

the ANIMALS' AGENDA

THE ANIMAL RIGHTS MAGAZINE • SEPTEMBER 1987 • \$2.00



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Peter Singer—A decade after *Animal Liberation*

The Gaia Hypothesis

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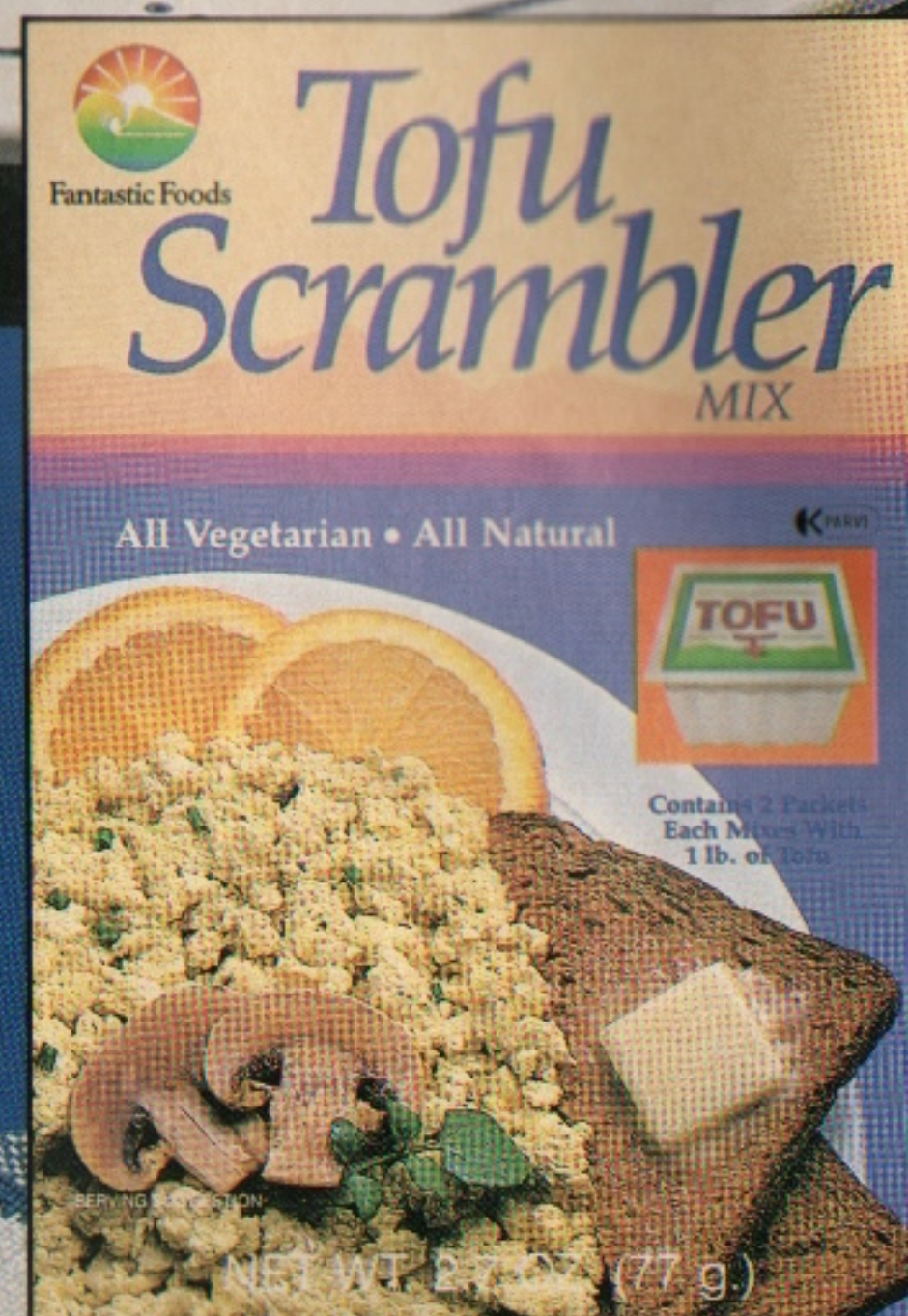




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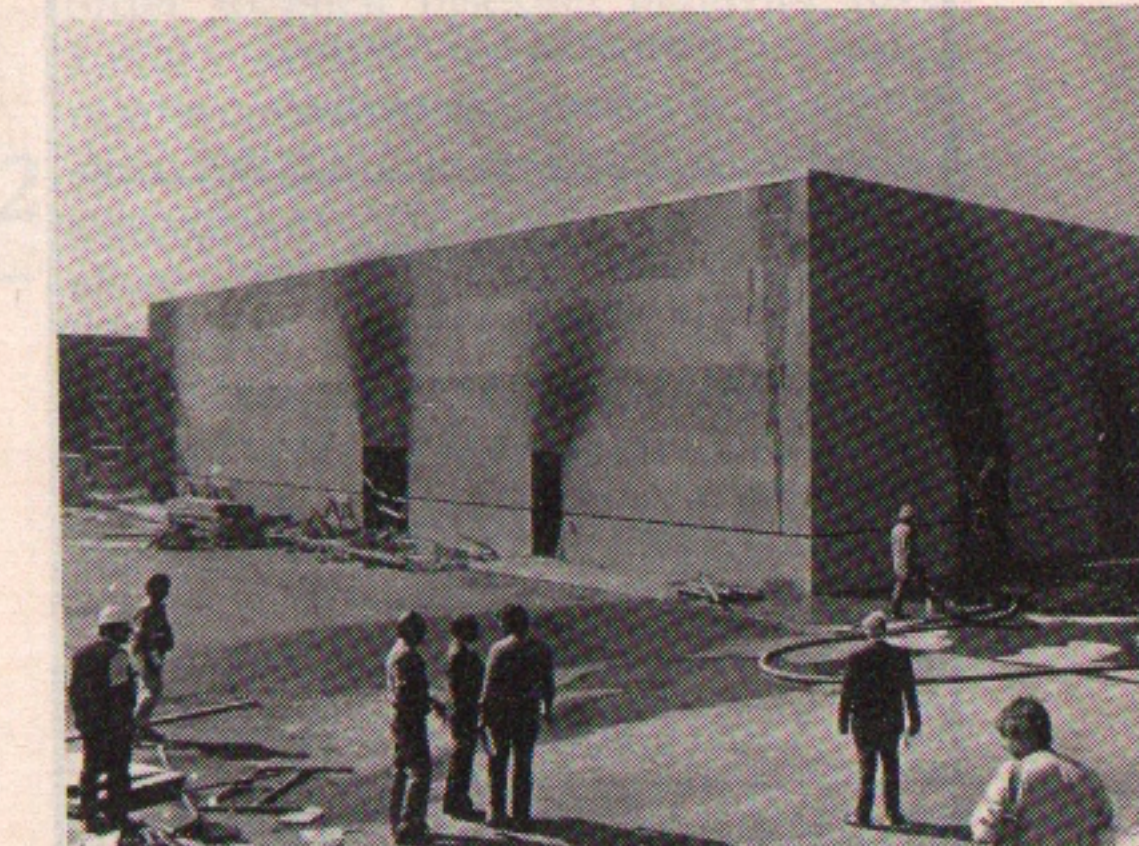
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Animal Rights Network, Inc.

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Steering a Steady Course

News of group mergers, takeovers, and internal power struggles has become a popular topic of conversation throughout the animal rights movement, and—quite properly—supporters of animal protection organizations are becoming increasingly interested in knowing about their leadership and the composition of their boards of directors.

In some instances, groups begun only a few years ago by one or more individuals are being forced to grapple with unanticipated structural complexities, which may involve a realignment of staff responsibilities as well as a definition of the role of their boards of directors. Rightly or wrongly, groups with strong and active leaders are often closely identified with those persons, and those individuals generally do play a powerful role in determining the priorities and personalities of those organizations. As an organization grows, however, more and more functions accumulate, often requiring a substantial dispersion of the authority that originally rested primarily in a very small number of people—usually the founder(s).

Control of any corporation is legally vested in the board of directors though, in reality, a board may function poorly or not at all. In too many cases, boards of charitable entities—young and old—include directors chosen more for their business acumen (i.e., bankers and lawyers) or their personal relationship to other directors than for their dedication to the promotion of humanitarian values. Here lies another area where animal advocates are demanding change. Directors who have no commitment to the cause may lack an understanding of the issues and the severity of the needs to be addressed—a deficiency that is especially critical in animal defense work, which requires constant struggle against the weight of massive unawareness in the general public.

The strength of any social change organization depends on the degree of commitment and personal integrity of each staff and board member. At their best, boards lend wisdom and credibility to the organization. As pointed out in a recent *Animalines* (an insightful periodical published in San Francisco), "the collective personality and priorities of a board—expressed either passively or assertively—have a profound impact on the direction and effectiveness of an organization. Whether a board is 'rubber stamp' or discordant, reactionary or progressive, uninformed or knowledgeable, it alone controls the fate of an organization by the leadership it selects and the policies it approves."

Though the directors generally establish the aims of an organization, the board must empower the staff to carry out the work necessary to realize those goals—work best performed in an atmosphere of creative freedom within guidelines of accountability.

The Animal Rights Network, Inc. (ARN), the nonprofit corporation which publishes *The ANIMALS' AGENDA*, has been in a state of growth and change for some time now, and is settling into a new structure. Serving on the board are 11 animal advocates: three staff members and eight movement representatives. Their names are now listed on the masthead with the magazine staff. ARN's directors will be playing an active role in administration, and in establishing policies, priorities, and long-term goals.

A new addition

The ANIMALS' AGENDA is happy to announce the arrival of Wayne Pacelle on the staff as Assistant Editor. A recent graduate of Yale University, with degrees in history and environmental studies, Wayne will be working closely with Editor Kim Bartlett and Editor-at-Large Patrice Greanville on feature articles, profiles, interviews, and reviews. He will be serving on the staff editorial committee along with Kim, Patrice, Leslie Pardue (News Editor), and Doug Moss (Publisher).

Needed: magazine sustainers to help with our work

Invitations to become "sustainers" went out to all subscribers recently. Sustainers contribute \$250 or more annually, and will begin receiving a special quarterly "Publisher's Report". Sustainers and other contributors make our work possible—donations over and above the price of the magazine help to make up the rather large difference between publishing costs and subscription revenues. The ANIMALS' AGENDA needs sustainers, but welcomes donations of any amount.

—The Editors

LETTERS

Wants Dollars Spent on Saving Lives

I was furious to see the full page ad in the June issue placed by the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA) about dog and cat overpopulation.

The MSPCA, with its \$60 million, is the richest humane society in the world. They have amassed their fortune seeking donations in the name of dogs and cats. Groups that address the tragedy of the 700 "surplus" dogs and cats killed every day in Massachusetts alone have been putting pressure on the MSPCA, which has promised to make pet overpopulation its major priority. MSPCA only recently instituted a low-cost spay/neuter program, but it requires that people have their animals inoculated two weeks prior to surgery (which is inconvenient), and the shots are not low-cost.

For years now, the MSPCA has been promising a major media campaign to alert the public to the tragedy of the pet population explosion. We keep listening and watching for their ads, but the only one we've seen has been in *The ANIMALS' AGENDA*. Preaching to the converted may be good for increasing membership and good for public relations, but it doesn't save lives.

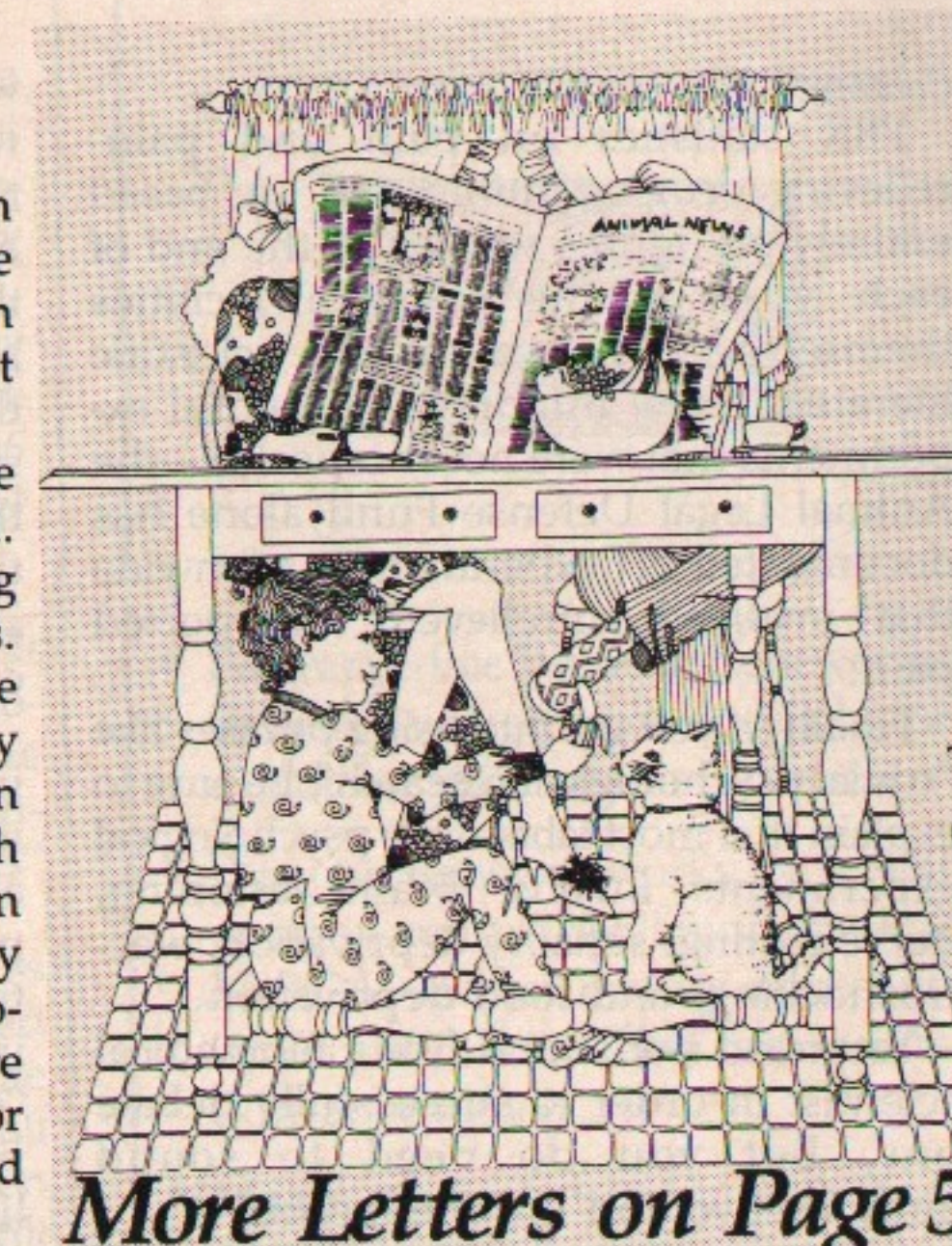
—Deborah Kromer
Melrose, MA

Editor's Note: Major humane organizations sometimes place ads in *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* as a form of financial assistance to the magazine. We encourage ads that provide information, or offer useful literature or other material; the MSPCA ad did both. We, too, hope that the same ad is being placed in front of the general public.

Hare-Coursing Must End Now

Hare-coursing is widely considered one of the world's most barbaric blood "sports". In these festivals of cruelty, hares [large rabbits] are placed in an enclosure to be chased down by dogs. Coursing events are generally divided into 80 "races". For each course, a hare is released from a small box at one end of the enclosure. Two greyhounds are then unleashed, and the first one to reach the hare is declared the winner. When a hare is caught by the hounds, he suffers an agonizing death.

After attending a coursing event for the first time, a reporter wrote the following: "I have just listened to a sound that will haunt me for the rest of my life. It was



More Letters on Page 52

the sound of a living creature—a hare—being hideously racked, stretched, and torn apart in the jaws of two blood-crazed hounds. It sobbed like a baby—a quiet, choking cry that went on for at least fifty seconds before it was 'rescued' from the hounds. And the bloodthirsty spectators loved every minute of it."

Every year, countless thousands of hares are slaughtered in this gruesome manner in Ireland, Spain, Portugal, and the United Kingdom. Even worse are the training sessions that precede the events. Hares considered unsuitable for coursing (along with cats, rabbits, and birds whose legs have been broken) are fed live to the hounds. This practice, known as "bleeding", is believed to enhance a greyhound's performance on the coursing field.

