

The chapter "Ahimsa and Other Animals" is a thorough introduction to animal rights issues for the novice and a valuable overview for the veteran. It covers use of nonhuman animals for food, experimentation, sport, fur, entertainment, and companionship. The writer ties our treatment of these in with an overall view of harmlessness: "Understanding our relationship with other animals is—at this critical period in our history—an essential part in making *ahimsa* a living reality in the world." Animal issues themselves are never downplayed in the "cruelty-to-animals-leads-to-cruelty-to-people" vein, though. Altman expounds eloquently on our

responsibility to other creatures for their own sake when he says, "The primary goal of *ahimsa* is to eliminate all injury to other life forms, not just because it is best for our conscience, well-being and future, but because it is every animal's earthly right to enjoy a life free of slavery, injury, suffering and pre-mature death at the hands of the more powerful human species."

Another intriguing discussion is that of "Wealth Addiction, War and Ahimsa," in which he expands and updates the Gandhian doctrine of *non-possession* so that it becomes a reasonable ideal for contemporary Westerners. The idea is that there is nothing wrong with money and the goods and pleasures it can buy, but that our search for more objects, more comforts, has become an addiction: an abundance of "things" is needed to make the "addict" feel complete. The antidote, in one's personal nonviolent revolution, is a combination of living simply and practicing generosity. The most unique section of *The Nonviolent Revolution* is the last one, "The Calling." It deals with right livelihood and inner healing. This inclusion is an important one in that it bridges the gap between self-help books and those concerned with social change. Animal rights activists would give themselves a gift by reading these final eighteen pages which recognize that "A life dedicated to *ahimsa* brings with it both



great challenge and intense joy." Anyone on the front lines can attest that the challenge often overshadows the joy, and Altman treats sensitively such topics as work, stress and forgiveness of self and others. He does this so well, in fact, that the seed of another book may well be here.

Published in England, *The Nonviolent Revolution* is in places disconcertingly British (statistics on animal experiments, for example, are given for U.K. labs), and anyone not open to nondenominational spirituality might have a problem with the theosophical overtones that are present. Beyond that, I can find nothing to criticize and much to praise. The book even boasts that rare beauty: a decent index. Thanks, Nat.

—Victoria Moran

Thinking Like a Planet

The Ages of Gaia: A Biography of Our Living Earth

By James Lovelock; W.W. Norton & Co., New York, 1988; 252 pages; \$16.95, hardcover.

James Lovelock is a self-proclaimed individualist. He resides in a cottage in Cornwall, England, pursuing a career as a freelance inventor and scientist. According to Lovelock, academic scientists are constrained in their thinking by the dogmas of their narrow disciplines. By practicing science at home, he believes, he gains the freedom to explore questions that cross disciplinary boundaries and

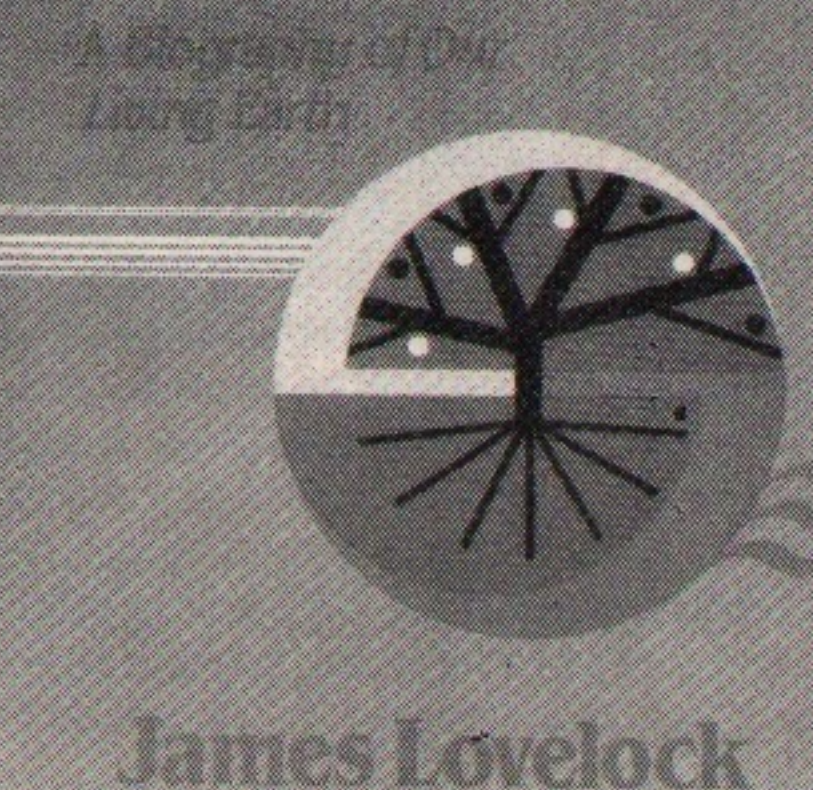
may require interdisciplinary solutions.

For the past 20 years, Lovelock has been investigating a question no less broad and complex than the meaning of life. Inspired by early photographs of earth taken from space, he began to speculate on the ancient idea that the earth is a living being. These ponderings led to his 1979 book, *Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth*. The earlier volume presented the

essence of his idea: that the biota of earth has evolved along with the physical environment to create a self-regulating superorganism. Joint evolution of biological and geological processes has created a system capable of responding to changes, such as an increase in solar radiation, or to traumas, such as volcanic eruptions. According to Lovelock, these processes enable Gaia, named after the Greek earth goddess, to maintain a global environment that optimizes conditions for all life on earth.

In the present work, Lovelock details the four billion year history of Gaia's evolution, responds to some of his critics, and explores the ethical and religious implications of the Gaia concept. Through computer models, he illustrated how global self-regulation might function. In a simplified world dominated by two types of organisms, black and white daisies, changes in the physical environment stimulate compensatory changes in the biota. Decreases in sunlight result in more black daisies, which absorb extra heat and warm the earth. Increases in sunlight favor white daisies, which reflect heat and lower temperatures.

THE AGES OF GAIA



In the real world, plankton may perform a similar role in global temperature control. Lovelock says that these organisms have evolved to help cool the planet during warm periods by producing dimethyl sulphide. The chemical seeds the formation of clouds that reflect

excess sunlight back into space. Other real-world examples of planetary self-regulation may include the control of carbon dioxide levels, mineral exchange, and water cycles by tropical rainforests and the aquatic ecosystems on continental shelves.

The Gaia concept has surprising implications for environmentalists. Lovelock's Gaia is not a fragile damsel, distressed by rising levels of acid rain, pesticide residues, and ultraviolet radiation. Although the current focus of the environmental agenda, these phenomena have little impact on Gaia's vitality. Lovelock argues that the earth organism has evolved a stability that can cope with perturbations on a grand scale. Her ability to thrive despite cataclysms of meteor impacts, earthquakes, and glaciation indicate that to her, even nuclear war would seem "as trivial as a summer breeze." Humanity might perish, but Gaia would persist.

Gaia is not invulnerable, however. Certain large-scale human activities are threatening her coping mechanisms. Lovelock is not certain about the nature

Continued on next page

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REVIEWS

Continued from previous page

and extent of all the threats, and he speaks fervently of the need for a new profession of "planetary medicine," focusing on the diagnosis of the earth's ills.

Lovelock believes, however, that there is already enough evidence to identify the primary current threat to planetary health: tropical rainforest destruction. The humid tropics are a "physiologically significant ecosystem," crucial to the maintenance of a climate comfortable to most contemporary organisms. The conversion of rainforests to cattle ranching and other agricultural enterprises may be causing irreversible damage to the Gaia system, and Lovelock asserts that halting the destruction must become the environmental movement's top priority.