The hare is a timid and harmless little creature. In the name of common humanity, we appeal to your readers to assist our campaign for legislation to end this foul activity. They can help simply by writing one letter—even a few words would help—demanding immediate action to stamp out hare-coursing and similar practices in Europe. Letter should be addressed to: Frau Beate Weber, Chairperson, Environment Committee, European Parliament, Sickingenstrasse 1, 6900 Heidelberg, West Germany. Letters to Europe from the U.S. require 44 cents postage.

—John P. Fitzgerald
Irish Council Against Blood "Sports"
No. 5, Lower Coyne St.
Callan
Co. Kilkenny
Republic of Ireland

More Debate Tips

I'd like to offer some extra tips on debating the values of animal research (*Activists' Agenda*, April 1987).

Primarily, let's remember that the Foundation for Biomedical Research (FBR) spokespersons are adept only at giving their own "party line", consisting of the "facts" that animal experimentation is always necessary and never trivial, that no pain is involved, and that all is regulated and monitored at the labs.

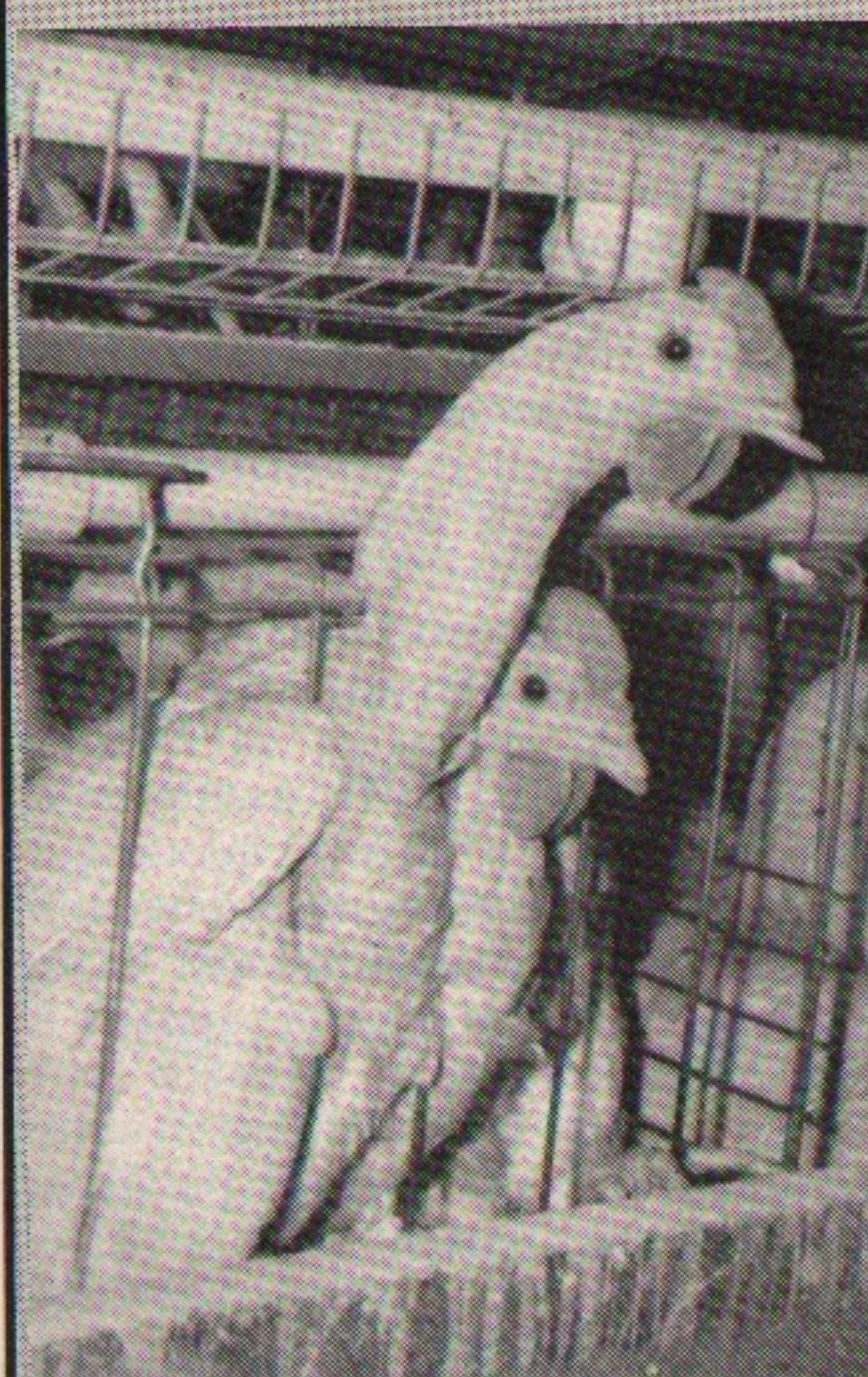
The animal advocate is bound, therefore, to bring forth examples of ridiculous research such as: injecting of female animals with testosterone until they copulate in a male fashion, or the electrical brain lesioning of animals in order to elicit bisexual behavior (over 1,800 sexual experiments using nonhuman animals have been published since 1980); the thousand or so published experiments involving animals given LSD since 1966; and the thousand or so "classical conditioning" experiments published since 1980 involving electroshocking animals immediately after flashing a light or making a noise until the animal learns to fear the light or the noise.

The FBR person will immediately state that those examples are exceptions (in the thousands?), and that funding agencies do not fund trivial or duplicative research. They will talk about self-regulation through monetary restraints and the "fact" that only a third of all grant proposals are actually approved for funding. Well, here is where you can tell the public that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant awards rose from \$3,083,743,467 in 1984 to \$3,585,640,857 in 1985. During that year, NIH increased the number of grants from 21,555 to 22,970. The Office of Technology Assessment stated that 50 percent of all such funds are devoted to animal experimentation—a figure that was less than 45 percent in 1977. NIH is probably the only agency, with the exception of the Pentagon, whose budget is continuously increasing even under Reaganomics.

As for inspections by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), we have found that in spite of claims that they meet all Federal standards, branches of the University of California were repeatedly cited for violations ranging from empty water bottles to dogs standing in feces, and from dried blood on surgical equipment to undersized cages. Activists can and should obtain inspection reports of facilities in their own area by filing a request with USDA.

Continued on next page

A Cute Animal?



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HFA believes all sentient beings, regardless of whether they are judged by others to be "cute" or "intelligent," deserve to be treated with compassion.

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LETTERS

Continued from previous page

FBR statistics on pain and pain-relieving drugs administered are based entirely on figures written at the end of each year by the research facilities themselves. Surveys of the scientific literature show hundreds of painful experiments that were never reported—the Animal Legal Defense Fund alone has documented 141 experiments nationwide that involved unrelieved, unreported pain.

Finally, if you get into using phrases like "trivial psychological research," be sure to explain that most laboratory psychological experiments involve brain lesioning, nerve cutting, sensory deprivation, electroshocking, and food deprivation.

You need not sound like a biomedical scientist in order to successfully debate one, but you do need to sound authoritative and knowledgeable.

—Avi Magidoff
San Francisco, CA

Project X Disputes

Animal rights advocates are presented with a real dilemma with respect to the production of *Project X*. There are some interesting parallels between the production of the movie and the animal research it brings into question. For example, the movie sets were impenetrable to even Roger Fouts (an expert on chimpanzees and sign language), who was asked to offer technical advice on the film and resigned because of inaccessibility to either the animals or the trainers. The most depressing aspect is the realization that to some people some cruelty is justifiable, and they're willing to forget about it in their great enthusiasm for the movie.

Animal issues today seem to be divided into two categories and classified in terms of palatability and promotional possibilities. Labs are out and films are definitely in. To quote the old master, Marlin Perkins, "if you can tell the animals' story with a bit of theatricality . . ." never mind that the deer were tethered for the wolves to devour, and the bear who was taken from the zoo was dropped in the Florida Everglades to provide a spectacular "rescue" by Perkins and Jim Fowler. It's all in the name of conservation, folks, with a strong pro-animal message.

My involvement with *Project X* began in early 1986 when animal trainers who had been interviewed for the proposed production sent the script to me. They had warned the producers that the script

was rough and would be impossible to do with "live nonhuman" animals without rough training methods. Roger Fouts had made similar comments and, on reading the script, I concurred. At that time, Fouts had suggested humans in costumes, but the producers felt it would be "too expensive" (another parallel to research). After the initial interviews with trainers, advertisements for chimps began to appear in surplus-animal magazines across the country.

Public knowledge about standard training procedures for primates is important in order to prevent future problems and abuses. It is the consensus among primatologists, behaviorists, and animal trainers that some form of "coercive training," "negative reinforcement," "dominance," or force is needed to keep primates (particularly chimpanzees) "in line" during the rigorous working schedule of most film and television productions. It is cost-prohibitive for any production company to wait until an animal is ready to perform. Most animals are never ready to perform and must be "coerced".



In an interview connected with *Project X*, one of the animal trainers stated, "...chimpanzees are not nice animals. They have to be dominated to work." A favorite saying of chimp trainers is, "You've got to beat them to get their attention." As part of the testimony in a U.S. Department of Agriculture court case involving a Hollywood animal company, it was discovered that an orangutan had been repeatedly beaten with a cane and an axe handle because he had stolen a doughnut during the filming of the Clint Eastwood film *Any Which Way You Can*.

Another dilemma is presented by the failure of the American Humane Association's rating system to guard against animal abuse in films and TV productions. Though movie sets may be inspected, animal trainers are not required to expose their compounds and their training methods to public scrutiny. AHA's Patsy Awards have become a focal point of criticism, with Bob Barker recently resigning as master of ceremonies because trainers who had abused animals were receiving awards.

Project X is probably a good film with a strong pro-animal message, but I won't

LETTERS

view it. The message would be lost in a flood of memories of conversations about the animals, and especially those chimpanzees who never made it to Primarily Primates.

—Pat Derby
Performing Animal Welfare Society
1025 9th Street, Suite 226
Sacramento, CA 95814

The plot of the movie *Project X* dealt with animals in laboratories, but the production of the movie itself involved the exploitation of animals by the entertainment industry and the abuse of "surplus" animals bred by zoos.

Three of the *Project X* chimpanzees came from zoos. Zoos continually breed excess animals so that the public can be lured in to see the "cute" babies. But all too often those cute zoo babies are taken from their natural mothers in order to fill up a glass-fronted "nursery". The human-reared animals may be unable to live with their own kind, becoming neurotic and unable to raise their own offspring if they breed.

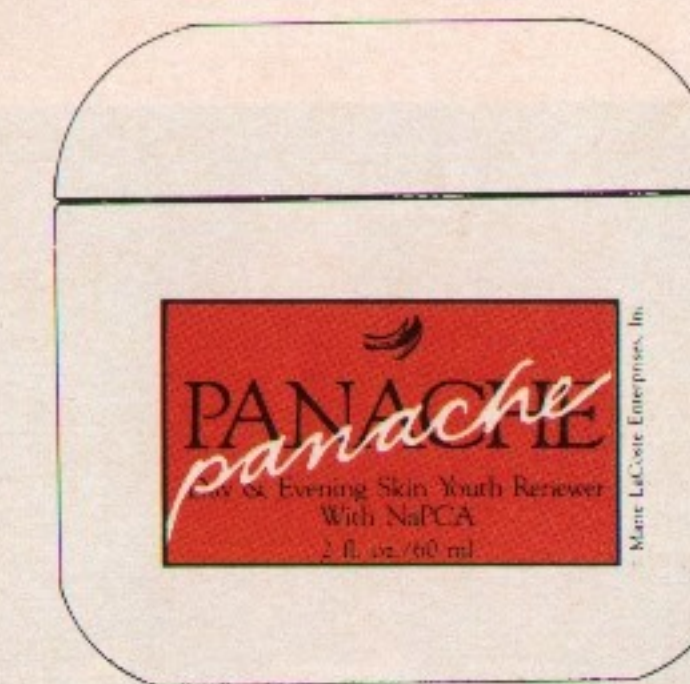
Zoos cannot keep all the animals, and may sell them to animal trainers, dealers, laboratories, or into other undesirable situations. Zoos use dealers when they are not able to sell or trade their surplus with other zoos (a dealer handled the sale of the two St. Louis Zoo chimps used in *Project X*). The "ethics" committee of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums states: "Zoos are not responsible for second sales." Primates are not the only surplus zoo animals. Hooved animals are bred in great numbers, and the unwanted ones (mostly males) often go to game farms to be shot by so-called hunters.

How does this fit in with the education/conservation image desired by zoos? The public is unwittingly supporting the cruelty with their tax money.

—Margaret Cook
Richmond, MO

Having served as technical adviser to the script of *Project X*, I feel a deep sense of disappointment in the face of continued allegations of abuse during the training of the animal actors and the filming of the movie. The irresistible excitement over the rare opportunity to reach the general public through major media has certainly been significantly dampened by the spate of allegations recently leveled at all those directly involved with the chimpanzees of *Project X*. While the movie will continue to be a valuable tool

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INTERVIEW

PETER SINGER:

The Man and the Movement Ten Years After the Rise of Animal Liberation

INTERVIEWED
BY DAVID MACAULEY

In a free-ranging interview, the author of Animal Liberation discusses with The ANIMALS' AGENDA his reasons for opposing violence as a tactic, the pitfalls in the popular "sanctity of life" position, when native peoples' rights may override animal rights, and why he has difficulty finding intrinsic ethical value in plants and non-sentient entities.

Photos by Richard Salvucci



—Photos by Richard Salvucci

Ten years have passed since the publication of *Animal Liberation*. Is there anything you would change in the book or your outlook?

The book obviously needs updating in terms of examples and recent events. But with regard to approach, I haven't changed my fundamental philosophical position. Basically, I'm happy with the argument I put forward and don't see any need to change it, although I am less optimistic than I was about the extent to which people are able to be moved by rational argument.

The notion of animal liberation has clearly received a great amount of attention due to your efforts, but the idea has a long way to go before it is realized. How far have we come as a movement? How far do we have to go?

I think we have come some distance since I first became interested in the issue. There is much greater public awareness. Terms like "animal liberation" which were completely unknown are now understood by the media and much of the public.

There is a greater awareness of the existence of animal abuse, which in the early 70's was limited to the fact that there are stray dogs and cats who suffer and every now or again someone beats a horse, but I don't think there was any idea that systematic abuse of animals occurred in factory farms and in laboratories. Antivivisectionists were generally considered pretty crazy and had a very small following. I think all that has changed. Scientists, particularly experimenters, recognize that there is an issue they have to confront. They certainly didn't 15 years ago.

In terms of actual changes being made that directly affect animals, we are just starting to see some fairly moderate gains. For instance, in Britain the Ministry of Agriculture has announced that it will prohibit the keeping of veal calves in stalls or crates; veal calves will now be able to move around, walk a few steps, get straw for bedding, and not be kept deliberately on an iron-deficient diet. That is a significant gain for those animals. Of course, similar changes have to be made with pigs and battery hens, and even then we will only have overcome the worst of factory farm abuses. In the case of laboratory animals we are getting very modest reforms. In Britain, the U.S. and Australia, new legislation has been enacted which may, with a bit of luck, cut out some of the worst abuses, but these laws will leave a lot in, and it's difficult to see at this stage how much benefit animals are going to get, if any, from this new legislation.

So in terms of the effects on animals, the distance we have come is really quite small. If we were running a race of 100 miles, I'd say we've maybe just finished the first mile or two at the most. But with respect to getting into a position from which we can start to make progress a little more rapidly, I think quite a bit has been done.

There's a great divergency of thought as to how we might proceed in the next "miles" of this "race"—if we were to continue with your analogy—though there seems to be a general agreement that the direction and character which the movement assumes in the near future will be critical to its success or survival. What kinds of issues and approaches are being pursued with success in Australia? What's going on there that people in other countries might learn from?

I think that in Australia we're really only going to make significant progress if we can get fairly broad public support and be able to convince the government that there are votes that depend on the animal issue or at least that some marginal voters would vote differently on the animal issue. We often have to use the media to do that even

though the media frequently present travesties and simplifications of the issues. At the same time, we don't want to blunt our forcefulness and the radicalness of our demands. So I think we have to pick out particular issues where we can win public support and yet do so without compromising our ultimate objective. I think for that reason it's good to have campaigns about specific issues where you can state your case in a way that has broad appeal and yet realize that what you are aiming for is just a stepping stone. Just before I left Australia we had been running a campaign against duck hunting. We found that this was an issue on which we could get very broad public support, because most of the public does not accept the idea that it's sporting for big men to go out with shotguns and blast away at small defenseless birds. So it was an issue we thought would gain public support for an animal liberation position. We aren't just trying to reform duck season, we're trying to abolish it.

Or to take another example, as a result of the efforts of Australian activists, the Victorian state government recently issued regulations under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act which prohibit the Draize test and the LD50 test. In fact, it's not simply the LD50 test which is prohibited; the regulations are quite broadly worded so that they prohibit *any* test that uses the number of fatalities inflicted by increasing doses of a substance as a measure of the toxicity of the substance. So it's not just an LD50 but an LD40, an LD70 and an LD100 that will all be prohibited by these regulations. They really require people testing substances to use some other end point, besides death, as a measure, and this result is likely to be considerably more humane to animals. It should be noted, however, that as a result of last minute lobbying, two cancer research institutes were specifically exempted from the regulations.

There has been some recent talk and activity concerning the possibility of involving organized religion in the struggle for animal liberation. Some people, in fact, feel that religion is a "slumbering giant" in this regard; others are less optimistic, even antagonistic to the idea of an alliance. What are your thoughts on the matter?

You're right, some people have been saying that it's very important to involve religious groups in the animal liberation movement. I can understand why they say that, especially in the United States which is perhaps the most religious of the Western developed countries. But I think they really need to think very hard about the fact that the Judeo-Christian tradition

is fundamentally hostile to the idea of animal liberation. I think it's difficult to overcome that or get around it. Certainly there is a tradition of compassion for animals which may be helpful to some extent in that we can use it to gain support for abating the worst cruelties, but however sympathetically you interpret the Judeo-Christian religious tradition, it puts animals in a fundamentally different category from human beings. Humans, and only humans, are said to be made in God's image. Humans, and only humans, are said to have an immortal soul. This makes even the most severely retarded humans more precious than any nonhuman animal.

The animal liberation movement must stand against this. We must say that there is no difference of kind between human and nonhuman as far as their moral status is concerned, though there are certainly some differences in how we ought to treat them because of their differing interests. But they are not in fundamentally different categories; quite the contrary to what the Judeo-Christian religions are saying. So



while we may enlist them as our allies to fight some of the worst abuses, I think in the end we have, reluctantly, to recognize that the Judeo-Christian religious tradition is our foe.

What do you think about the possibility of developing a broader and deeper secular ethic, one that goes beyond animal liberation to embrace the entire planet?

I certainly think the underlying ethic of animal liberation does have implications beyond the animal liberation movement, or that at least it is part of an overall ethic. So far as the entire planet is concerned, I think we need to be a bit careful in terms of the kind of ethic that we are talking about. I don't really think that non-sentient living things have the same moral status as those living beings who can feel pain, so I don't want to say that plants and trees, let alone rivers and mountains, are morally significant entities in the same way that creatures who can suffer are morally significant entities. Having said that though, I think it's clear that we have to be very concerned about the ecology of our planet. We should align ourselves with those working for the environment, with ecological movements, and politically with the Green movement because obviously the welfare of all creatures on the planet depends on a preserved environment.

What about plants? What kind of status do they have in your view?

I think that plants don't have any intrinsic ethical significance, harsh as that may seem to some environmentalists. But by saying that, I don't mean to diminish their great *instrumental ethical significance* nor their aesthetic value. Obviously they are absolutely vital for everything that subsists upon them, but I think there is a real difference between my sitting here, idly plucking blades of grass, and plucking the wings off a bird. Everything that environmentalists say about preserving ecosystems, I'm happy to accept until the point where some say that there is intrinsic value in leaving the natural alone, allowing plants to continue to flourish or streams to continue to flow. I think there is usually tremendous instrumental value in these things, but I can't see how—in the absence of any sentience—here would be any intrinsic ethical significance in whether the plants continue to exist or not. I think the value of all of these things depends on the sentient life they sustain. The ethic I hold is an extension of a homocentric ethic. It places moral relevance on sentience and upholds the difference between conscious beings and non-conscious beings.

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INTERVIEW

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This is where some people—deep ecologists and eco-feminists, for example—will criticize your philosophy and most of the animal liberation community for not going far or deep enough in its critique, for merely extending traditional notions about ethics and culture rather than calling these ideas into question because they are part of a broader problem.

These people feel that I'm failing to challenge the dominant paradigm, that I use the same modes of reasoning as the scientists who are opposing us. In one sense what they're saying is true, but I think that's the strength of the position rather than the weakness of it. The further you depart from these modes of reasoning, the more problematic the argument becomes and the less likely you are to carry conviction.

What about the potential conflict between animal liberation and native peoples? What do people working on whaling or the fur issue need to be concerned about?

I think basically that we ought to stay away from those areas where we're coming into conflict with people who really have



a survival need or a very deep cultural need. I think it's a mistake for environmentalists and animal liberationists to focus on the Eskimo killings of bowhead whales when there is so much more whale killing done by the Japanese. I think that if the kill-

ing is indeed either necessary for their survival or a central part of their culture, then it just doesn't seem appropriate for us, given the incredible scale of abuse that Western society has inflicted on animals, to rush over to Alaska, and say, "Hey, you people are killing 50 whales a year [or whatever] and you've got to stop that". Maybe when we've cleaned up our own act, then we could start to look at what other people are doing. If the native people are killing animals as part of a traditional way of life, I think we really can't rightfully interfere. However, as soon as the practice becomes commercialized I have less respect for the killing.

You base your views about animal liberation on a being's capacity to suffer or ability to feel pleasure and pain, rather than on notions like freedom, hierarchy, domination, or violations of rights, liberties, and the like. Why is that?

I think that the things that you mentioned are not really fundamental; they are derivative. I'm certainly happy to talk in terms of rights or freedom or oppression, as part of an effective political rhetoric for reaching people when you don't have time to explain in detail what your ethic is based

upon. But when you do have time, I think the only coherent way of doing so is in terms of interests. For instance, what is it to oppress a being? I think that it is to ignore the interests of that being in favor of your own; and if we have something which, for instance, cannot suffer, then you can't really oppress it. I don't think trees get oppressed when they are turned into dwarfed bonsai specimens, even though they might be very much confined and distorted. But if they are not suffering, I don't regard it as a form of oppression. On the other hand, when you confine chickens or veal calves, it certainly is a form of oppression because they have needs and interests that are completely denied by the confinement they undergo.

Similarly, when we talk about freedoms or rights, I think that you have to somehow cash these out, and the way to do so is in terms of interests. If you are to talk about rights, it usually just becomes a matter of swapping intuitions as to what rights the beings may have. Lists of human rights have been around for a long time and we have yet to gain any sort of general agreement on them, even when an attempt is made to work out a theory of rights in some detail. When applying it to non-human animals, it becomes very difficult to actually make the connection between the nature of the animals and what rights they have. Tom Regan's book, *The Case for Animal Rights*, is an example of that. It certainly is the most thorough and detailed defense of the view that animals have rights. But it is possible to accept Tom's description of animals (or mammals over a year old) as subjects of a life, as he calls it—that is, as beings with certain capacities—and yet to ask if it follows from that that they have rights? And if it does, what rights? It's not at all obvious, and I don't think Tom really makes the argument in any tight form, that the rights he says animals have flow from the fact that they are "subjects of a life".

One final point that I want to make about rights is that they often lead those who advocate them into somewhat paradoxical positions because of the absolutist stance that follows from them. I think we can see this paradox in Tom's book when he says that if you are in a lifeboat situation and have to choose between four people and a dog, you ought to throw the dog out before you throw any people out. And he says that you should do this even if there were a million dogs to be thrown out rather than just one person. On the other hand, he says that the dog would have a right not to be experimented upon even if the experiment on the one dog would be the way to cure cancer, which would save millions of

INTERVIEW

people's lives. Now I don't believe there ever would be such an experiment, but I think that it's very hard to persuade anyone that it would be wrong to do such an experiment if at the same time you hold that it's OK to throw a million dogs out of the lifeboat in order to save one person.

There seems to be a tendency for some people to adopt a view based on what they term the "reverence for life" or "sanctity of life" position when arguing for animal liberation. What's your opinion of this line of argument?

Well, *Animal Liberation* makes it quite clear that the argument is not based on any "sanctity of life" view; it's based on equal consideration of interests. I've elaborated on the principle of equal consideration of interests in other works, like *Practical Ethics* and *Should the Baby Live?*, in which I also examine the "sanctity of human life" view. I am not myself a believer in the "sanctity of life" view, whether for humans or nonhumans. I think that life is not the only (or the highest) value. Obviously, no life at all is going to be better than a life that is miserable and full of suffering. I think basically that the notion of the sanctity of life comes out of some religious tradition that I don't accept. I think you have to make judgements about the nature of the life, the quality of the life, and try to decide the seriousness of ending that life on the basis of those judgements.

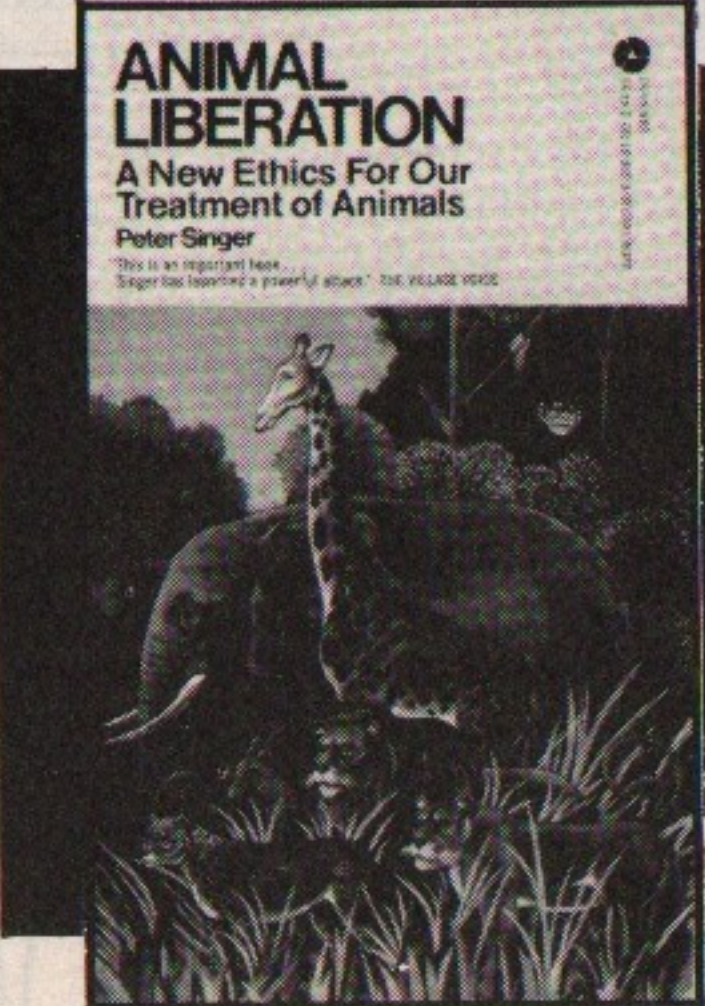
You've objected to the use of certain kinds of violence, claiming that such activity causes us to lose the "high moral ground" that we supposedly inhabit. Ronnie Lee, a long-time direct action campaigner, and others have challenged this view. Lee has asked, for example, whether you would have used violence to prevent Hitler from causing such enormous suffering, if you could have. An absolutist position on violence seems to be contrary to your general tendency to avoid absolutes.

You're right to say that my ethical position doesn't allow me to be absolutist about anything, including a prohibition on violence. Ronnie Lee has a point in that, and I certainly agree that if I'd had the opportunity to assassinate Hitler in the 1930s and had known what Hitler was like and the suffering that would result, I would certainly have considered it justifiable to assassinate him. No doubt about that. But I think that that is rather different from the situation we are in. I don't think animal experimentation or factory farming depends on the particular views or practices of any one person. I think what we are trying to change here is an entire system; and the

Continued on page 42

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A NEWBORN'S NATURAL INSTINCT IS TO BOND WITH PARENTS' OWN SCENT

NETWORK NOTES

Cosmetics Industry Sluggish on Alternatives

Use of the infamous Draize test, performed on the eyes of rabbits and other animals to test cosmetics and household products, is likely to continue at many companies if the data from comparative studies using nonanimal alternative tests remains unpublished. Several promising new alternatives to the Draize (including the CAM assay, which uses the membrane of an egg instead of an animal's eye) are ready for further validation studies—yet the industry, including the sponsors of the comparative tests, has made no move in the past year to either publish the results of the studies or to continue the validation process. Readers are urged to write letters pushing for action on the part of the industry to: Keith Booman, The Soap and Detergent Assn., 475 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10016. Send copies to Mark Pollack, The Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Assn., 1110 Vermont Ave., Washington, DC 20005; and to Alan Goldberg, Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing, 615 North Wolfe St., Baltimore, MD 21205. For more information, write to: American Fund for Alternatives to Animal Research, 175 W. 12th St. New York, NY 10011.

Upcoming Events

The group West Michigan for Animals is calling for a statewide protest against the Klein Rodeo in Sparta, Mich. September 5-7 (Labor Day weekend). For details, contact West Michigan for Animals at (616) 459-1982. ♦ The New York State Humane Association is sponsoring a conference on dog and cat overpopulation and the problem of stray animals on September 11 and 12 in New York City. For more information, call (914) 255-7099. ♦ "Environment '87" is a conference on environmental issues in New York state, to be held September 18 and 19 in Albany. For further details, call the Environmental Planning Lobby at (518) 462-5526. ♦ Don't forget the annual conference of the Animal Rights Coalition, September 25-27, in St. Paul, Minn. Call (612) 724-3002 for details.

EDITED BY LESLIE PARDUE

The Orlando Sentinel
Sunday, April 26, 1987



Animal rights, animal wrongs

Mainstream media examines animal rights.

The Beef With Sugar

Many vegetarians may not be aware that processed white sugar is refined using *bone char*, a substance which the sugar industry says is obtained from "the weathered bones of cattle that have died naturally in India and Argentina." This is a questionable claim—especially since in the same breath it is acknowledged that the price of bone char is connected to the price of gelatin, a beef industry by-product obtained from cattle bones and hooves, used in Jello-type desserts and some prepared foods such as marshmallows. Those seeking alternative sweeteners should try fructose, date sugar or maple syrup.

Activists Acquitted

On July 1, thirteen activists from Last Chance for Animals were found innocent of obstruction and trespassing charges stemming from a demonstration at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) on October 22, 1986. Some of the activists face similar charges resulting from arrests on April 24, 1987 at UCLA during a demonstration commemorating World Day for Laboratory Animals. The group is faced with considerable legal fees and other expenses, but plans to continue its pressure on UCLA's animal labs. Readers may contact Last Chance for Animals at: 18653 Ventura Blvd. Suite 356, Tarzana, CA 91356; (818) 760-8340.

The Media on the Movement

Animal rights issues are the subject of increasingly in-depth reports by major newspapers and television programs. Going beyond the customary superficial treatment usually given the issues, *The Orlando Sentinel* and the *Toronto Globe and Mail* both recently ran multi-part features on animal rights philosophy, animal research, intensive farming, and the goals and strategies of the animal rights movement. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* recently ran a special section on animal rights as one in a series of "issue supplements" for use in schools. And CBS' "60 Minutes" produced a segment on Salmonella contamination in poultry, presenting the health issues in such a direct manner that few viewers would be able to sit down to a chicken dinner afterwards.

A New Approach

Success Against Cruelty, Inc. is the name of a recently-incorporated business formed to help animal advocates generate a personal or group income doing something they can feel good about. The company is looking for distributors for its line of cruelty-free products, offering activists and organizations an alternative to traditional employment and/or fundraising. For further details, write to Success Against Cruelty, Inc., 9580 60th St. North, Pinellas Park, FL 33565-3412, or call (813) 544-2821.