Yet Lovelock balks at prescribing guidelines for human behavior based on his scientific assessment of the planet's needs. The gravity of the threat—the end of life as we know it—indicates a need for moral imperatives, requiring radical shifts in human lifestyles. Instead, Lovelock only presents tepid suggestions to "eat less beef," and wonders wistfully "if our great-grandchildren will be vegetarian and cattle will live only in zoos." His failure to follow his scientific arguments through to call for radical change is perhaps the

book's greatest flaw.

Still, his idea has been eagerly embraced by many who believe that viewing the planet as a living organism can inspire a more reverent and spiritual relationship with the earth. The intensity of interest in Gaia's religious meaning originally astonished Lovelock, a professed agnostic, but here he speculates on possible connections between Gaia and God. The world's oldest religions, according to Lovelock, worshipped the earth as a living deity and treated her with respect as the source of life and death. Now, Lovelock seeks to revive that ancient faith in the sacredness of the planet as a means of catalyzing change. Apparently, he has more faith in the public's susceptibility to religious suasion than in their responsiveness to his scientific arguments.

Portraying Gaia as both a religious and a scientific concept has created problems for Lovelock. Many scientists assert that his ideas are vague and untestable, calling Gaia a parable or metaphor rather than a scientific hypothesis. Critics are particularly skeptical about the issue of self-regulation. How can Gaia optimize conditions for life without being, in some sense, self-conscious? In response, Lovelock denies that the earth is sentient,

claiming automatic mechanisms of self-regulation. Further, he rejects the requirement for proof that Gaia is alive. Belief in Gaia, like belief in God, is an act of faith. Instead, he argues, "Gaia should be a way to view the Earth, ourselves, and our relationships with living things."

The Ages of Gaia, then, should be viewed as an introduction to a new way of thinking. The writing style, in fact, often gives the impression that the reader is listening to Lovelock's reasoning processes. Lovelock's thinking, as reflected by his approach to science, emphasizes the significance of individuals. The book is a profound, personal statement of Lovelock's belief that individual plants and animals have evolved into a marvelously functional global organism. His new perspective on the planet, whether fact or metaphor, should challenge others to think broadly and deeply about the myriad individual choices necessary to live responsibly on, or toward, the earth.

—Julie Dunlap, Ph.D.

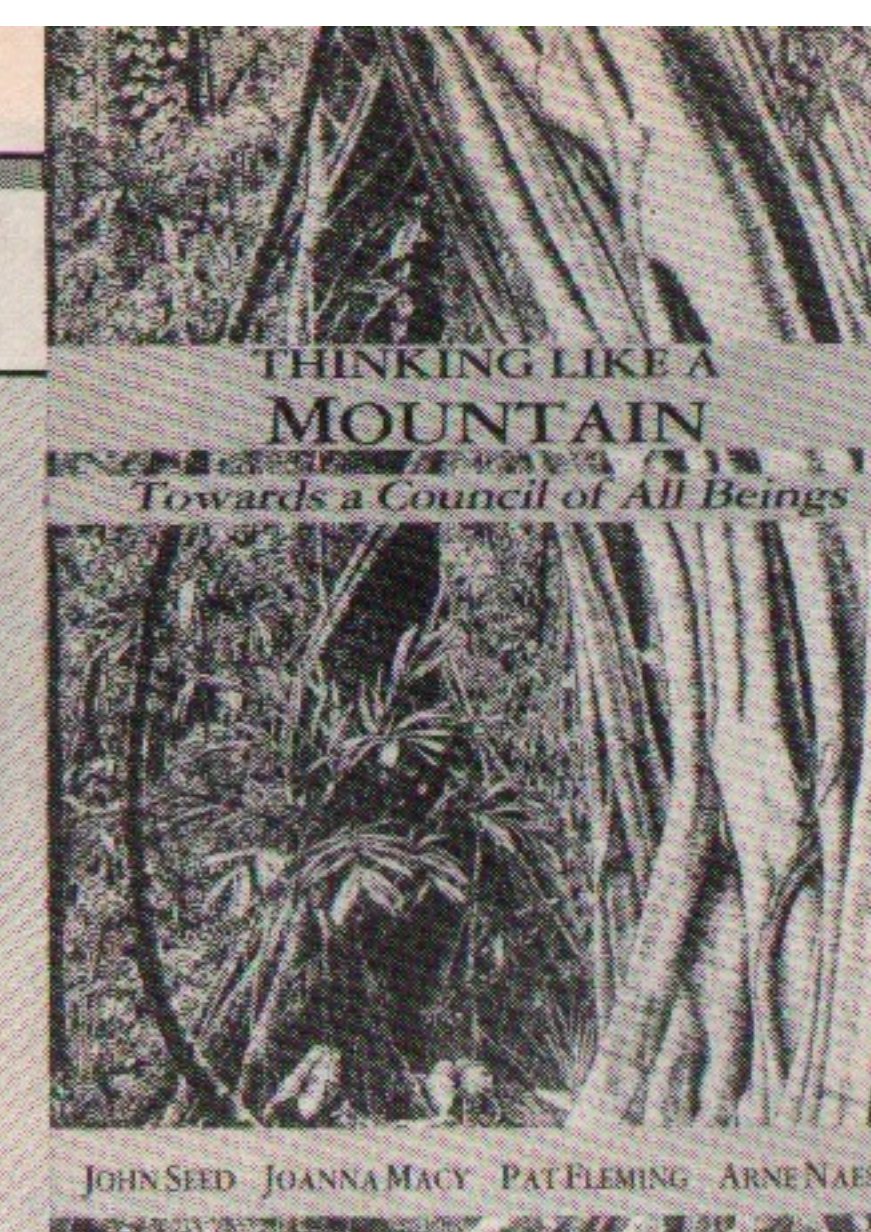
Dr. Dunlap is associate director of higher education programs for the Humane Society of the United States.

well as evoke, the Council of All Beings workshops, a set of group processes, practices, and rituals created by the authors combining two primary streams of thought, one from psychology, the other from environmental philosophy. The psychology inlet traces public apathy concerning the destructive things we are doing to ourselves and our planet to a paralyzing fear of unwelcome feelings—grief, anger, despair—that if released could be channelled to enable us to tackle peace and environmental issues. The other prime source of insight is the philosophy of nature called deep ecology. It replaces the intellectual, homocentric arrogance and alienation of Western culture with affirmation of the "interconnectedness of the human and nonhuman worlds [expressed] in every primitive culture." These two streams of ideas merge in the foundational notion of the "ecological Self," which experiences and conceptualizes nature "inside" us and nature "outside" as one continuous process. The spiritual, ethical, and practical results are in all ways rewarding: "If reality is experienced by the ecological Self, our behavior *naturally* and beautifully follows norms of strict environmental ethics," says Arne Naess. "The requisite care flows naturally if the self is widened and deepened so that protection of free

nature is felt and conceived of as protection of our very selves."

The book's overall structure is designed to carry the reader vicariously through the three-phase sequence of the Council of All Beings workshops which are crafted to effect ecological self-discovery. Starting with the Mourning phase ("To Hear within Ourselves the Sound of the Earth Crying"), it moves to the phase of Evolutionary Remembering ("our roots go back to the beginning of time. The knowledge is in us"), and culminates in the Council of All Beings ritual in which participants "shake off their solely human identification and for a while imaginatively enter the experience of another life-form." As John Seed explains, "We take time alone to be chosen by a plant, animal or landscape feature that we will then represent at the Council."

The chapter that recreates this ritual is particularly entrancing in what is, in all, a spellbinding book. "Humans! I, Mountain, am speaking..." "Humans, I am Lichen..." "Look on me, humans. I am the late wild Condor of that part of the Earth you call California. I was captured a few days ago—for your own good, you tell me. Look long and hard at me, at the



stretch of my wings, at the glisten of my feathers, the gleaming of my eye. Look now, for I shall not be here for your children to see."