Whopper Stoppers

The environmental group Earth First! (EF!) has recently stepped up its nationwide campaign against Burger King. For three years, the group has targeted the restaurant's practice of using Central American beef in its burgers. Rainforests in Central America are being destroyed at an alarming rate in order to make way for cattle grazing (North American beef production also takes a toll on the environment: vast areas of the Western U.S. are becoming desertified due to overgrazing). Petitions, fact sheets, background materials, and "Whopper Stopper" bumperstickers are available from Bay Area EF!, P.O. Box 83, Canyon, CA 94516. McDonald's restaurants also use rainforest beef. Other facts about McDonald's: they have been responsible for the deaths of some 30 million cows; they cook their french fries in sheep fat; they discriminate against black franchisers, not allowing them to operate in white areas; and their paper products account for the destruction of 300 square miles of forest yearly. More information on McDonald's may be obtained from the Boycott McDonald's Coalition, P.O. Box 15588, Washington, DC 20003.



Burger busters

Course Will Examine Animal Research

A course entitled "Animal Tools of Research" is being offered this fall at San Francisco State University. The course will be taught by Lois Flynn, Ph.D., Professor of Social and Information Science. It will examine the moral, logical, and scientific questions surrounding the use of animals in experiments. For more information, write to Dr. Flynn in care of San Francisco State University, Social Science Program, 1600 Holloway Ave., San Francisco, CA 94132.

Publications for Animal Advocates

A 50-page booklet on food contaminants entitled "Guess What's Coming to Dinner", produced by the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), describes the problems of germ and chemical residues in both animal and plant-based foods. Send \$3.80 to CSPI, 1501 16th St. N.W., Washington, DC 20036. ♦ A story/coloring book entitled "Some Do, But Not You" teaches children how to deal with situations in which they may unknowingly cause suffering or stress to animals. The book is available free of charge from Mercy Volunteers for Animals, Box 65673 Station F, Vancouver, BC V5N 5K7 Canada. ♦ "The Animals' Advocate: Investigating Animal Abuse" is a manual produced by the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) which covers all aspects of investigating and prosecuting violations of state and Federal laws regarding animals. Copies are available for \$2.50 from ALDF, P.O. Box 4066, Rockville, MD 20850. ♦ Beauty Without Cruelty (BWC) produces a "Compassionate Shopper's List" featuring all the brands of products which do not use animal ingredients or testing; the group also lists TV shows and companies that promote furs in its periodic Action Alerts. Write to: BWC-USA, 175 W. 12th St. ffl16G, New York, NY 10011-8275. ♦ A report on animal use and abuse in California research facilities has been issued by the Human/Animal Liberation Front (HALF). The report, a result of a six-month investigation, examines three forms of animal abuse prevalent in California's universities: poor animal care and housing; painful procedures and unrelieved pain; and trivial research irrelevant to human health problems. For a copy of the report, titled "Animal Research in California", send a SASE to HALF, P.O. Box 1253, San Francisco, CA 94101-1253, or call (415) 821-4614.

Check Credentials Before Donating

Most groups soliciting contributions through the mail are quite legitimate, but the few that aren't make it necessary for contributors to screen the organizations seeking their donations. We offer the following guidelines: watch out for groups that use sweepstakes and similar promotional gimmicks; be wary of groups that continually (more often than once a month) send out direct mail appeals for money (legitimate groups usually have an annual membership fee, and make occasional pleas for additional funds); if a group seems suspect, ask them for a copy of their most recent financial report, and don't donate if they don't provide one. Send any questionable appeals you may receive to us here at The ANIMALS' AGENDA, and we'll pass them along to mail fraud investigators.

Hunters Have "Seabert" in Their Sights

"Seabert", a new children's television series which debuted in April on Home Box Office (HBO), is causing hunters and trappers to see red. The animated series, produced by Sepp-Inter and BZZ Films (the producers of "The Smurfs"), depicts the adventures of Seabert the baby seal and his human friends Tommy and Aura. The trio travels around the world saving animals from trappers, hunters, and furriers (who are portrayed as evil schemers and/or bumbling buffoons). The program stresses positive values such as friendship, cooperation, courage, and concern for the environment. Several pro-hunting and trapping publications are calling for letters of protest to HBO. We urge readers to write HBO at 1100 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036 in support of the show. "Seabert" airs on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. EST.

Seabert the seal



Groupings and Regroupings

A fund is being set up to help the hundreds of starving, emaciated dogs and horses wandering the streets on the island of Vieques in Puerto Rico. The island currently has no animal protection society of any kind. To help, write to Vieques Animal Emergency Fund, 4700 Jamestown Rd., Bethesda, MD 20816. ♦ The Sacramento chapter of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has decided to join forces with the Los Angeles-based animal rights organization Animal Allies. The new Northern California Animal Allies may be contacted at: 1601 Fulton Ave., Suite 9B, Sacramento, CA 95825; (916) 487-7382. ♦ Canadian Vegans for Animal Rights (CVAR) promotes a humane lifestyle through publications and events. Contact them at: 44 Charles St. West, Suite 4101, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1R8 Canada. ♦ The Animals Lobby is a cooperative effort by several California animal protection groups working on legislation. Not a new group or coalition, the Animals Lobby is an office located two blocks from the state capitol in Sacramento, offering a base of operations for activists and groups working on state legislation. Further information may be obtained by calling Virginia Handley in Sacramento at (916) 441-1562, or in San Francisco at (415) 474-4020. ♦ Information on animal protection efforts in Greece may be obtained by writing to: Greek Animal Welfare Fund, 11 Lower Barn Rd., Purley, Surrey CR2 1HY England.

Hogs for the hungry?

Let Them Eat Cows

The Heifer Project International has been sending farm animals to Third World countries for the past 43 years, using the slogan: "Helping Hungry Families Produce Food for Themselves." Donations are solicited from Americans via promotional materials which push the idea that animals exist solely to be used by humans, and that livestock production is an efficient means of feeding the hungry. "One mother rabbit can produce every year about 35 bunnies which yield 150 pounds of nutritious meat and enough fur to make a fur coat," boasts one brochure. When a million dairy cows were scheduled to be slaughtered under the U.S. Dairy Termination program, the Heifer Project got into the act, pleading with supporters to donate money to "save the cows". The Heifer Project's literature never acknowledges the environmental problems associated with animal agriculture, the health risks associated with meat-eating, or the greater efficiency of grain-based agriculture in feeding large populations. Let's call on the Heifer Project to help the world's needy by developing environmentally sound plant agricultural projects—instead of continuing to push the environmentally, nutritionally and ethically bankrupt institution of animal agriculture. Write to: Heifer Project International, P.O. Box 808, Little Rock, AR 72203, or call (501) 376-6836.

POINT-COUNTERPOINT:

U.C. Davis Fire Sparks Heated Debate

At about 3:00 a.m. on April 16, 1987, a three-alarm fire caused approximately \$3.5 million in damage to a building under construction at the University of California's Davis campus. The building was owned by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and was to be used to carry out research on the diseases of animals in farms. The same night as the fire, tires were slashed and animal rights slogans were painted on several university vehicles; notes delivered to the press claimed responsibility for these actions on behalf of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), and the next day a caller to a local news agency claimed ALF responsibility for the fire. The actions of the ALF in the U.S. and Britain have received a great deal of attention over the past several years from the public, the media, and people involved in the animal rights movement. Those who share a common concern for animals often disagree on tactics and strategies for achieving animal liberation. We offer readers two diverging views on the questions surrounding the fire at U.C. Davis.

An embarrassment to the movement

BY TERI BARNATO

In recent months, much attention has been devoted to the fire that was reportedly set by members of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) inside an unfinished laboratory building at the University of California at Davis. The editors of *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* have asked us, Animal Allies—Northern California, to discuss why we have been vocally opposed to the whole incident.

Perhaps our biggest objection to the fire is that it was "credited" to members of the ALF—when, in our opinion, there was very little about the "action" that resembled a legitimate ALF activity—at least as we have come to know ALF activities over the years.

The true ALF, as we all know, has come to represent a special kind of justice for animals, distinguished by: 1) rescues of live animals from conditions of institutional abuse and degradation; 2) the securing of important, if not vital, information (videotapes, documents, etc.) that is in turn used to tell the tragic story of animals in laboratories, on factory farms, etc.; 3) well-orchestrated media campaigns immediately following the actions, designed to acquaint the media and the public with the facts about the abuse that prompted the liberation, and the generally abusive conditions under which

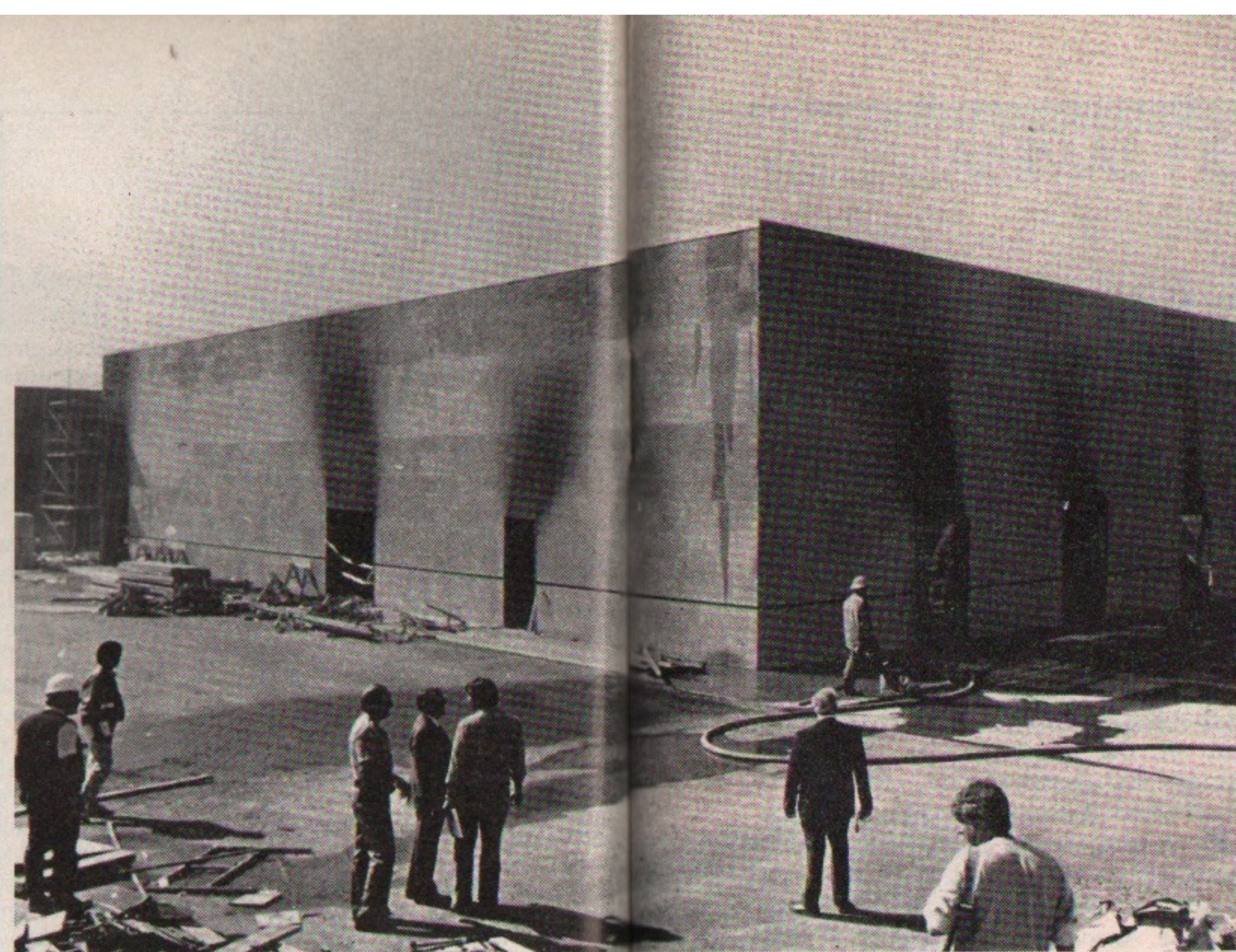
animals are forced to live in research laboratories, etc.; and 4) the "disengagement" of selected instruments of animal torture.

This so-called ALF action—the U.C. Davis fire—could boast none of the above, and was just one of the more glaring examples of how the term ALF has become a catch-all for every hostile individual or group of individuals in our movement (and probably outside it, for that matter) who feels like venting spleen under the guise of doing something "for the animals"; or, in the case of those outside the movement, charging the ALF with acts of vandalism it didn't commit in a deliberate attempt to turn the tide of public support away from the animal rights movement.

If the fire at U.C. Davis was an attempt to get attention for animal research issues, it certainly did that. But not without casting a pall over legitimate ALF actions—and the hard work of those trying to improve conditions for animals through legislation, meetings with local research communities, other types of direct action, and public education projects. Any bozo can get attention for a cause by perpetrating arson. In this particular instance, once the proverbial smoke cleared, arson was all it amounted to. There was ultimately very little gained by the stunt except bad press and eroded credibility for the animal rights movement.

The U.C.D. public relations people had a field day refuting the "ALF's" half-baked information about the building's purpose. They made the so-called ALF look like it had just torched a state-of-the-art facility to "save" and "heal" and "help" animals. In fact, U.C.D. officials ultimately portrayed the whole thing as a mistake—a small fire gone awry. Curiously, nobody from the so-called ALF even bothered to claim responsibility for the incident until very late the following day. In short, the whole thing was botched and, in our opinion, was an embarrassment to the movement and to the legitimate ALF. In an attempt to salvage some headlines, a small group of activists eventually went to the media with a statement saying that they, representing "a coalition of 20 groups", supported the action.

But the fire did have some "successes", in that it succeeded in 1) dissuading some people from attending the annual April 24th animal rights event on the U.C.D. campus; 2) convincing U.C.D. to deny Animal Allies' longstanding request to



The Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for setting the fire which gutted this building at U.C. Davis, causing \$3.5 million in damage.

have an animal rights representative on the campus Animal Care and Use Committee; and 3) giving the university an excuse to cut off access to protocols and other public documents (about which we had to employ legal help). It's time those involved in direct action of this sort started to think about the consequences of certain actions with respect to the movement as a whole, and not just about the individual actions themselves.

It seems to us that while the movement has been very successful at drawing attention to the issues, it has failed to use that attention to adequately build support for our point of view and a power base for change. This is something we must do. But it won't happen if such wanton, hodgepodge "ALF" actions continue. We need supporters, not merely headlines.

We support direct action, just as we support lobbying, letter-writing, community outreach and all the other things that collectively go toward keeping the animal rights issues and movement alive. However, we feel very strongly that every "ALF" action has to directly benefit the animals and the movement as a whole. If it doesn't, it amounts to little more than malicious mischief in the eyes of the public and the press.

Teri Barnato works in Sacramento as coordinator of the recently-formed Northern California chapter of Animal Allies.

A victory for the animals

BY CRESCENZO VELLUCCI

The debate is now underway. Did the destruction of a veterinary research laboratory by the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) at the University of California at Davis on April 16, 1987—probably the single most destructive blow yet dealt against the seemingly indestructible animal research industry—help or hinder the animal rights movement?

Maybe we should ask ourselves if this is even the right question. Shouldn't we be asking whether the \$3.5 million U.C. Davis blaze helped the animals?

From all but a narrow view, the fire that swept through the lab appears to have done nothing but good for a movement that for so long has achieved little for the oppressed animals it champions. Some people who fear their own reputations will be tainted, or that they will lose financial support, have spoken out against the fire. Nowhere in their rhetoric is sincere concern for what's best for the animals.

So, why is the fire a good thing? Because, very simply, if you subtract the fear that some in the animal rights movement feel (or felt) about the incident, the animals—those we are fighting for—won. If one could successfully communicate with the animals destined for that lab, there's no doubt they would applaud the action—just as prisoners of the Nazis would have applauded the destruction of concentration camps before millions could be imprisoned there and eventually murdered. The opening of the lab is now delayed for almost a year, costing the state hundreds of thousands of dollars in

salaries for staff already hired. The fire will make the construction of animal research facilities a more costly endeavor for the university, the state and those who participate in the enterprise.

The delay also directly helps the animals. The destroyed lab is to be used for state-of-the-art experiments to study disease and death caused to animals by intensive factory farming. If such research is successful, still more billions of animals will be imprisoned and doomed to misery in factory farms. But, if one looks at the fire in terms of strategy—a delaying tactic—it makes real sense. Eventually, legislative efforts will succeed, and then actions such as the fire will not be needed.