This ritual, in keeping with all the other workshop activities, has a twofold commitment—to appreciate and to serve life. Hence, the entire ceremony is shaped to bring about transformations both subjective and objective, interior and exterior, the idea being that once we conceive ourselves as acting not from "our shriveled sense of self" developed out of mainstream culture, but "on behalf of a larger Self—the Earth," we gain the con-

fidence that prepares us for actions in defence of the Earth and future generations.

Reading this book reminded me of a certain irony in Victorian culture which lingers yet in ours. It is remarked that Darwin's contention of human biological kinship with the rest of nature, and particularly the animal kingdom, made the Victorians feel "infinitely isolated." Partly in reaction, various literary descriptions of the nature of human experience soon followed. They held that we are each locked inside thick walls of mind and personality through which no real voice can ever pierce, and which we cannot certify to exist anyway. "Thinking like a mountain," born of our instinctual desire and deliberate intention, dissolves those "thick walls" which the authors rightly pronounce "the separate prison cells of our contrivings." When we "think like a mountain," we harken to the voices of the natural world around us, knowing them to be, in the great big sense, our own.

—Karen Davis

Karen Davis teaches English at the University of Maryland.

The Ties that Bind

Thinking Like a Mountain: Towards a Council of All Beings

By John Seed, Joanna Macy, Pat Fleming, and Arne Naess; New Society Publishers (P.O. Box 582, Santa Cruz, CA 95061), 1988; 122 pages, \$9.70 (postpaid), softcover.

When was the last time you attended a therapy session that included Rainforest, Wombat, Dead leaf, Condor, Mud, and Wild flower, with Weeds as your group leader? If the answer is "Never, but I'd sure like to," you're in luck. *Thinking Like a Mountain: Towards a Council of All Beings* is designed to enable readers to participate in a group process that connects us with all beings. It taps the yearning deep inside each of us "to break out of our isolation as persons and as species and recover our larger identity" with the Earth and the "bio-ecological history" within ourselves.

The book has a composite authorship as well as format. As the cover states, it is a collection of readings, meditations, poems, guided fantasies, workshop notes—and exquisite drawings of the Tasmanian rainforest—designed by ex-

perienced workshop leaders and activists. They include John Seed, director of the Rainforest Information Centre, New South Wales, Australia; Joanna Macy, a teacher of world religions and author of *Despair and Personal Power in the Nuclear Age* (1983); Pat Fleming, a psychologist, social worker, and earth-care coordinator; Arne Naess, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Oslo University in Norway and coiner of the term "deep ecology"; and Dailan Pugh (illustrator), a distinguished artist living in the rainforests of northern New South Wales, Australia. The book title derives from the chapter "Thinking Like a Mountain" in seminal ecologist Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* (1949). In it he argues that unless people can identify with the ecosystem and "think like a mountain," disaster is certain.

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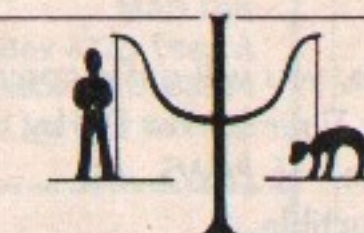
Contributing writers for Volume 4 are invited to submit short papers describing concrete procedures that "reduce, replace or refine" the use of animals.

HUMANE INNOVATIONS AND ALTERNATIVES IN ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION

A NOTEBOOK

IN THIS ISSUE

Husbandry:			
Alternatives to Factory Farming, Brown	102	Training Graduate Students, Olfert	73
Concerns for Animal Husbandry, Chester-Jones	105	Anuran Amphibians in the Lab, Balls, Balls	87
Reducing Suffering for Primates, Hamilton	114	Alternatives to Dissection as an Instructional Tool, Bowd	90
Choices for Captive Primates, Shumaker	117	Alternatives to Dissection, Barnard, Baron	92
Listening to the Chimpanzee, Fouts, Fouts	121	Non-Animal Alternatives for Public School Students, Graham, Graham	94
Alternatives to Single Caging of Rhesus Monkeys, Reinhardt	123	Operation Frog, Fox, Fox	95
Interspecies Communication, Patterson, Kennedy	126	Alternatives in Veterinary Surgical Training, Buyukmihci	96
Toxicology:		Other Innovations or Alternatives:	
A Tier Testing Strategy, Gad	75	Laboratory Animal Welfare & Alternatives, Porta	66
Experimental Design & Experimental Procedure:		Laboratory Animal Welfare Research Guides, Porta, Nyberg, Boast	69
The Use of Already Sick Animals, Dodds	84	Alternatives to Ivory, Stevens	80
Cockroaches as Alternative Subjects, Zawistowski, Huber	100	Alternatives to Breaking the Human-Animal Bond, Meyers	82
Teaching:		Rats, Trainer	98
Institutionalizing Humane Innovations, Schwartz	58	Features:	
Three-Dimensional Computer Imaging, Spurgeon, McCracken, Roper	60	Dear Peggy	57
The Vesalius Project, Roper	62	Introduction to Dissection Articles	86
Assessing Student Attitudes, Dunlap	71	Conversations with the Authors	108



PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

VOLUME THREE

1989

Making Up is Nice to Do

Peacemaking Among Primates

By Frans de Waal; Harvard University Press, Boston, 1989; 294 pages, \$29.95, hardcover.

When humans think peace is good and conflict is evil. At the same time, we consider ourselves a uniquely violent species. And we think we're radically different from our nearest relatives, the apes and monkeys. On all three counts we are wrong, says Dutch ethologist Frans de Waal in *Peacemaking Among Primates*.

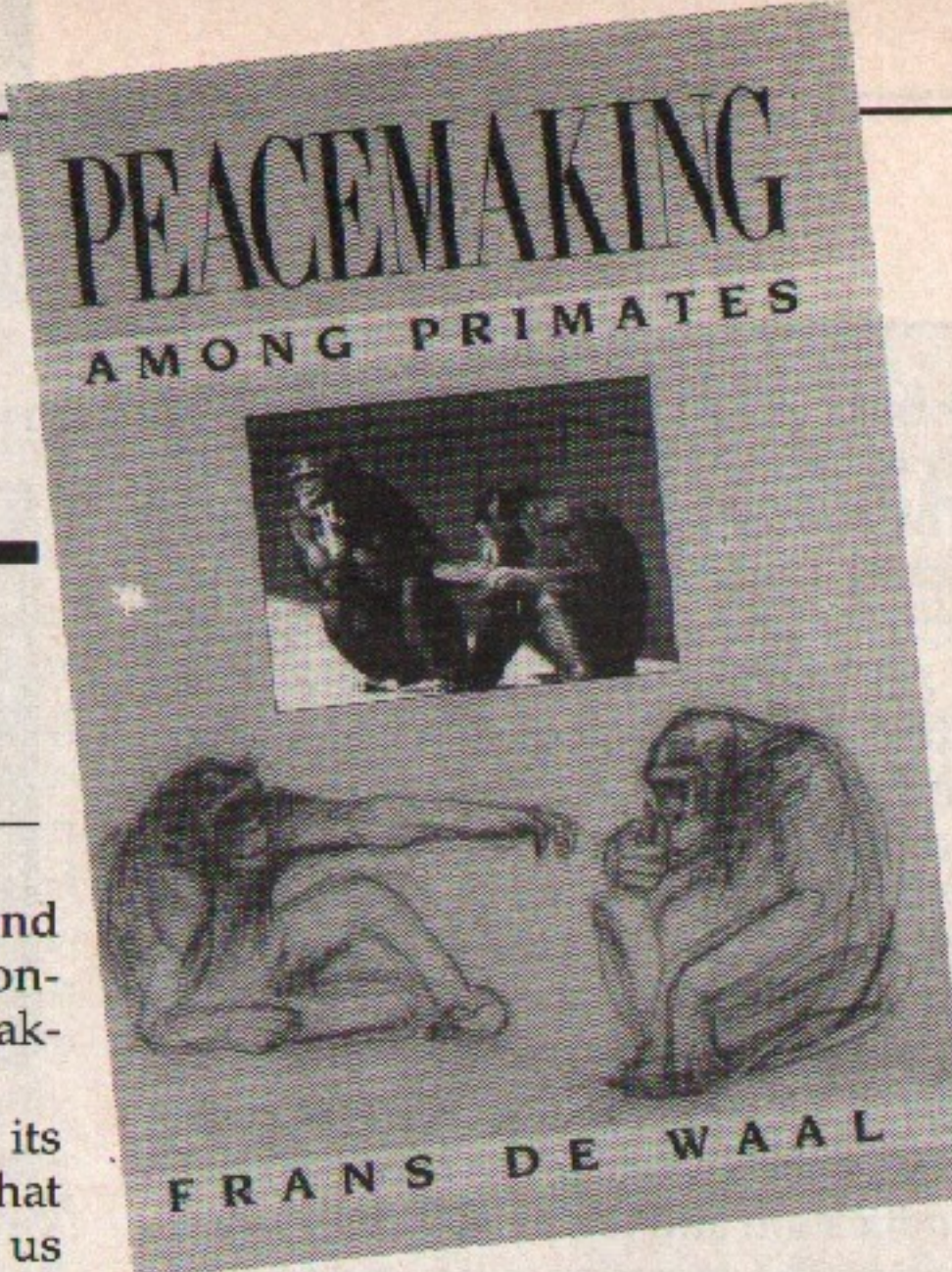
De Waal and his assistants spent thousands of hours watching captive colonies of four primate species. The researchers' goal was to learn how primates resolve their conflicts. Patterns of conflict and reconciliation varied widely from species to species. Chimpanzees tend to be slow-acting long-range planners. Rhesus macaques are quick to fight but slow and shy about making up. Stumptail monkeys reconcile loudly and overtly, often using sexual gestures. And bonobos (a little-known species of ape once erroneously called the "pygmy chimpanzee") relieve tension through such varied and intense sexual activity that de Waal jokingly calls them "Kama Sutra primates." The significant result of de Waal's observations is that conflict and cooperation exist in a natural balance: primate social life requires both. Applying this principle to the human species (which is related to chimps and bonobos as closely as horses are to zebras) de Waal

argues that we should strive not to end human aggression but to manage it constructively using our inborn peacemaking abilities.

Peacemaking Among Primates has its problems. De Waal repeatedly insists that ape and monkey behavior can teach us about ourselves. But the lack of detailed data on human behavior in general and on peacemaking in particular—a lack de Waal bemoans throughout his disappointing chapter on humans—reduces the payoff of this book to a promissory note.

Likewise, de Waal's studies suggest that apes and monkeys have moral awareness. De Waal credits them with such morally-loaded motives as altruism, remorse, and revenge. But he remains silent about the considerable ramifications of this idea, and his implicit moral philosophy is confused and inconsistent.

De Waal professes to share the major goals of the animal rights movement. In passing he deplores such unenlightened practices as separating competent ape mothers from their babies and caging primates individually rather than in groups. And he values other species in themselves, not merely as models for humans. On the other hand, he shows no qualms about vivisection—on the contrary, he begins his chapter on rhesus



macaques by listing the medical advances that experimentation on them has made possible. And he blames the animal rights movement for whitewashing unpleasant truths about intraspecies violence and blocking the flow of scientific information.

In general, though, this book displays and fosters respect for other species. Its examination of apes and monkeys shows their intelligence to be greater, their social organization more complex, their individual personalities more highly developed, their emotional lives more vivid, and their similarities to us more extensive than many people would care to imagine. It makes its points with entertaining anecdotes told in a clear, popular style. Reading it will change one's view of the monkey house at the zoo forever.

—Diana Blackwell

Diana Blackwell, who holds graduate degrees in philosophy and linguistic analysis, is a freelance writer and critic based in Columbia, Missouri.

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Diet as Lifestyle

The New Vegetarians

By Paul R. Amato and Sonia A. Partridge; Plenum Publishing Corp., New York, 1989; 276 pages, \$22.95, hardcover

Who are the new vegetarians, and what's new about them? How do they differ from, say, the philosophic vegetarians of Greek antiquity or the stereotype of a scrawny "health nut" nibbling at the edges of a society slaving over prime rib? In this book, sociologist Paul R. Amato and psychologist Sonia A. Partridge present the results of a study they conducted recently in the U.S., and to a lesser extent Great Britain and elsewhere, which shows that today's vegetarians are for the most part "ordinary people" who differ from their contemporaries mainly in having discovered that vegetarianism is "a sensible and practical lifestyle well suited for the late 20th century."

Based on the voluntary accounts, supplied through letters, questionnaires, and personal interviews, of 310 vegetarians—from semivegetarians, who include some meat in their diet, to vegans, who seek to eliminate all animal products from their lives—the authors venture the view that "Modern vegetarianism (dating from the 1960s) is no longer a countercultural phenomenon, but an accepted variation within the mainstream of American life."

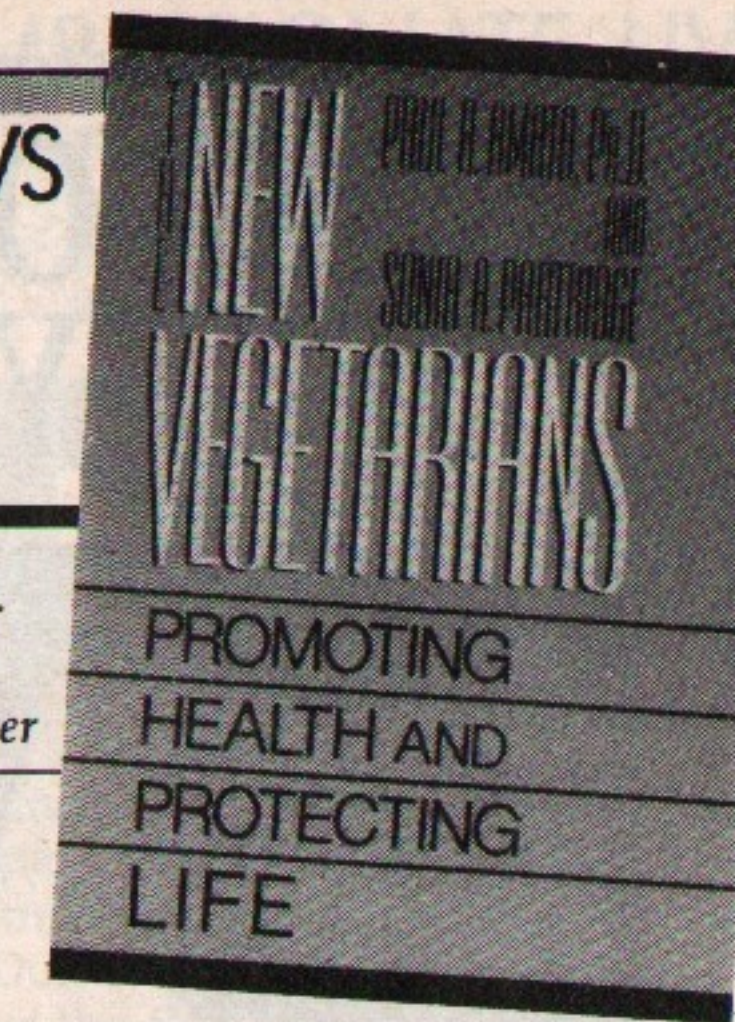
While this book contains good discussions on the different aspects of vegetarianism, including data on factory farming and certain kinds of animal abuse, its chief merit lies elsewhere. What makes it original, fascinating, uniquely convincing, occasionally funny, and generally moving is that it lets vegetarians tell in their own words how and why they became vegetarian and how their personal, social, and family lives were affected as a result.