No one who is opposed to furs, or even research on animals, will change their minds because of the fire. And those in the public who disagree with us will still disagree. However, now we have a better chance of "converting" them. How? It should be easier to get them to agree with us (the less radical) than those "extremists" who set the fire. This has already been our experience in the Sacramento/Davis area. The same goes for legislation. Lawmakers criticize the fire because it was an illegal act—but, hey, they aren't passing too many laws to help animals anyway. Now maybe they can see the difference between our sincere lobbyists and the "extremists". And, as far as the news media is concerned, this makes a great story. They don't have to agree with an action in order to cover it. It just has to be a good story. Since the fire, coverage of all aspects of the movement has increased because of the interest stirred up by the incident. The media can't help but take this as a serious movement. Of course, there's the question of "violence". However, the fire was not a violent act, unless we are to believe that violence can be committed against an inanimate object—a building. The building was to be used to imprison, torture and butcher innocent animals. Without the building, those things may not occur.

For the record, the fire—according to news reports—took place far away from the campus in an area so isolated that police said it was the last place they would have expected such an incident to occur.

Some say the fire wasn't well thought out, or typical of the ALF. However, a look at the facts shows that the entire incident fits the method of operation for the ALF. It was: (a) nonviolent, with no reasonable chance of hurting anyone; (b) a fire, which is a very common type of ALF action in Europe; (c) accomplished at a facility that wasn't even known to those of us in the local animal rights community; and (d) designed to liberate farm animals, the primary focus of the ALF in Europe.

So, why all the criticism by certain segments of the movement? One explanation is that people are afraid. In just an instant, a research building was destroyed. Many in the movement have fought for years just to get larger cages for lab animals—and failed. It is curious that these people have never criticized publicly other segments of the movement that have failed miserably for decades. Oddly, we are asked to support those in the movement who seldom, if ever, achieve success. Yet, the ALF—which has liberated thousands of animals from lives of torture—is criticized for achieving the only real victories against animal oppressors.

It makes more sense to not really criticize anyone. People who write letters, lobby or protest are not criticized by the ALF. But, these same people appear to be quick to criticize ALF actions. Their reason is that the "image" of the movement may be tarnished. What image? An image of failure, infighting and self-gratification? Isn't the image of the ALF nonviolently liberating animals a preferable one?

Forget the movement and our precious "image". The animals won—and it's about time.

Crescenzo Vellucci is editor for a political news service in California. Previously he worked in the area of public relations and media strategy.

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— Jasper Dailey

L-R: Nancy Burnett, Paul Mueller, Bob Barker, Roger Fouts and Gary Francione presented information about the treatment of the Project X chimps at a June 18 press conference in Los Angeles.

ing a \$5,000 reward to encourage witnesses to come forward with evidence of abuse if any existed. The producers of the film, Walter Parkes and Larry Lasker, denied that any abuse had occurred, saying that Barker was conducting "a witch-hunt in the media." The American Humane Association (AHA), the organization which monitors the use of animals by the entertainment industry, issued a report on May 20 of its investigation of the allegations, declaring, "The American Humane Association has not found a single instance of abuse that can be substantiated, nor in fact any evidence to support the allegations that the animals were abused in any way." But, the report acknowledged, "It is not in our jurisdiction to supervise or oversee the training, housing, feeding or general care of these animals at the animal trainers' compounds."

On June 18, Barker and the organization Society Against Vivisection held a press conference in Los Angeles to present information they had obtained on the treatment of the chimps in *Project X*. Paul Mueller, who worked on special effects for the film, said that he had observed first-hand chimps being beaten with blackjacks, clubs and the trainers' fists during training sessions and filming.

bring its message to the mainstream public. However, evidence has surfaced which is causing many to question the film's overall value: several witnesses have asserted that the chimps used in *Project X* were abused on and off the set, and primate experts are backing up their claims.

For months, rumors had been circulating that the chimps used in the film had been abused. In May, television personality Bob Barker placed an ad in the show business paper *Daily Variety*, offer-

Abuse Charges in the Making of *Project X*

In our May 1987 cover story, we examined the issue of animal use by the entertainment industry. Special attention was given to the film *Project X*, released in April, which carries a strong pro-animal message. The plot of the movie involves the use of animals in military research—the hero bucks authority and incurs personal risk in order to save chimps from deadly radiation experiments. *Project X* seemed to many to be the ideal public relations tool for the animal protection movement's effort to

ANIMAL NEWSLINE

In a sworn statement, animal trainer Karl Mitchell described a visit to the animal compound of the late Ron Oxley, head animal trainer for *Project X* until his death in December 1985 of a heart attack. In November of 1985, said Mitchell, he observed Oxley in a training session with one of the chimps to be used in the film. Reported Mitchell, "The chimp would not remain seated, so Oxley beat it repeatedly with a rubber hose filled with sand and rocks. Oxley beat the chimpanzee so violently that the animal defecated and urinated . . . I became so disgusted that I left the compound." According to Mitchell, "even other animal trainers considered Oxley to be a brutal man." Wallace Swett of Primarily Primates (the Texas primate sanctuary where five of the *Project X* chimps now reside) said that two of the trainers working on the film told him they had "knock-down, drag-out fights" with the chimps in order to establish dominance over them. He reports that the chimps in his care will flinch and cower at any sudden movement, and that one chimp with both upper and lower teeth missing on one side of his jaw must have suffered "considerable physical trauma".

Primatologist Roger Fouts and Donald Barnes of the National Anti-Vivisection Society acted as advisors to the producers of the film. Early on, Fouts objected to the use of chimps in the making of the film, due to the fact that the "two-by-four technique" (beating animals into capitulation) is standard practice in training chimps to perform. Fouts suggested the use of humans in costume (a la *Tarzan*:

The Legend of Greystoke), but the producers rejected the idea and selected Oxley as head trainer over Fouts' objections. Subsequent discussions with a stunt double who had observed chimps being beaten "confirmed my worst suspicions," said Fouts. After producer Parkes reportedly told him that "the ends justified the means," Fouts refused to have his name associated with the film in its closing credits. Donald Barnes says he never witnessed any abuse, but expressed deep disappointment that a film with such a strong pro-animal message may have involved cruel treatment of animals (see this issue's letters column).

AHA published a review of *Project X* rating it as "acceptable" and highly recommended. However, the Humane Society of the U.S. conducted an investigation, and concluded that "the chimps used in the film were, in fact, physically abused throughout approximately five months of training leading up to production . . . Even if the images on screen are positive, even if there are no incidences of cruelty on the set, we, as an animal protection organization, cannot simply close our eyes to the suffering of animals that occurs before and after the cameras roll."

A growing coalition of animal protection organizations, headed by the Society Against Vivisection, is calling for AHA to be relieved of its responsibility for monitoring animal use by the entertainment industry. As we go to press, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office is considering whether or not to file cruelty charges against the trainers and producers of *Project X*.

Hunter's Poem

BY DR. LEM WARD CRISFIELD

A hunter shot at a flock of geese
That flew within his reach.
Two were stopped in their rapid flight
And fell on the sandy beach.
The male bird lay at the water's edge
And just before he died
He faintly called to his wounded mate
And she dragged herself to his side.
She bent her head and crooned to him
In a way distressed and wild
Caressing her one and only mate
As a mother would a child.
Then covering him with her broken wing
And gasping with failing breath
She laid her head against his breast
A feeble honk . . . then death.
This story is true, though crudely told
I was the man in case.
I stood knee deep in snow and cold
And the hot tears burned my face.
I buried the birds in the sand
where they lay
Wrapped in my hunting coat
And I threw my gun and belt in the bay
When I crossed in the open boat.
Hunters will call me a right poor sport
And scoff at the thing I did.
But that day something broke in my heart
And shoot again? God forbid.

—This poem first appeared in the *Chronicle*, a journal of Crested Butte, Colorado.

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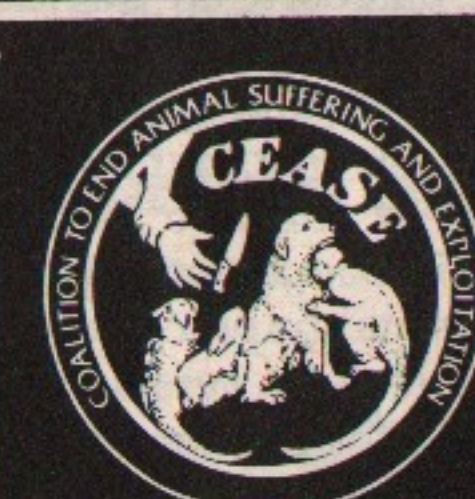
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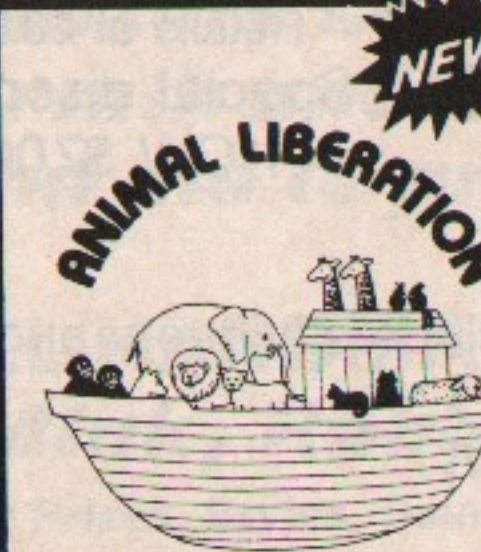
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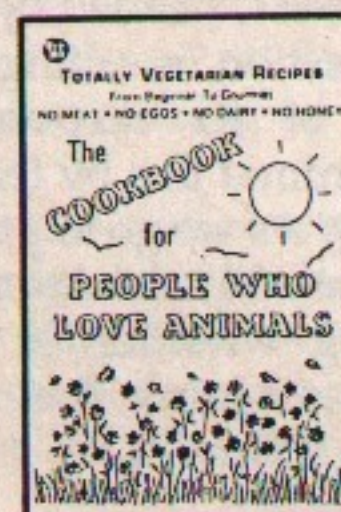


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PRO-ANIMAL ADVERTISEMENTS:

Putting Animal Rights Before the Public

Much attention of late has been given to the idea of using advertising as a means of communicating animal rights issues to the general public. Frustration has been expressed over the fact that a number of animal protection groups spend considerable time, energy and resources "preaching to the converted." Many animal advocates are now calling for their organizations to launch aggressive media campaigns aimed at reaching wider audiences.

Traditionally, many pro-animal groups have regarded advertising as too expensive, preferring instead to use public service announcements (PSAs), which are aired free of charge for nonprofit groups by television and radio stations. But PSAs are limited in their effectiveness. Though most PSAs are accepted by the stations, announcements deemed too controversial may be rejected. And, PSAs take a back seat to paid advertising, with the result that the announcements are usually aired during off hours when few people are watching or listening. Paid television and radio ads, however, are usually longer than PSAs and are aired at specified times.

Animal advocates have begun to counter the constant barrage of ads pushing meat, furs, animal-tested cosmetics, and other products of exploitation on consumers by sponsoring innovative print, billboard and television advertising campaigns featuring strong pro-animal messages. By no means the only examples of these efforts, two anti-fur campaigns (in California and Colorado) may suggest some useful strategies for groups and individuals wishing to make greater use of advertising on behalf of animals.

Activist Carol Burnett began working in June, 1986 to place the well-known Greenpeace/Lynx anti-fur ad on television and billboards in the Sacramento, Calif. area. The billboard ad depicts a woman dragging a bloody fur coat, with the caption, "It takes up to 40 dumb animals to make a fur coat, but only one to wear it." Both of the two billboard advertising firms in Sacramento rejected the ad because of its graphic message. The one-minute television version of the Greenpeace/Lynx ad, showing a fashion show audience being splattered with blood which drips from the models' fur coats, was rejected outright by the three

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Above: This anti-fur billboard campaign made headlines across the nation and sparked local interest in wildlife issues. Left: The hard-hitting Greenpeace/Lynx television ad aired recently in Sacramento, Calif.

network affiliates in the Sacramento area. After considerable negotiation, two independent stations agreed to air the ad if it was edited down to 15 seconds—

omitting all scenes showing the splattering of blood, and ending with a freeze-frame shot of a model dragging a bloody coat behind her on the stage. The 15-second ad was aired twice on each station this past February, marking the first time the commercial (edited or not) has been shown during prime time hours on American TV as a paid advertisement.

The day after the first ad ran, Burnett and Cres Vellucci arranged a press conference, during which the full 60-second version of the ad was aired for the media. Two Sacramento TV stations then ran the unedited version during their prime-time news, and a third news show ran the edited version. Three radio stations in the area reported on the controversy surrounding the ad, and the issue also received attention from local newspapers. The Grass Valley-based Good Shepherd Foundation put up the \$600 it took to air the four spots. Says Burnett, "Actually, we accomplished exactly what we wanted, which was to get the original, unedited version of the ad on television. We ended up getting double what we paid for because of the free air time on the news, and we got the most graphic scenes on the air." Burnett reports that the anti-fur ad opened the door to further advertising on television: the same two independent stations later agreed to run an anti-vivisection ad without any editing.

The three major obstacles facing animal protection organizations that wish to

Continued on next page

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By
Sharon Murray

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Continued from previous page

move into television advertising seem to be station approval, cost of running the ad, and lack of availability of strong ads examining controversial issues. According to Burnett, the best source at this time for hard-hitting animal rights commercials is the national office of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), P.O. Box 42516, Washington, D.C. 20015. PETA holds the U.S. rights to the Greenpeace/Lynx anti-fur ad. The Voice of Nature Network (VNN), founded this past March, is getting ready to produce PSAs, commercials, and a specially-developed children's series for TV. Interested readers may contact VNN at P.O. Box 68, Westport, CT 06881.

In the Denver, Colo. area, the Rocky Mountain Humane Society (RMHS) embarked on its Fur-Free Colorado campaign (patterned after Trans-Species Unlimited's Campaign for a Fur-Free

America) this past March. The campaign was begun in the spring in order to be able to reach the public repeatedly with the anti-fur message over a period of months, so that when the "fur season" begins in the fall, consumers will have been thoroughly exposed to the anti-fur message. A major component of the campaign is the Greenpeace/Lynx billboard ad. Only one outdoor advertising firm in the area would accept the ad: the others rejected it, claiming it was "in bad taste". Which is more in "bad taste": torturing and killing animals for profit, or denouncing such activity?

A press conference announcing the campaign was held on March 17. When the billboard ad went up at a busy street corner in Denver on the next day, it created quite a stir in the local media, and United Press International did a story on the campaign which ran in newspapers all over the country. RMHS was deluged with telephone calls for weeks following the billboard's appearance. The overwhelming majority of the callers praised

ANIMAL NEWSLINE

the ad's message, and a few fur-owners called to express their indignation—but other, anonymous callers repeatedly phoned over a period of weeks to make threatening and obscene remarks, and to try (under false pretenses) to get employees to tell them RMHS' street address. One caller phoned to say, "This is what I think of your animal rights," and then apparently proceeded to torture some type of animal (believed to be a rabbit). Another threatened the life of a cat in the care of Robin Duxbury, RMHS' executive director. A bomb threat was received on the day of the press conference.

On April 1, a tracer was placed on RMHS' phone by the telephone company so that the source of the harassing phone calls could be discovered. By April 17, enough harassing calls from a single source had been logged to notify the police. The calls were coming from Rachel's Furs, a Lakewood, Colo. fur retailer. On April 21, RMHS filed civil and criminal charges against Rachel's Furs in

Jefferson County District Court—charging them with harassment and malicious intent, and seeking punitive damages of a yet-to-be-determined amount. Gene Daily of Rachel's Furs filed a countersuit in June, charging Duxbury with slander in connection with remarks she had made during a radio interview. Both the criminal charges and the civil suits are still pending.

Despite the harassment, Duxbury reports that the billboard has generated a great deal of attention and support for RMHS, and donations are coming in to offset the cost of the ad (\$1,500 per month for a 10' by 30' billboard). The billboard company has taken a lot of flak from the furriers in the area, but has firmly kept its commitment to run the ads, and deserves letters of thanks from animal advocates. Write to Mr. Tom O'Ryan, Regional Manager, Winston Network, Inc., 56 Steele St., Denver, CO 80206. Rachel's Furs may be reached at (303) 232-1705 and (303) 292-6036.