Readers who are already vegetarians will recognize many of the episodes described, which range from ludicrous restaurant incidents to the outrage—and sometimes the support and eventual conversion—of family members, lovers, and friends. Readers who would like to become vegetarian are sure to be strengthened by the diverse testimonies of people who claim that kicking the meat habit gave their lives (often unexpectedly) a new and satisfying dimension. Indeed, a key point the book makes is that for most people, becoming a vegetarian means more than just giving up meat and "buying a new cookbook; it involves a

major shift in one's self-concept and lifestyle."

Why do people choose to become vegetarians? Eleven motives, divided into two major categories, are identified: ethical-social considerations (concern for animals, the environment, world hunger, and peace), and personal benefit considerations (concern for physical, mental, and spiritual health, aesthetic revulsion by flesh food, desire to economize, etc.). While ethical-social vegetarians outnumber the latter in this study (38 percent), the majority of people who took part in it (43 percent) gave reasons from both groups, often developed from a single initial motive. As one person explains, "My life is guided by a philosophy

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of compassion and reverence for life. I increasingly see the interconnections between that philosophy and a healthy, nonviolent, well-fed, ecologically sound world."

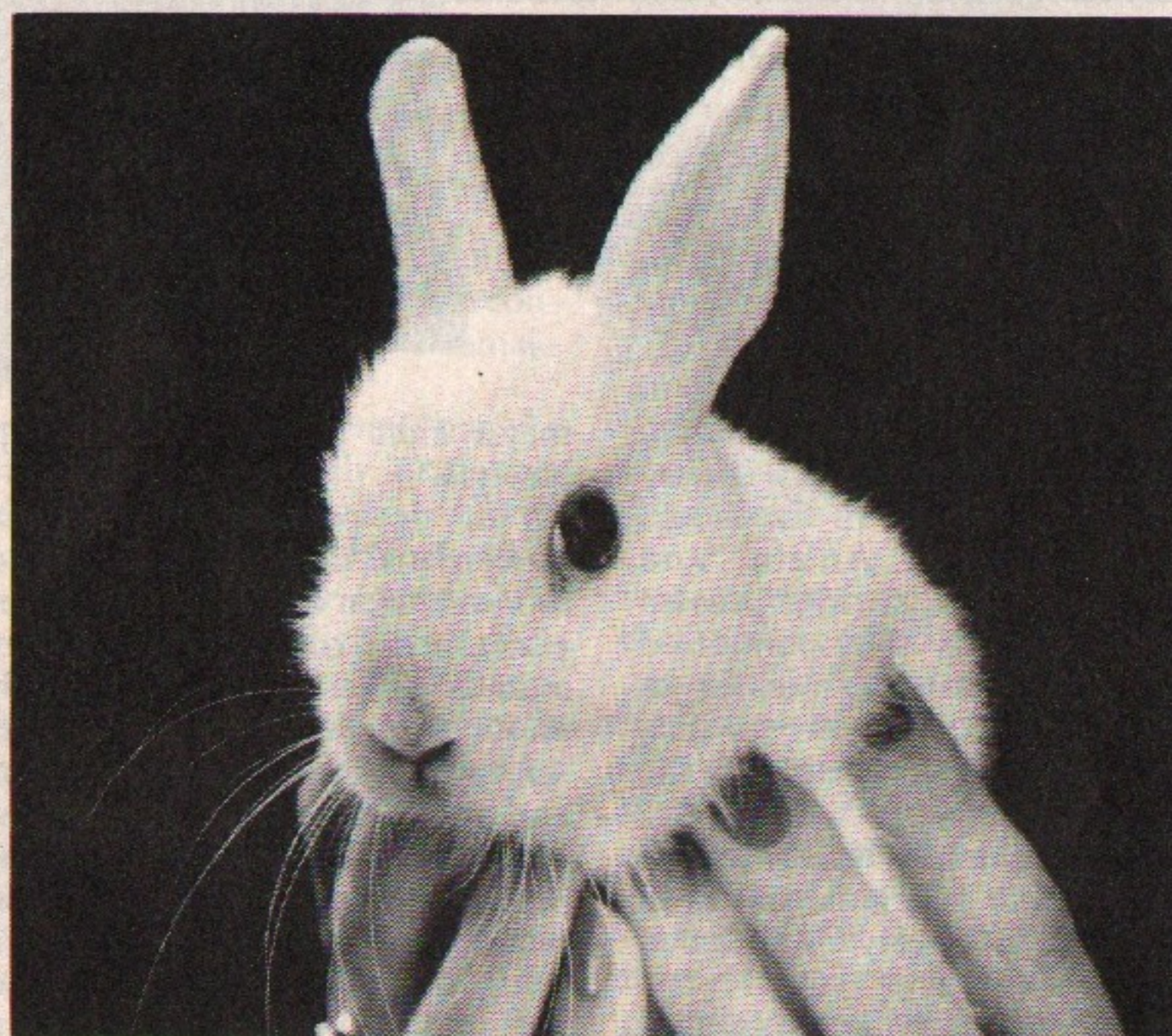
As is probably evident by now, this book does more than portray, as well as try to account for, the varieties of vegetarian experience. The authors unabashedly promote vegetarianism for all of the above-named reasons. One way they do this is by offering the reader a cornucopia of suggestions for handling the kinds of problems that herbivores habitually face in a meat-based culture. For instance, what should a vegetarian wife do if her husband insists that she cook him meat? How does a vegetarian handle a family holiday dinner celebrated over a dead bird? What stand should parents who are raising their children as vegetarians take on hot dogs at a friend's birthday party? Should vegetarian parents let their children make their own food choices? And there are other questions, like what should—what can—a vegetarian do about dining on an airplane, or if confined in a hospital or prison?

In dealing with these matters, the authors note optimistically that although being a vegetarian is still tricky business in this society, the situation is gradually improving. Vegetarianism is more widely accepted now than it used to be, partly because people in general are thinking more seriously about health and are becoming better informed about nutrition. And there are other signs. Where formerly vegetarian fare may have been limited, today's plant-based diet is "enriched by the diversity and abundance of plant foods now available to us, by the sharing of ethnic cuisines from around the world, and by new products being developed by vegetarian food industries." Encouraging, too, is the fact that most of the people surveyed were once "die-hard meat-eaters who could think of nothing better than sinking their teeth into a blood-red steak." Yet these people changed their dietary habits, and often other habits as well.

In short, the people represented in this book are the kinds of folks that a lot of readers, vegetarian and otherwise, are going to find it easy to identify with. They're neither "hippies" nor saints, most of them, but, as one person put it, "just normal people with above normal vision—a vision that is readily acquired, not inherent." All in all, Amato and Partridge have written an informative and thought-provoking book that allows today's vegetarians to raise their voices, inviting us all to join the chorus.

—Karen Davis

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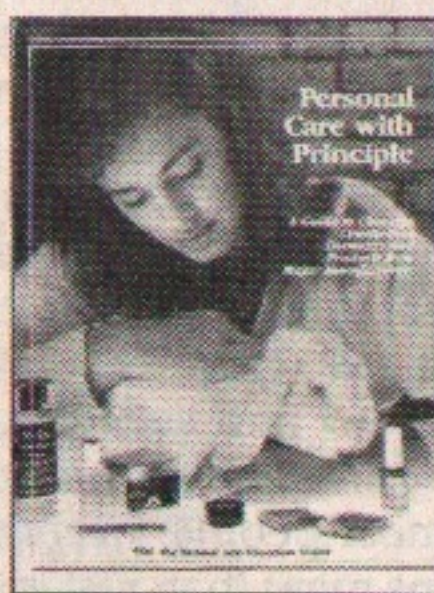
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COMPASSIONATE LIVING BY VICTORIA MORAN

Just Desserts

My sweet tooth was schooled on whipped cream frostings, buttery pound cake, and egg-rich angelfood and meringues. I wasn't bad with a wire whisk and a rolling pin either, so when I became vegan I was shocked to find myself turning out rock-hard banana bread, muffins that could have doubled as artillery, and pie crust the consistency of steel-belted radials. I was beginning to think that eggs, milk, and butter were required for quality baked goods and that I'd have to desert dessert. But then I met some vegan bakers, the pros whose oven offerings put Sara Lee herself to shame on ethics, nutrition, and taste.

- ◆ Know the limitations: custards, for example, are out of the question, so forget them and be creative with other things.
- ◆ Don't expect from oil and whole wheat flour the flaky pie crust you'd get from white flour and butter, although using safflower margarine instead of oil will result in a lighter crust with more flakiness.
- ◆ Use whole wheat pastry flour for crusts, cakes, muffins, cookies, and quick breads. It doesn't have the heavy bran texture of regular whole wheat flour (best reserved for yeast breads) so you'll get lighter results.
- ◆ Consider single-crust or lattice-topped pies to compensate for the somewhat heavier texture of the crust. Or make a crisp topping: toasted nuts or seeds, chopped or ground, with a little oil and enough barley

(exceptions are heavier fruit or carrot cakes in which barley malt works well).

◆ Ground nuts such as almonds and filberts provide richness, elegance and versatility, and they can cut down on the amount of oil you'll need to use.

◆ For yeast breads, knead as if you're going for an aerobic workout (it's necessary to develop the gluten). When making breads using baking powder, though, stir the batter just enough to mix ingredients.

And don't be discouraged. There are no failures. You'd be surprised at the compliments I've received on my "bread pudding" when it was really a cake that fell apart or didn't rise. I just cut it up, poured on soy milk and some raisins, baked it a couple more minutes and served it with spoons. If anybody noticed there was an extra fork at each place setting, nothing was said. Another option, of course, is leaving things to the experts. If you'd like to learn about Selectables' offerings, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to 159 Dartmouth Dr., Mystic, CT 06355.

Recipes

Tofu Cream Frosting (for carrot and other cakes)

Steam 1 pound tofu for 5 minutes. Crumble it into processor or blender. Add ½ cup maple syrup, and 1 tsp. vanilla. Puree till smooth. (If too thick, add a little apple juice; if too thin, add a little more tofu. Note that this frosting will thicken and harden after you've iced the cake.) Use as filling between cake layers and on top. Decorate top with chopped walnuts and grated carrot.

Ellen Marie's Carrot Cake

Cook 3½ cups tightly packed grated carrots for 20 minutes (do *not* boil) in 2 cups barley malt, 2 tsp. cinnamon, ¼ tsp. ginger, ¼ tsp. coriander, ⅛ tsp. allspice, and 1 tsp. sea salt. Let cool.

In processor or blender, blend 1 cup corn oil, ½ cup Fearn soy powder dissolved in ½ cup water, 1 tsp. vanilla extract, ½ cup orange or apple juice, and 2 tablespoons lemon juice. Add blended mixture to carrot mixture.

Combine 4 cups whole wheat pastry flour, 2 tablespoons baking powder, ¾ cup

Continued on page 55

One of my culinary mentors was Ellen Marie Poli, founder and director of Selectables, a company providing vegan sweets to natural food and gourmet shops in New York, New England, and California, and via mail order to individuals throughout the country. Her tempting specialties include rice pudding, couscous cake, and scrumptious cookies like anise-flavored Bright-Eyed Susans and Paradise Islands, coconut confectionery par excellence. She taught me that baking without animal products isn't difficult, but that it is a different skill than the one I learned from my mother—especially when whole grain flour and sweeteners other than sugar are being used as well. The following are her tips for perfect baking with a clear conscience, plus a few of Ellen's delectable recipes:

malt or rice syrup to make it gooey. You can also use leftover bread, crumbled in the Cuisinart, as part of this topping.

◆ For fresh fruit pies, try pressed crusts: grind nuts and raw oats in a processor or blender and mix in some corn oil, salt, and a bit of water or applesauce to bind the ingredients; press into a pie tin and fill.

◆ Eggs are used as binders and to help with rising. Get their binding property with Fearn Soy Powder (a finer product than ordinary soy flour); ¼ cup of the powder to ¼ cup of water replaces 2 eggs. To ensure adequate rising, particularly with whole grain flour, use extra leavening (1 tablespoon of aluminum-free baking powder instead of the 1½ teaspoon called for in most cake recipes is about right).

◆ As a general rule, use maple syrup for cakes instead of rice syrup or barley malt

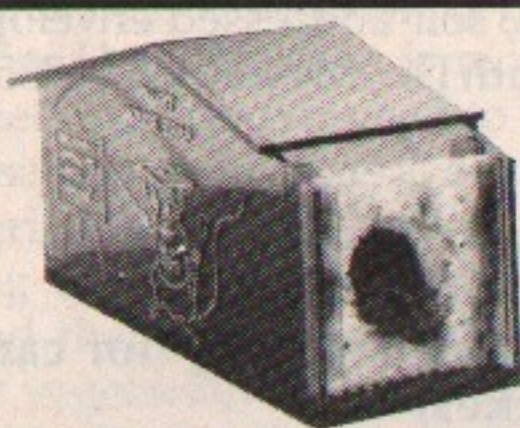
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Continued from page 53

raisins, and $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped walnuts. Add other ingredients, stirring only enough to mix. Pour into two oiled 9" cake pans or one 11" x 17" oiled baking dish. Bake 20-30 minutes at 350 degrees. Test with toothpick for doneness (toothpick should come out clean). Cool in pan(s).

Walnut Oat Pie Crust

Grind 1 cup walnuts, 2 tsp. rolled oats, 1 tsp. sea salt, and 1 tsp. cinnamon in food processor (the best way) or in batches in blender if necessary. Combine 2 tablespoons corn oil and 1 cup apple juice. Add to other ingredients. Add whole wheat pastry flour (enough to bind), using a little more apple juice if necessary. Put into oiled pie plates (will make several crusts).

Prebake 15 minutes for baked pie at 350 degrees, or 30 minutes (till just lightly browned) for uncooked pie.

Old-Fashioned Apple Cobbler

Slice 4 or 5 apples and put them in bottom of oiled 10" pie plate.

Combine $1\frac{3}{4}$ cup whole wheat pastry flour, 1 tsp. sea salt, 1 tablespoon baking powder, 1 tsp. cinnamon, and $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. nutmeg.

Combine $\frac{1}{4}$ cup corn or safflower oil, 1 cup maple syrup, 1 cup apple juice. Pour liquid into dry ingredients. (If too runny, add another $\frac{1}{4}$ cup flour, but it shouldn't be very thick.) Pour over fruit and bake in 350 degree oven for 30-45 minutes. If edges are getting too brown, cover them with foil. (This dish will make your whole house

smell good while it's baking.)

Delightfuls

Grind together 2 cups hazelnuts, almonds, or raw cashews and 2 cups rolled oats. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. sea salt and $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. cinnamon.

Blend together $\frac{1}{2}$ cup oil and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup maple syrup, and add to dry ingredients. Add a little rice syrup (about 2 to 4 tablespoons) to make sticky. Make walnut-sized balls and place on cookie sheet. Make thumb print in center; fill with fruit jam. Bake 6 minutes at 400 degrees. Cool on cookie sheet. (Hint: If they're not sticking together well, add a little more rice syrup or refrigerate dough for an hour and then try working with it again. Keep hands moist while making these.) Yield: 2 dozen.



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Trapping

Continued from page 45
of eliminating the rabid animals.