—Leslie Pardue

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Taking Action for Endangered Species

An International Project Grows Out of One Activist's Concern

Traveling the world as a Pan Am flight attendant since 1979, wildlife enthusiast Glenn Day saw firsthand the carnage involved in the international trade in living and dead animals. Documenting the problems of the world's most endangered creatures, he saw a need for public education—specifically the traveling public. He reasoned, "Why not start at major international airports through which tens of millions of people pass each year on their way to foreign cities and countries? In many of these foreign destinations, endangered wildlife products are still readily available for tourists to purchase." Indeed, each year Americans bring into the country millions of wild animals or products made from them. Such imports include over \$8 million worth of elephant ivory, 125 million tropical fish, 420,000 live reptiles, 9 million reptile skins or products, 700,000 live birds, and 20,000 live primates.

Bolstered by a slogan *Tourists Beware—Extinction is Forever!*, Day began developing a plan to set up exhibits at major international airports to teach

travelers about the problems facing wildlife today, as well as laws prohibiting the importation, sale, or exchange of any endangered animals or their products into or out of the United States. By displaying actual animal products that had already been seized from returning tourists by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agents at airport customs lines, he hoped to emphasize the easily ignored warning messages issued by government agencies. In addition, accompanying text and graphic photographs of animal abuse were provided to help people understand the suffering experienced by an animal before his or her beautiful skin, fur, shell, tusk, teeth, or feathers became a tacky souvenir or piece of art. Not as obvious as the cheetah skin coat or the rhinoceros horn hat rack are the greater number of products that go unnoticed and unquestioned by the unwary consumer—products such as a haircomb carved from the shell of the hawksbill sea turtle, or a perfume derived from the glands of an Asian musk deer.

Day's project has given birth to a



Glenn Day visits one of his airport exhibits.

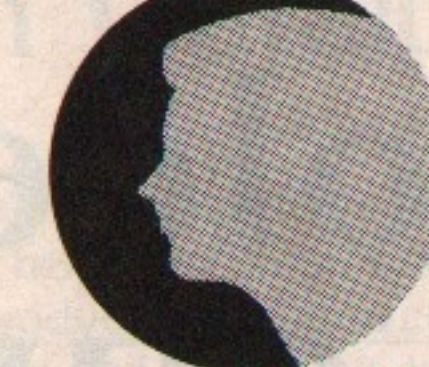
new organization, The Endangered Wildlife Foundation. Believing in the grassroots approach, he claims, "If there were organizations that would focus on just one wildlife problem at a time, the problems could be solved very fast. My entire focus is on producing airport exhibits for education." Readers who have recently passed through the airports in Honolulu, Los Angeles, San Francisco, or Tokyo have probably seen Day's endangered wildlife exhibits. In

the works are similar displays for New York, Miami, Chicago, Seattle, Boston, and other major U.S. ports of entry. Within a year, he hopes to raise enough money to fund exhibits for major European, Asian, African, and South American airports as well.

For more information about the project, contact the Endangered Wildlife Foundation, 35 Fairmount Drive, Danbury, CT 06811 (203/797-1874).

—Kim Bartlett

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—Dick Randall

Predator Prejudice

BY ROBERT J. JESSUP

What exactly is a predator? Most would say a wolf, bobcat, lion, or coyote. Few would mention birds, snakes, or whales—let alone primates or hooved mammals. Predation occurs whenever one living organism kills another for food. The broadest interpretation of the word would include some forms of grazing and the consumption of seeds. However, the most widely accepted definition of a predator is an animal who survives by feeding on other animals.

There are several reasons why the general public

visualizes a four-legged mammal with mouth agape and canine teeth dripping with blood as a typical predator. Members of the wild canine and feline families have a hypnotic aura about them, being sleek, powerful, and elusive. Tales of supernatural abilities have been weaved around them for centuries.

Undoubtedly, the major sources of many prejudices against predators are the stories told by those who kill them: the ranchers, hunters, trappers, and even some biologists working for organizations or governments with monetary interests in predator elimination.

A common argument for predator control states that the predators will deplete a more desirable (to humans) species' population. The fact is that the abundance of the predators' prey determines how many individuals of the

predatory species can survive in any given area. A wild feline or canine may feed for several days on a deer kill. Rodents, birds, rabbits, insects, berries, and other types of vegetation are included in their diets at various times of the year.

A carnivorous predator is seldom successful in every attempt made at taking prey. Sick, old, and injured animals are the ones the predator usually kills, the reason being that an animal in prime condition will require much more effort to capture than a weak one. The sick or old ones lag behind the group. They may be unable to keep up with the rest, or their behavior may cause them to stand out amongst the herd. If the genetically defective animals survive and reproduce within a healthy population of animals (as they do more often in areas with no natural predators), the genes

of the "inferior" individuals are passed on, weakening the entire population.

Few wolves or cougars exist today in what was their former range. In many of these areas, the deer population has temporarily increased to a number too large for the habitat to support, which may lead to disease and starvation. Though the population would eventually stabilize to balance with habitat and food availability, hunting is generally proclaimed as the only remedy to "keep the population down".

The ones the hunters want are the best specimens. But they generally kill at random, which may leave the sick or less-than-prime animals to propagate and pass on inferior genes or diseases. Leaving the predatory animals in the ecosystem would allow the natural process of selection to continue; but, instead,

humans kill the predators to artificially boost the populations of "game" species (like deer) for hunting.

Admittedly, there are occasions in which some animals will prey upon domestic or livestock animals. Those predators are usually found to be old, diseased, or otherwise incapable of capturing their natural prey. They turn to hunting slow-moving cows and sheep, or confined animals who provide an easier meal. Instead of tracking down the one animal responsible for livestock losses, farmers and ranchers usually find it preferable to begin a regime of unselective poisoning and trapping—on their land or the open range—killing hundreds of innocent individuals, and possibly missing the one actually responsible for livestock attacks.

The illogic of "civilized"

humans has led to the destruction of whatever has been in their way, or whatever they cannot own. Humans are the top predators—consumers of everything, but we are beginning to suffer the consequences. The "typical" predators and their environment are all but gone, surviving—if at all—in remote areas and refuges with a doubtful future. Their former prey may be overpopulated, yet bred from increasingly poor gene pools. The poisons linger in the soil, and traps lie in silent wait to snatch lives from the wild.

Bob Jessup is a biologist who teaches mammalogy and predator ecology at a college in Illinois. He is also president of Awareness of Wildlife and Animal Rights through Education (AWARE), P.O. Box 1954, Des Plaines, IL 60017.

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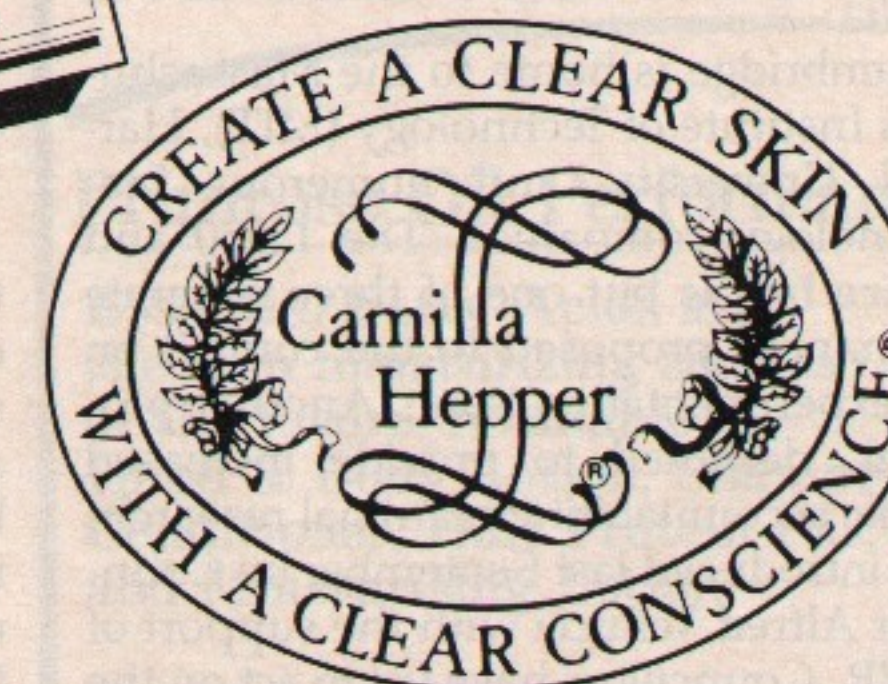


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Above: rabbits and other animals will no longer be used in commercial LD50 and Draize tests in Cambridge. Right: Dr. Gul Agha of CCRR and Councillor Alfred Vellucci, two of the ban's supporters.

—Ken Russell

Cambridge Bans LD50 and Draize Tests

The City Council of Cambridge, Mass. unanimously voted on May 18 to ban the use of the LD50 and Draize tests in the city's commercial laboratories. The LD50 (lethal dose 50 percent) is a toxicity test in which a group of animals are force-fed test substances (such as shampoo or oven cleaner) until half of them die; the Draize test involves placement of similar substances into the eyes of immobilized rabbits or other animals to determine the degree of irritancy the products may cause. The Cambridge ban is the first of its kind in the nation—no other community has yet succeeded in prohibiting any type of animal research on the basis of it being cruel and unnecessary. The ordinance's chief backer has been the Cambridge Committee for Responsible Research (CCRR), headed by animal advocate and MIT research scientist Dr. Gul Agha. The precedent-setting victory was covered extensively by local and national media.

Cambridge is home to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard University, and numerous biotechnology companies. The LD50 and Draize ban is but one of three separate ordinances proposed to the council on the experimentation issue. Another proposal, designed to provide increased public accountability in animal research, was introduced last September by Councillor Alfred Vellucci with the support of CCRR. Councillors have yet to act on the proposal, which has become a major controversy among the public and the media

in Cambridge in recent months. The council has put off making any decision for as long as possible—holding a lengthy series of public hearings, and instructing the Cambridge Animal Commission to determine the number of labs conducting animal research in the city and the types of animals involved (an effort which has met with a lack of cooperation by some research institutions). A "compromise" measure introduced by two other councillors to weaken some provisions of the CCRR-backed ordinance is also still pending. Thousands of letters, postcards and phone calls have poured into the councillors' offices—running two-to-one in favor of the stronger measure, which would (among other provisions) create a five-member review board of citizens and city officials authorized to bring community standards to bear upon animal research and to prevent painful experiments from being conducted. About 50,000 animals are used each year in Cambridge laboratories, with an estimated 16,000 of them undergoing procedures involving pain or distress.

The weaker ordinance includes portions of the stronger—proposals to enhance state and Federal animal welfare regulations, and to extend them to cover all species of vertebrate animals and all labs in Cambridge. Currently, Mass. state inspections are only conducted on labs using dogs and cats. Though the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is authorized under the Animal Welfare Act to inspect all labs, some vertebrate species

are exempt from the regulations, and the USDA only regulates housekeeping-type functions, not the research itself. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has guidelines for the use of animals in research, but these apply only to the recipients of NIH grants.

The proposed compromise removes the provision for a city review board, and suggests that citizen members of institutional animal care committees be appointed not by the review board but by the city manager. In an article appearing in *The Cambridge Tab*, Councillor Vellucci termed the compromise measure a "watered-down cop-out... I think there are some city councillors who wish this one would just go away." The local research community wasn't happy with the compromise proposal either—the institutions want full authority to choose members of animal care committees without public input.

Councillor David Sullivan said that the animal research proposals have stirred more public sentiment than any other issue examined during his four terms on the council—including rent control, smoking, and DNA research. Writing for *The Tab*, Jon Keller observed that councillors of all political stripes "have stalled for time and clamored for details they don't really need rather than take an election-year position that's sure to cost them friends... When does the fine art of compromise turn the corner and become debilitating political inaction?... we get cheap compromises, useless official studies and world-class hedging." Animal advocates have threatened to put the issue to a city-wide referendum in November.

Dr. Agha and Nancy Perry of CCRR provided testimony in support of the LD50/Draize ban and the public accountability proposal, as did Harvey Sapolsky (Professor of Public Policy at MIT) and Sara Romer of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Animal advocates Leonard Pietchell and Laura Akibami have gathered thousands of signatures in support of the public accountability measure. Other prominent supporters of the animals include Noam Chomsky (Professor of Linguistics at MIT), George Williams (Professor Emeritus at Harvard Divinity School), and the Humane Society of the U.S. Opponents include Harvard, MIT, the Massachusetts Society for Medical Research, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute of Boston, and Cambridge firms which use animals in research.

Readers may write to the Cambridge City Council at: 795 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139. For more information about the ordinances, contact CCRR at: 5 Upland Rd., Cambridge, MA 02140; (617) 547-9255.

—L.P.

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NEWS SHORTS

EDITED BY LESLIE PARDUE



Plastic debris threatens marine life.

■ Plastic items such as balloons, bags, six-pack beverage rings, fragments of fishing nets and lines, and other debris can spell death for marine mammals, fish and seabirds. It is estimated that non-biodegradable plastic junk accounts for the deaths of literally millions of animals each year. Seals, sea lions, porpoises and sea otters become entangled and choke to death in abandoned nets and lines. Sea turtles eat plastic bags (which they mistake for jellyfish) and die of suffocation or intestinal blockage. Seabirds are strangled by six-pack rings. Whales and porpoises can swallow all manner of plastic garbage. Seven bills have been introduced in Congress addressing plastic pollution and driftnet problems. For a summary of the legislation, write to Defenders of Wildlife, 1244 19th St. N.W., Washington, DC 20036. At least ten states now have laws requiring that six-pack rings be replaced with photodegradable (degradable in sunlight) plastic connectors. Activists can take some steps to help reduce the problem: 1) use all plastic items as many times as possible before discarding; 2) recycle those types of plastic (usually drink containers) accepted by recycling centers; 3) break or cut apart six-pack rings before discarding; 4) refrain from using mass balloon releases in protests and rallies; and 5) purchase and use as little plastic and styrofoam as possible. For a 150-page report on the problem of plastic pollution, send \$10.95 to the Center for Environmental Education, 1725 DeSales St. N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

■ Thousands of wild horses may be shot if Robert Burford, director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), gets his way. Some 10,000 mustangs already suffer crowded, miserable conditions in BLM holding pens throughout the West. Though the BLM hasn't found adoptive homes for these horses, they are requesting \$14.8 million from Congress to round up 10,000 more mustangs next year. Under the new proposal put forth by the agency, any horses not adopted within 90 days would be shot. The BLM is controlled, like many government agencies, by the very group of people it is supposed to be regulating—namely, cattle and sheep ranching interests. Burford himself owns feedlots in Colorado and grazes cattle on about 20,000 acres of public land; all of the appointed officials at the BLM are ranchers. The ranchers blame America's approximately 40,000 wild horses for overgrazing Western rangelands, but the evidence shows that the environmental damage is being caused by the 4.5 million livestock animals grazing on the public lands. Ranchers are allowed to graze cattle and sheep on BLM-controlled lands at rates substantially below market value. In effect, American taxpayers are subsidizing the ranchers' destruction of our public lands. Readers are urged to write to the chairs of the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees (Sidney Yates in the House and Robert Byrd in the Senate) asking that no more roundups be conducted, and that funds instead be used to care for the horses already captured until such time as they are adopted or released. Readers should also write their own Senators and Representatives in opposition to further roundups, and in support of H.R. 1481, a bill authored by Rep. Buddy Darden (D-GA) which would raise the fees charged to ranchers grazing cattle on the public lands. On May 24, members of the Western Wildlife Unit of the Animal Liberation Front cut through fences and released horses from a BLM holding pen near Litchfield, Calif. The ALF, in a statement given to the group Action for Animals in San Bernardino, claimed that 300 horses had been freed, and that the ALF "will continue to liberate wild horses from holding units until all BLM facilities are empty." BLM authorities told newspaper reporters that only six horses escaped, and that those six were later recaptured.

A vegetarian diet is the acid test of humanitarianism.