The states of Florida and Rhode Island have had only their normal incidence of disease in wildlife since banning the leghold trap over a decade ago. Switzerland, after banning the leghold trap in 1962, legalized it again in 1968 in hopes that trapping might help curb rabies in foxes. It didn't; trappers simply didn't want rabid foxes, who can be dangerous to handle. The rabies epidemic was eventually controlled via vaccination, and the leghold trap was again banned in 1972. Even if trappers did target diseased and overabundant animals, the inherent nonselectivity of traps would invalidate their effort. The bait that draws one carnivore will draw another. The scent lure that attracts one canid will attract any other, at least to sniff and see who's in the neighborhood. The steel jaws that will hold any animal will hold any other who happens to step there; the cable snare set for fox or coyote can as easily catch deer or even humans, as I learned to my embarrassment one afternoon while cross-country jogging.

One U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service study of Animal Damage Control program coyote trapping showed a total take of 1,199 animals, only 138 of whom were coyotes. "My trapping records show," former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service trapper Dick Randall

told Congress in 1976, "that for each target animal I trapped, about two unwanted individuals were caught. Because of trap injuries, these non-target species had to be destroyed." Similar figures were reported in a 1980 study of professionally-tended traplines by the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests: only 561 furbearing animals, among 1,911 animals caught.

Birds of prey are not trapped deliberately, yet studies from Nevada, New Jersey, and Minnesota have identified trapping as a major cause of raptor mortality. If the birds don't actually die in the traps, they often starve later, unable to feed themselves once their talons have been crushed. Studies done in Maine and Louisiana show that even Conibear traps, set in water to catch muskrat, kill noteworthy numbers of birds, among them rails, ducks, and herons.

The inescapable conclusion is that trapping imperils all wildlife, regardless of target species. It is as inherently anti-ecological as any other indiscriminate killer, from drifting pesticides to nuclear radiation. Though trappers may spend much time in the woods (albeit much less than I do), this doesn't mean they understand or acknowledge what they are doing any more than a cancer understands how it weakens and destroys its host. ■

Additional resources on trapping vs. the environment include **Trapping: Facts & Fallacies**, from the Humane Society of the U.S., 1977; **A Contemporary Analysis of Animal Traps & Trapping**, by Martha Scott, HSUS, 1977; **North American Fur Sources & Trade in the 1980s**, by Merritt Clifton, HSUS, 1989; **Facts About Furs**, by Greta Nilsson et al, from the Animal Welfare Institute, 1980; **Changing U.S. Trapping Policy**, by Peggy Morrison and Susan Hagood, from Defenders of Wildlife, 1984; and **The Skin Trade Primer**, by Susan Russell, from Friends of Animals, 1988.

The History of the Circus in America

Continued from page 27

& Bailey also added two large stages, as many as 100 meters wide, between the three rings. There they presented dramatic spectacles such as "Nero, or The Destruction of Rome" in grandiose pantomime. These productions employed up to 1,000 actors and dancers, a full orchestra, a 100-voice choir, and nearly all the animals on the circus lot.

In view of these lurid flourishes, it is no wonder that by the time Barnum took his act to England in the winter of 1889, audiences in the country where the circus had originated did not know what to make of this over-enthusiastic American version. Its effect, British critics finally decided, was "apt to give spectators fits of indigestion."

P.T. Barnum died in 1891. According to one account, the last thing he said before mustering out was, "How were the receipts today in Madison Square Garden?" Sixteen years later the circus he had helped to found was bought by the Ringling Brothers, who had their own successful outfit at the time. The two shows operated separately until the spring of 1919.

By 1956 the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus had stopped playing under canvas and had moved indoors to sports arenas and large exhibition halls. At that time there were 30 smaller circuses touring the U.S., almost 70 fewer than there had been when Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey joined forces 37 years before.

For 11 years, beginning in 1971, the Ringling Brothers circus and its ice revues were owned by Matell, Incorporated. After Matell's entertainment division sustained losses of \$1.07 million during fiscal 1982, the Ringling Brothers shows were sold for \$22.8 million to a group organized by senior management at Ringling. This group was headed by Irvin Feld and his son Kenneth, current chairman of the Ringling corporation.

Though Ringling Brothers is by far the dominant circus in America (it will play 92 cities before an estimated 12 million people this year and next), there are approximately two dozen smaller circuses that still set 'em up and tear 'em down across the country each year. Three of the largest are Circus Vargas, Carson and Barnes Circus, and the Clyde Beatty-Cole Brothers Circus.

Circus Vargas, which is only 20 years old, is the world's largest traveling big-top circus, with a four-story tent that

holds 5,000. It (the circus, not the tent) performs 600 shows in 100 cities each year. In these and other circus performances, as Ambrose Bierce remarked more than 80 years ago, "horses, ponies, and elephants are permitted to see men, women, and children acting the fool."

—P.M.

When in Rome...

Though they borrowed the customs of exotic animal displays and chariot races from their Greek and Egyptian predecessors, the Romans get full

credit for inventing the ancient circus. Like Rome, the circus wasn't built in a day. First came the arena, the Circus Maximus, initially constructed around 600 B.C. on a generous plane between two of Rome's seven hills. A name designating both the enormous enclosure and the fulsome exhibitions presented therein, the Circus Maximus was the fountain of amusement in Rome for more than nine centuries.

Circus, meaning ring or circle in Latin, was, in fact, a misnomer; for the Circus Maximus was a partial ellipse. *Maximus*, however, was on the mark. This larger-than-lives battleground, 2,000-feet by 600-feet at its zenith, was more than six football fields long and two fields wide. It eventually held as many as 250,000 people, the entire population of Rome. It was reconstructed several times during its sanguinary history, but serious pagan-splendor embellishments in marble and bronze were not added until Augustus founded the Roman Empire in 27 B.C.

Chariot races were the first and the abiding attraction in the Circus Maximus. Indeed, *circus* was originally used in reference to these contests. But gradually other entertainments, many of them involving trained animals, were added to the program. The trainers who prepared animals for the circus were either slaves or foreigners. Their skills were such that they were able to place their hands in a lion's mouth, plant kisses on a tiger's face, ride crocodiles, persuade elephants to walk tightropes, and teach lions to chase down hares and return them

unharméd.

Gladiators—a drop-dead attraction at the Circus Maximus—were introduced to Roman society in 264 B.C. when three pairs of combatants clashed as part of a funeral observation. By Julius Caesar's reign, which ended in 44 B.C., as many as 300 pairs of gladiators fought at one time in the circus. (The record for gladiatorial overkill was set by the Emperor Trajan, who assembled 10,000 gladiators for one spectacle in A.D. 107.)

In addition to human bloodletting, circuses also featured competition between gladiators and animals—or outright animal sacrifice. In one five-day extravaganza presented by Pompey in 55 B.C., 500 Numidian lions and leopards were butchered to slake the Roman thirst for blood and spectacle.

Expendable diversions at worst, at best exotic animals were no more than fashionable curiosities to the Roman mind. The Emperor Elagabalus, for example, was wont to release tame lions, bears, and leopards into his guests' bedrooms while they were attempting to knit the raveled sleeve of debauchery with a good night's rest. (Imagine bumping into a bear in a strange house while you're trying to grope your way to the loo at 3 A.M.) Remarkably, none of Elagabalus's visitors were ever injured by an animal.

Pompey and Julius Caesar—allies at first, then later rivals—were most adept at using the circus for political ends, which included advancing their careers or diverting attention from civic problems. *Panes at circenses*, a Latin expression meaning *bread and cir-*

cus, describes this diversionary political philosophy, which endures in the sound byte in American politics today.

There were other circuses in Rome besides the Circus Maximus. In fact, there were nearly 100 circuses throughout the Roman Empire—in Sicily, France, Spain, and England, among other locations—where audiences were treated to fights between men and wild animals and were astounded by feats of equestrianism and acrobatics.

But as the Roman Empire went, so went the circus. After the fourth century A.D. there was no entertainment that could properly be called a circus for almost 1,400 years. (And circus historians are inclined to argue about whether the Roman circus was the linear antecedent of the modern-day circus founded in England in the 18th century.)

Prissy academic debates notwithstanding, it is true that acts which had been presented in the Roman arenas were performed in lesser venues by itinerant animal trainers and other rough-hewn artistes for centuries. Horsemen, acrobats, clowns, bear-leaders, animal trainers, jugglers, and tumblers wandered throughout Europe earning a pittance here and there by giving exhibitions on fairgrounds or in the street. Many of these entertainments eventually found their way into the English circus, but for 14 centuries there was no center for the promotion of such arts, no permanent place for their exhibition, and no encouragement for anyone who was inclined to preserve these curious skills. —P.M.



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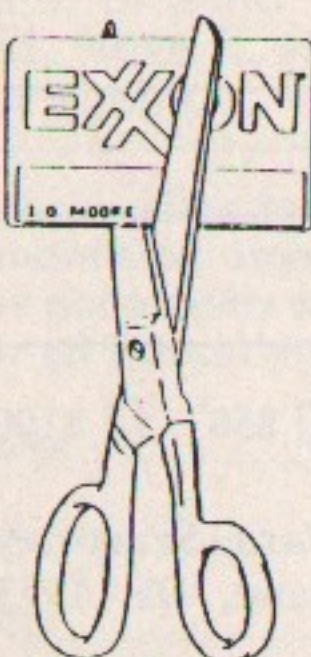
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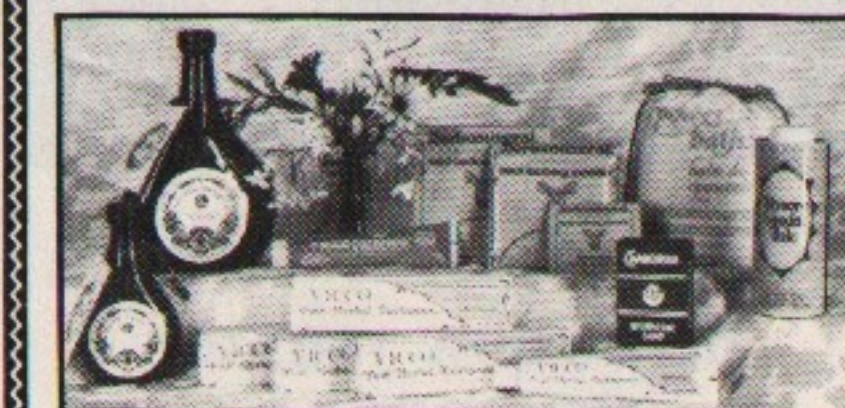
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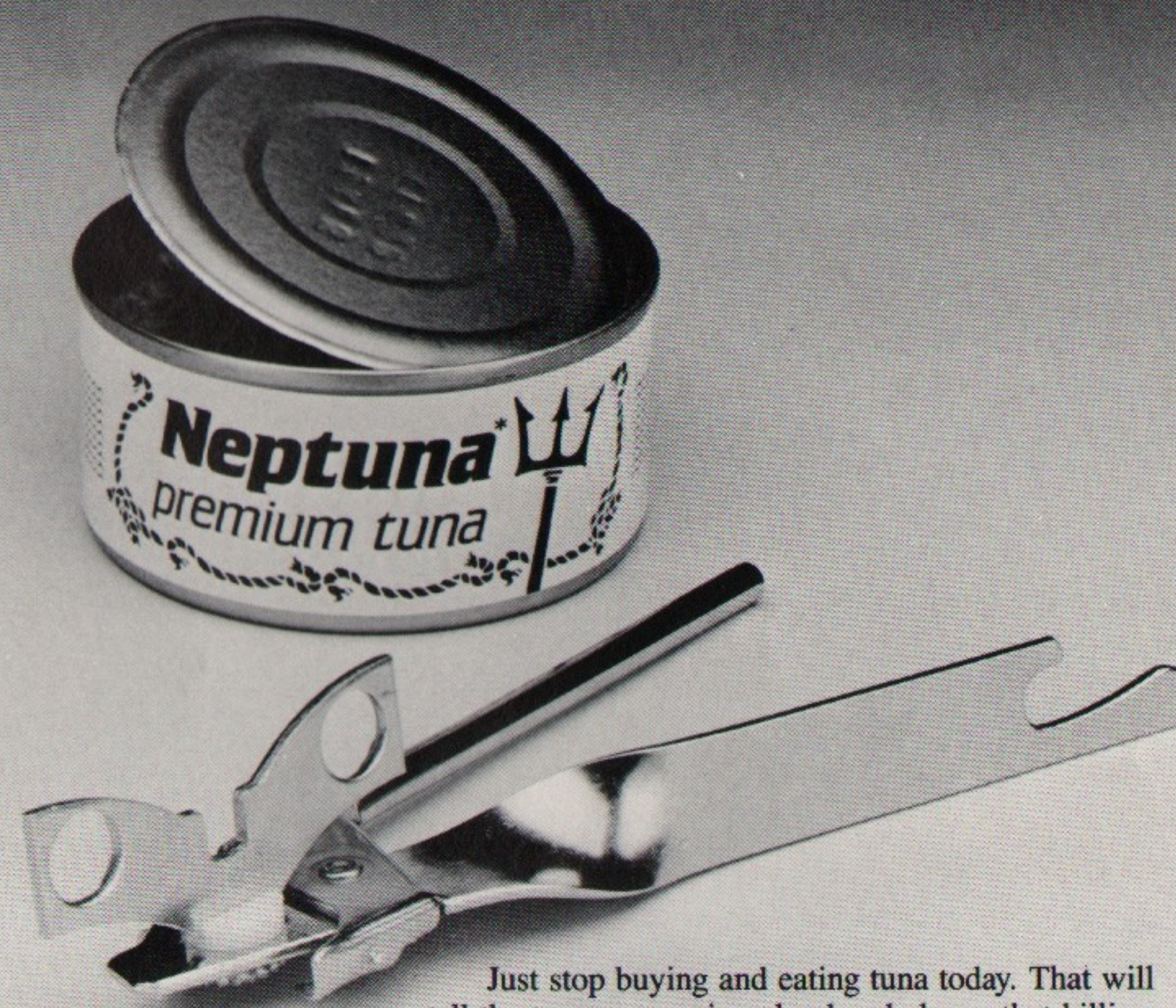
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"Through the ages there have been voices crying out for a change in the human heart: a change that would transform the cruelty and injustice that stain our relationship with each other and with the animals. Like Pythagoras, George Bernard Shaw refused to eat the flesh of animals; like Voltaire he railed against vivisection. Shaw boldly campaigned against sexual discrimination and the economic exploitation of the underclasses, and with equal resolve demanded an end to the tyranny of human over non-human. Perhaps the timeless ideas of the truly great individuals of the past will take root in our own time and blossom into a 21st century enlightenment surpassing that of the 1700's. That's what Aubrey Hampton seems to have had in mind when he penned *GBS & Company*, a play that reincarnates the wisdom and compassionate spirit of George Bernard Shaw."

—KIM BARTLETT
Editor, *The Animals' Agenda*



MEET SHAW THE ANIMAL ACTIVIST

No cause was closer to the heart of the Nobel prize-winning playwright than animal activism. A lifelong vegetarian, Shaw also wrote against vivisection and factory farming—yet his stand for the animals has been virtually ignored. Scholars and animal activists alike have been unanimous in praising Aubrey Hampton's biographical play, *GBS & Company*. Tom Regan, author of *The Case for Animal Rights*, calls it "a play about Shaw that Shaw himself would like." Roger Galvin, attorney and animal rights advocate, finds that it "powerfully reminds us that the growing animal rights movement has not been woven from whole cloth in the last decade." Gretchen Wyler, vice-chairperson for The Fund for Animals, says "*GBS & Company* ...provides...inspiration and vision. Bravo!" Join the crowd who has read and loved *GBS & Company*. Send \$10.95 for each copy, plus \$2.00 for shipping to the address below.



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