—Leo Tolstoy

■ Religious animal sacrifices violate state law, says Florida Attorney General Bob Butterworth. Butterworth was asked for a ruling after the City Council of Hialeah failed in its efforts to prevent followers of Santeria (an Afro-Cuban religion which conducts animal sacrifices) from establishing a church in the town. The council backed down on a proposal to outlaw animal sacrifice in Hialeah after lawyers told councilmembers they could be held personally liable if they lost a discrimination suit. Santeria is estimated to have some 10,000 devotees in southern Florida, and is growing in the Northeast in some areas of large Cuban and Latino populations. The religion has attempted to seek protection under the state's kosher law, which exempts religious slaughter from animal cruelty regulations. Church president Ernesto Pichardo wants city approval for an on-site incinerator at the church to dispose of animal remains. Each initiation of a new Santeria member is accompanied by the killing of 50 to 60 animals—including chickens, pigs, doves and goats. The church has vowed to take its battle all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court (Butterworth's ruling was only advisory—it does not carry the force of law). Another religious group, the Samaritans of Israel, also practices animal sacrifice. That nation's Ministry of Tourism has gone so far as to push the sacrifices as tourist attractions, offering free tickets and transportation to visitors wishing to observe the killings. Letters of protest should be sent to: Minister of Tourism, Ministry of Tourism, Jerusalem, Israel; and to: Ambassador Meir Rosenne, Israeli Embassy, 3514 International Dr., Washington, DC 20008.

■ The battle still rages over the fate of the 14 remaining Silver Spring monkeys. In our July/August issue, we reported that Tulane University's Delta Regional Primate Center was considering various options (including killing some of the monkeys, amputating their damaged limbs, and/or housing them in isolation indefinitely). The Washington Post reports that Delta is now planning to ship five of the monkeys to the San Diego Zoo—but activists fear that eight of the remaining nine will be killed, and the ninth (Sarah, the only female) will be kept for the purpose of breeding more monkeys for laboratory use. Animal advocates have been battling the National Institutes of Health since 1981 for custody of the monkeys, rescued from the Maryland labs of researcher Edward Taub.

■ Aerial shooting of Alaska's wolves will still be allowed if the Alaska Wildlife Alliance (AWA), Greenpeace, and four individual plaintiffs are unsuccessful in their bid to appeal a Superior Court decision allowing the killings. In our May issue, we reported that the Alaska state government had halted its aerial wolf hunt—but members of the public are still allowed to conduct aerial hunts. The lawsuit recently brought against the state by pro-wolf forces has failed to change the situation. The plaintiffs have filed an appeal with the Alaska Supreme Court, to be heard later this year. AWA says it expects a major push by "sport" hunters in the months to come for widespread public aerial shooting of wolves—and a bounty system. There may also be attempts to reinstitute the use of poison and the prohibited practice of "denning" (killing wolf cubs by pouring gasoline into their dens and setting them on fire). Readers should write to Governor Steve Cowper, P.O. Box A, Juneau, AK 99811. Thank him for ending the government hunt, and ask him to oppose predator control programs and to support nonconsumptive use of state and Federal public lands in Alaska. For more information on the wolf issue, contact: AWA, P.O. Box 190953, Anchorage, AK 99519; (907) 277-0897.

■ The Soviet Union announced in May that it is permanently ending its commercial whale hunt, apparently in the hopes of expanding the country's fishing operations. The Soviets have been the target of U.S. sanctions in the form of restricted fishing rights because of past violations of International Whaling Commission (IWC) rules. The other nations with whaling fleets are Iceland, Japan, Norway, the Philippines and South Korea. These countries continue whaling despite the 1986 ban imposed by the IWC, operating under a loophole which permitted the killing of whales for "scientific" purposes. At the annual meeting of the IWC in June, a U.S. proposal to tighten the research loophole was approved, and the Japanese representative angrily announced his resignation from the commission. Japan's "research" whaling claimed the lives of 2,769 whales last year. The IWC is an advisory body and its rules are nonbinding, but if Japan flouts the commission's decision, it will face renewed opposition from environmental and animal protection groups.

NEWS SHORTS

■ The University of California at Berkeley (UCB) has received the \$752,000 it was requesting from the state legislature for architectural drawings and plans for its proposed Northwest Animal Facility—despite public opposition and the concerted efforts of several members of the state Assembly. The university is expected to request an additional \$12 million from lawmakers next year for the actual construction of the building. In Defense of Animals, the Bay Area group which has led the fight against the new laboratory, has two lawsuits pending against UCB. The group asserts that the new facility is not needed for accreditation and that the building represents a dangerous and wasteful expansion of animal research—including chemical and biological warfare experiments. Language incorporated by legislators in the budget item mandates

that UC prepare a system-wide report on alternatives to animal research. Meanwhile, a neighborhood group has succeeded in blocking a plan by the university's San Francisco campus to expand its pharmacological animal research facilities into a residential area. The Laurel Heights Improvement Association received a favorable ruling from a state Court of Appeal after the university's Environmental Impact Report for the new site was shown to be inadequate. The court found that the university had failed to show it had taken steps to prevent the danger of possible leakage of toxic chemicals and radioactive substances into the surrounding community from the building. For further information on the battle to stop the Northwest Animal Facility, contact: In Defense of Animals, 21 Tamal Vista Blvd., Corte Madera, CA 94925; (415) 924-4454.

More SHORTS on next page.



Michigan activists protest vealers' convention.

■ Three major trade conventions were recently protested by animal advocates. On May 7, members of the International Wildlife Coalition protested the Canadian International Fur Fair in Montreal. Activists dressed as clowns—and, using the theme "fur is not fun", toured the city in a decorated truck passing out literature and balloons. On June 10, activists from the Farm Animal Reform Movement (FARM) and Canadian Vegans for Animal Rights protested the Livestock Industry Congress '87, held in Toronto and sponsored by the Livestock Industry Institute of Kansas City, Mo. Marlene Lakin (FARM's Canadian representative) gained entrance to the conference room, grabbed the microphone and read to the approximately 300 delegates a two-minute statement denouncing intensive farming practices. On June 30-July 2, activists from several Michigan organizations demonstrated at the American Veal Association's convention in Grand Rapids. Participating groups were: Humane Society of Kent County, West Michigan for Animals, Michigan Humane Society, Michigan Federation of Humane Societies, Animal Rescue and Welfare League of Muskegon, Concern for Critters, Michigan Students for Animal Welfare, and Ingam County Humane Society. Henry Spira of Animal Rights International served as spokesperson at a press conference held on the convention's opening day.

NEWS SHORTS

■ An international campaign against the fur trade is being launched under the auspices of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA). On May 29, delegates from 17 nations met in Versailles, France under WSPA's banner to discuss the fur issue. WSPA has resolved to commit the resources of its more than 450 member societies in over 60 countries to a massive international public awareness campaign aimed at making fur-wearing decidedly *unfashionable*. The campaign will be coordinated from WSPA's Toronto field office. For more information, write to: WSPA, 215 Lakeshore Blvd., Suite 113, Toronto, Ontario M5A 3W9 Canada, or call (416) 369-0044.

■ A calf-roping ban is being considered by the city council of Fitchburg, Wis. The city is home to the George Holmes Rodeo (reputedly "the largest rodeo east of the Mississippi"), held every summer for the last 39 years. The Madison-based Alliance for Animals took photographs of the Holmes Rodeo's calf-roping events, which clearly showed calves being flipped into the air and slammed to the ground. The evidence convinced a committee of the council to unanimously recommend that the full council approve the ban at its next meeting, but an irate George Holmes frightened the council into stalling. A series of public hearings is being held, and the council may ultimately incorporate the calf-roping measure into a package of animal-related ordinances. Letters from readers may have some effect on the outcome—let Fitchburg know that their city should be proud to ban calf roping by writing to Mayor Jean Seiling, Fitchburg City Hall, 2377 S. Fish Hatchery Rd., Fitchburg, WI 53711.

■ A defamation lawsuit seeking more than \$10,000 in damages has been brought against the Pennsylvania Flyers Association (a self-described group of "live bird shooters, bird men and clubs") by animal rights group Trans-Species Unlimited (TSU). The two groups are on opposing sides of the battle in the legislature over House Bill 455, which would ban live bird shoots in the state. The world's largest single-day live bird shoot is held each Labor Day in Hegins, Penn. Last year's pigeon shoot was protested by hundreds of animal advocates in an action organized by TSU. It looks as though the bill will not be passed in time to prevent this year's massacre, so TSU is planning a rally and march in Harrisburg on September 7 (the day of the shoot) to demonstrate support for the bill. The suit against the Flyers Association stems from remarks made by the group's president in a newspaper interview, asserting that TSU supporters are "the same people that released baboons from their cages at Penn State, the same people that interfered with a trapping demonstration at the mall [near Pottsville], and the same ones that are always arrested for protesting in Reading." TSU says its members were *not* involved in the Reading and Pottsville incidents, nor have they released baboons at Penn State (in fact, as far as we know, *no one* has released any baboons at Penn State). For more information about the fight to ban live bird shoots, contact Trans-Species Unlimited, P.O. Box 1553, Williamsport, PA 17703; (717) 322-3252.

■ The U.S. Commerce Department has been doing battle with environmental and animal protection organizations over the agency's lack of willingness to enforce the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. The agency issued a permit to allow the Japanese salmon fishery which operates in U.S. waters off the coast of Alaska to kill 6,000 Dall's porpoise over a three-year period, but environmental groups sought and won a preliminary injunction preventing government approval of the permit. Federal District Court Judge Norma Johnson said that the permit "would allow the violator to, in effect, purchase the right to violate." The Commerce Department is also poised to issue new regulations allowing the foreign tuna fleet to kill in excess of 100,000 dolphins annually without suffering any import restrictions. This contradicts requirements under the Marine Mammal Protection Act which stipulate that countries exporting tuna to the U.S. must have rates of dolphin mortality comparable to domestic rates (about 20,500 dolphins were killed by U.S. tuna boat operators last year). Says David Phillips of the Earth Island Institute, "In addition to being a biological disaster, we believe this plan is illegal and we're preparing to go to court to stop it."

■ Actions aimed at improving the notoriously inhumane conditions in the veal industry have been taking place all over the country. The Farm Animal Reform Movement (FARM) coordinated a nationwide day of protest at restaurants serving veal on Mother's Day, May 10. Activists in Philadelphia, Boston, Denver, Houston, Washington, D.C. and several other cities called on restaurateurs and the public to stop serving and eating veal. On June 26, the Humane Farming Association sponsored a similar national day of protest and education on the veal issue, with actions in over 40 cities. Bills have been introduced in Maryland, California, Massachusetts, and New York which would modify or ban outright the small crates used to confine veal calves. A national bill to ban the veal crate (H.R. 2859—the Veal Calf Protection Act) has also been introduced, and readers are encouraged to write their Representatives urging its support. FARM is now gearing up for the annual World Farm Animals Day on October 2, coordinating actions around the country. Information, suggestions and materials for organizing local observances of World Farm Animals Day are available from FARM, P.O. Box 70123, Washington, DC 20088; (301) 530-1737.

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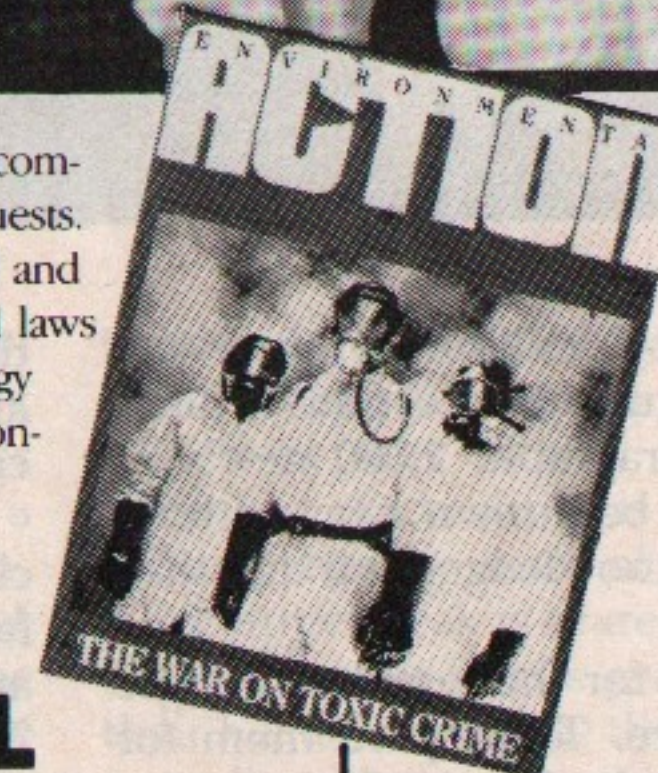
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A CRACK IN THE SHELL

The Violence in the Egg Carton

BY BRADLEY S. MILLER

The outside of the huge windowless building resembled an industrial warehouse. If not for the ground outside, littered with small white feathers, there would have been no sign of the life contained therein. Upon entering the building, my eyes panned slowly down long rows of cages—cages literally full of birds. I could not see where the rows ended. They appeared to join somewhere far off in the distance—it was like looking down the center of railroad tracks. This building, one of several like it on the property, contained 275,000 hens. Somewhat overwhelmed by the sheer number of creatures surrounding me, I focused my attention on the cages directly in front of me.

Each small cage held between five and seven birds. The hens looked as if they had spent the last month in an automatic clothes dryer. Barely able to move, they were crawling on each other. All were incessantly striking out in frustration, pecking at the only thing available: each other.

As I came to realize on this and subsequent investigations, laying hens are not just kept in cages. They are kept in hell.

From Chick to Chicken Soup

Life's journey for egg-laying chickens begins at the hatchery. Virtually all egg factories buy the White leghorn strain of hens. Thanks to the wonders of poultry genetics, the laboratory-bred White Leghorns can pump out over 250 eggs per year. To keep commercial egg factories supplied with birds, U.S. hatcheries maintain a breeding flock of over three million hens and a lesser number of roosters. The breeding flocks create fertile eggs which are collected and placed in incubators. Chicks will emerge from the eggs in about 21 days. This is one birthday worth missing.

When the chicks hatch, their first contact with another lifeform is not with a mother hen, but with a human employed as a "chick-puller". The male chicks have no commercial value. They obviously can't lay eggs, and they are not the variety of chicken raised for meat. So half of all the chicks hatched each year—the males—are simply tossed into plastic garbage bags by the chick-pullers. Though some companies gas the little birds, most simply allow them to suffocate under the weight of other chicks dumped on top. Sometimes they are ground up for animal food—while still alive. The sheer number of chicks killed

is staggering—240 million per year is a conservative figure. In the time it takes to read this paragraph, 2,000 newborn male chicks will be thrown away without the slightest acknowledgement that they are alive.

Life's journey for the female is longer and more severe. To prepare them for what lies ahead, the female chicks are injected with antibiotics and anticancer drugs. This will not be their last fix. What White Leghorns have in the ability to produce eggs, they lack in hardiness. Additional drugs will be required

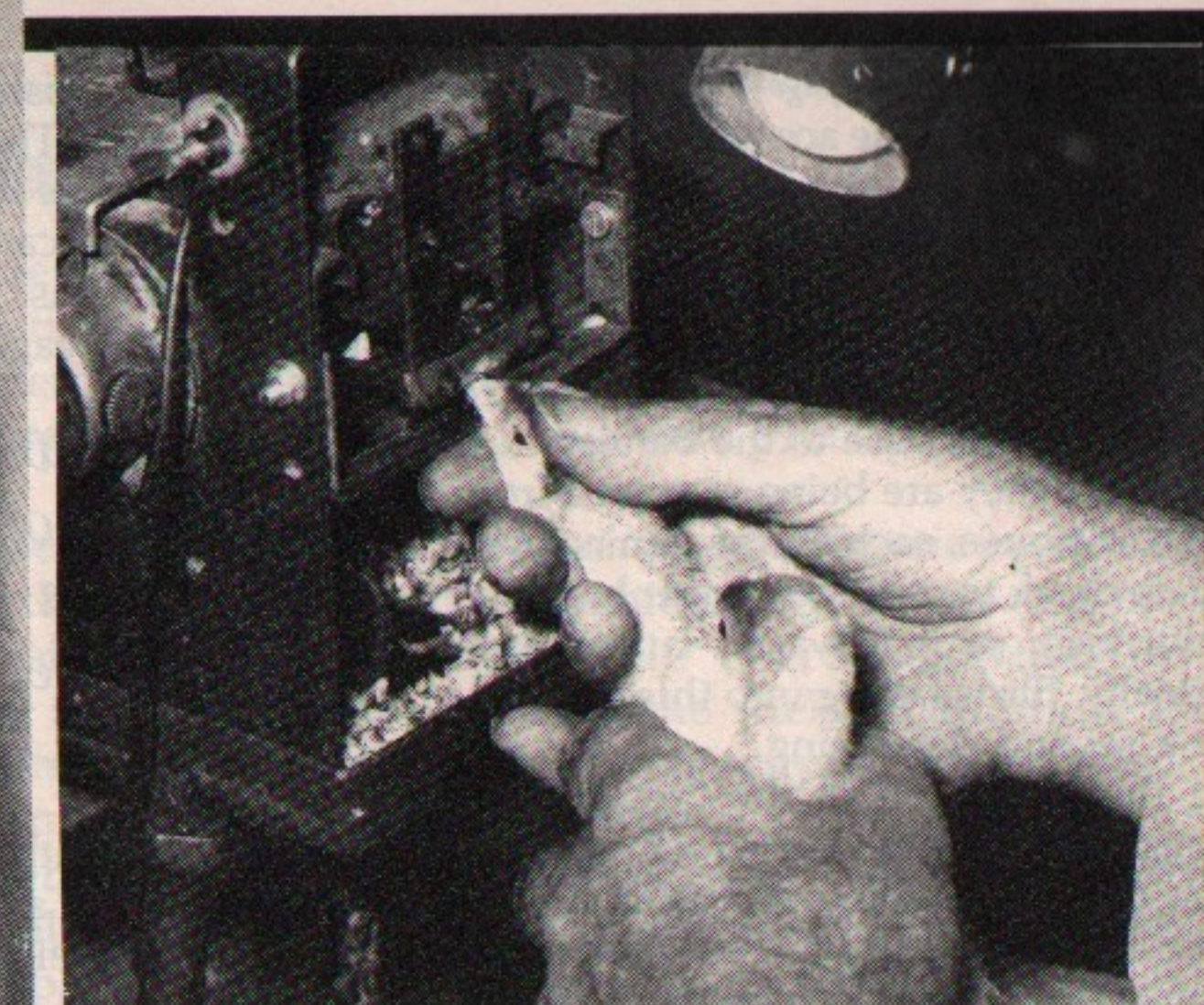
throughout their lives to counter stress and the disease-ridden conditions of the egg factory.

From the hatchery, the day-old female chicks, called "pullets", are sent to the egg factories. For the first 18 weeks after arriving there, the chicks are kept in "grow-houses". They remain there until old enough to lay eggs. Until recently, even factory-farmed hens were raised on the ground until they reached egg-laying age. Now the majority are kept in cages even in the grow-houses. Today's laying hens *never* touch the ground.

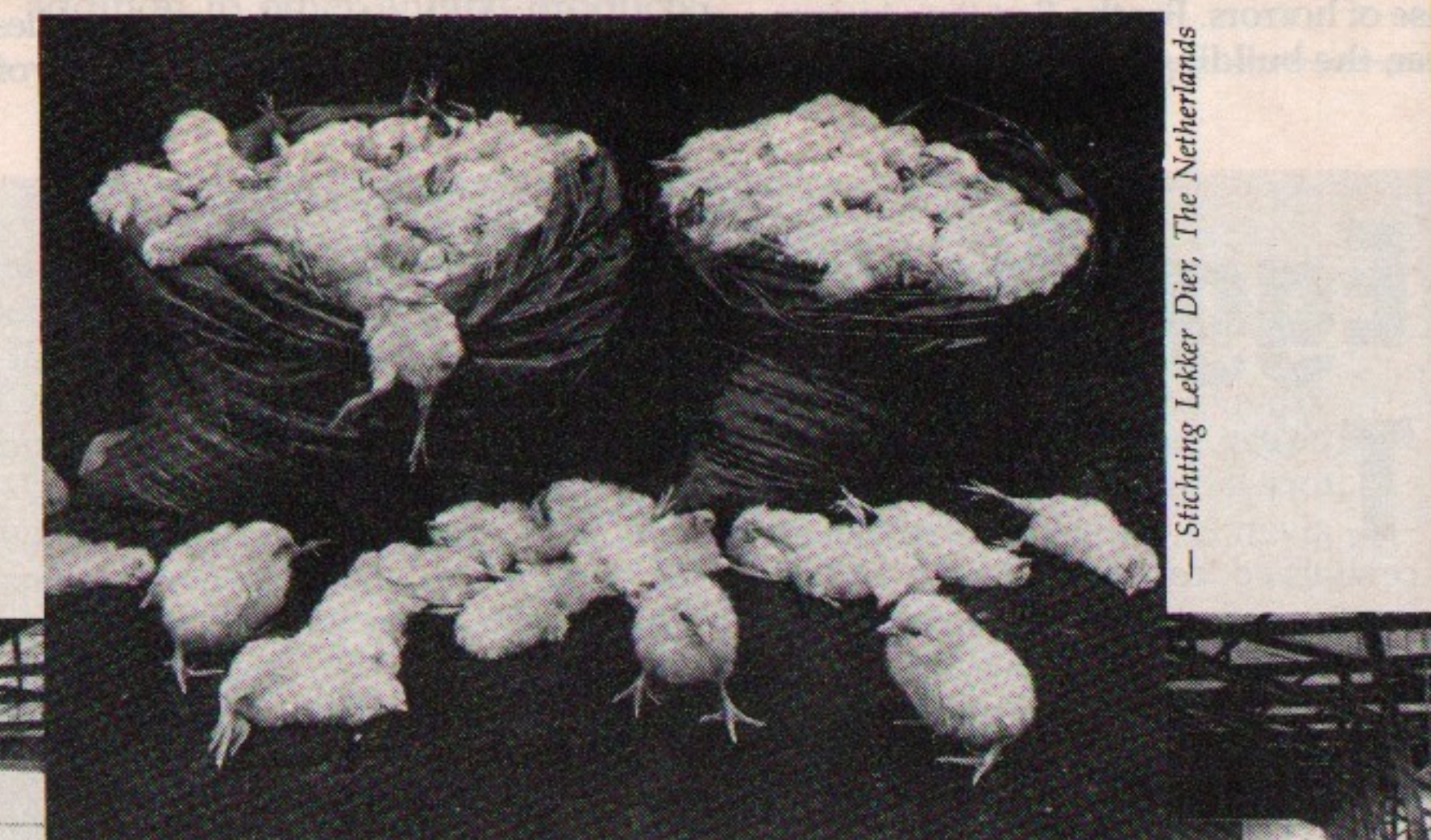


—JA Keller

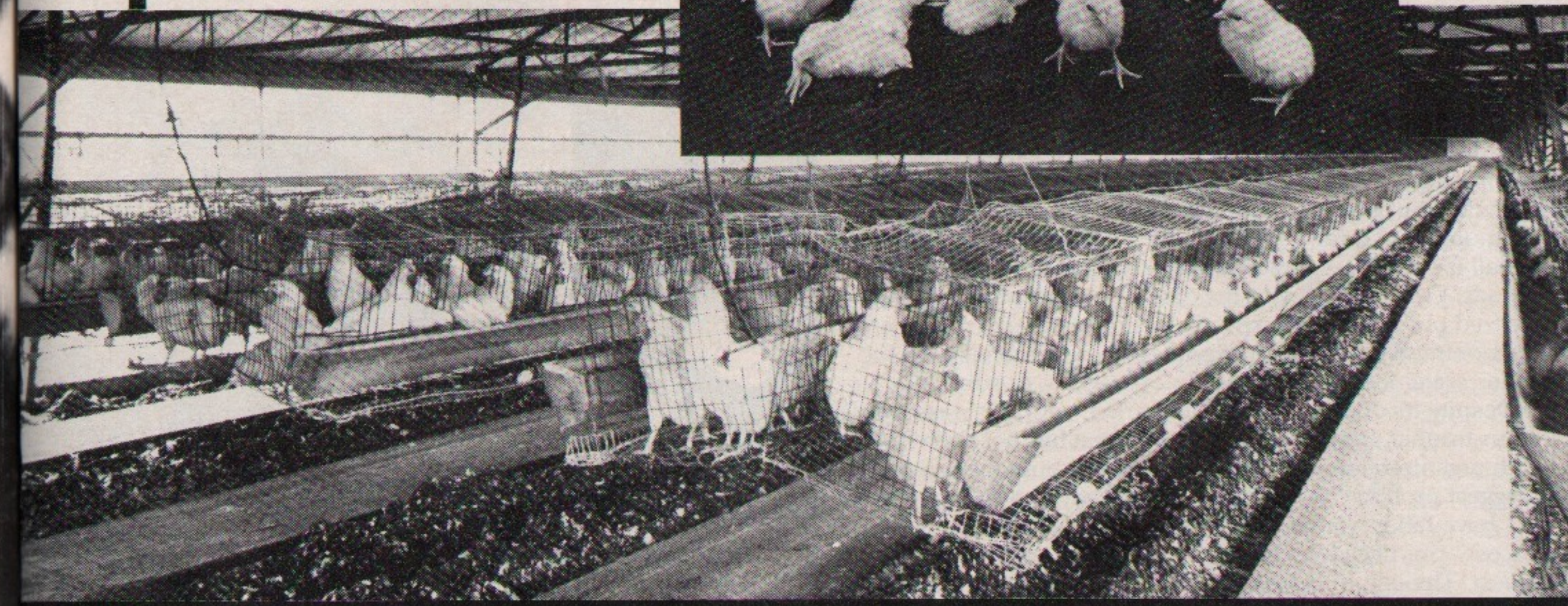
From top down: a) The final indignity suffered by the egg-laying hen comes at the slaughterhouse; b) chicks' beaks are seared off by the hot blade of a guillotine-like press; c) the "worthless" male chicks are tossed into plastic bags where they will die from crushing or suffocation; d) the battery-caged hens in a factory farm never touch the ground.



—Courtesy Stichting Lekker Dier, The Netherlands



— Stichting Lekker Dier, The Netherlands



— Courtesy FARM

Drugs are an ongoing aspect of the raising of factory-farmed hens. Keeping hundreds of thousands of birds together in a "controlled environment" creates a volatile disease control situation. A company cannot wait for the symptoms of contagious disease to appear or it may be too late. With virtually no resistance of their own, disease spreads like wildfire and can kill the entire flock. Injectable drugs are much too labor intensive. Instead, drugs are administered through the water system, and by spraying the air throughout the entire facility with an-

tibiotics to be inhaled by the birds.

After they have been in the grow-house for about four weeks, the chicks are debeaked. Debeaking is a painful procedure whereby much of the chick's sensitive upper beak is seared off with a hot blade. Human hands grab the birds by their heads, and place their beaks under a small guillotine-like press. The cutting is over in a few seconds. The pain is not.

The purpose of debeaking is to limit the damage the hens can inflict on one another while living in abnormally cramped quarters. In addition to causing

pain to the birds, debeaking has drawbacks from a production point of view. A small portion of the chicks simply cannot and do not survive the shock of the procedure. The minimum-waged employees who burn tiny beaks off chicks all day are not known for their care and precision work. Inevitably, some of the chicks have their tongues inadvertently burned during debeaking, or they may suffer other facial injuries which lead to certain death. All debeaked birds suffer a setback in growth and development as they recover

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

from the trauma. The accompanying beak tenderness adds to the problem by making it difficult for them to eat.

When the young hens reach the age of about 18 weeks, they graduate from "pullets" to "layers". The hens are moved from the grow-house to the battery cage facility. As they are being removed from the grow-house, each young hen is given a quick check to see if her upper beak has grown back or if it wasn't cut enough originally. Birds falling into this category face a second debeaking.

At the beginning of the "restocking" process, the facility into which the new batch of hens is being moved is devoid of life. Empty are the tens of thousands of small wire battery cages that fill this house of horrors. For the first time in over a year, the building is silent. Its previous

inmates have finished their sentence. Restocking begins. The hens are packed into the cages. A cage with the floor space of 12 by 18 inches can be filled with three, four, or five hens. Some companies use slightly larger cages and cram in more

A cage with floorspace the size of the front page of a typical newspaper will hold from six to eight hens.

birds. A cage with floorspace the size of the front page of a typical newspaper will hold from six to eight hens. The long rows of battery cages are commonly stacked four tiers high. A token piece of metal lies between tiers. Despite this, each level of

birds (except the top level) is splattered by the excrement falling from the levels above.

In contrast to the filthy, ill-designed waste situation, the system of egg collection can be remarkably efficient. These sharp disparities are but one example of the egg industry's scrambled priorities. As soon as a hen lays her egg, it rolls out of the cage and onto a conveyor belt. Here the egg joins thousands of others. The eggs are moved automatically, yet carefully, out of the building and into an adjacent cleaning area. In similar fashion, feed is moved automatically through the building in troughs that line the front of each long row of cages. Water is piped in through overhead feeders. Not all battery cage operations are fully automated, but most of the larger facilities are. Fully automated or not, the treatment of the

hens remains the same.

Unsuited for life in wire cages, laying hens suffer feather loss, severe blistering, open wounds, and other bodily injuries. Competition for space within each cage is fierce. Injuries are worsened by agitated cagemates who peck at each other's wounds. The hens' feet—naturally designed for standing on solid ground, scratching, and perching—suffer terribly from the wire floor of the cages. In many cases the hens' feet become deformed and entangled in the wire. Worsening the situation are the slanted bottoms of the cages. While the slant causes the eggs to roll out for easy collection, it makes it much harder for the hens to keep their balance as they struggle among their cagemates.

The egg industry relies on a wide range

Continued on next page

Eggs and Illness

According to a report by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued April 10, 1987, investigations of recent *Salmonella enteritidis* infections suggest that many of them are associated with egg consumption. The disease-associated eggs were all USDA Grade A, and were probably eaten raw or undercooked.

Eggs can become contaminated with the salmonella bacteria in several ways. The feces of the laying hens may contaminate egg shells, and the internal contents of the egg may occasionally be contaminated by organisms entering through hairline cracks in the shell. In addition, if there is an ovarian infection in the hen, an egg yolk may become infected with micro-organisms before the shell is formed.

The threat of serious illness—infectious disease as well as the heart disease that has already been linked to the consumption of high cholesterol foods—presents another good reason for giving up eggs in addition to other animal products.

Eggribusiness

The egg industry represents the most pervasive use of factory farming. "Eggribusiness", the name Jim Mason has given to the egg industry, is an acute example of highly centralized, corporate controlled food production. Setting aside for a moment the animal cruelty and human health hazards caused by battery cage systems, the egg factories have had a devastating economic impact on American agriculture and the traditional family farm.

Over 95 percent of the eggs in the U.S. come from factories which hold captive anywhere from a quarter million to five million hens each. A battery cage operation with two million birds will employ a few dozen minimum-waged workers. The same number of birds could provide livelihoods for hundreds of small farmers using traditional free-range or loose housing methods. This, indeed, was the case before such farmers were squeezed out by factory farms. In a climate where consumers are ignorant about farming practices, there is no way for the smaller scale, less abusive family operations to survive.

Despite its domination of the market, eggribusiness is in serious trouble. Ironically, its biggest threat has not been from health organizations, consumer groups, nor humane societies. Its biggest problem has been its own greed. The egg corporations have fallen victim to the same "increase production at any cost" practices which snuffed out their small farm competition. The egg industry, like the dairy industry, is caught in a trap of overproduction. The "bigger is better" world of factory egg production is destroying its own industry by flooding the market with an endless river of poor quality, factory-produced eggs. A staggering 4.2 billion dozen eggs were produced in 1985, and the volume has risen since then. Now even the largest of the large corporations can rarely meet their own production costs. Egg prices are still dropping. Humpty Dumpty is taking a great fall.

The Humane Farming Association (HFA), The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and other groups are campaigning to publicize and stop the abuses of factory egg production. Animal Allies in Los Angeles has spent nearly two years battling the infamous Egg City. Our movement's campaign against battery caging is still in its infancy, yet consumer demand for non-factory farmed eggs is growing rapidly.

A discussion of viable alternatives to factory farming must include a look at the work of Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT). FACT recruits small scale family farmers who agree to abide by FACT's code of humane husbandry practices. FACT, in turn, handles the marketing of the eggs which carry the "Nest Eggs" trademark. Nest Egg hens are raised under conditions which allow the birds to lead a relatively normal existence. Instead of being stuffed into cages, the hens are allowed to move about, flap their wings, scratch, dust bathe,

and express other natural behaviors. The birds are not debeaked, and are provided with perches for sleeping and nest boxes for laying eggs. They receive food and water free of the antibiotics needed in battery operations.

Though animal advocates may question whether the raising of animals for food—even humanely—is a good idea, it is not a simple issue. Most animal defense organizations (including my own) steer clear of actually becoming involved in raising animals for food. Ironically, however, more than any

other group, FACT is taking a great deal of heat from factory farm interests who see the availability of an alternative product as a serious threat.

In October of 1986, Dr. Michael Fox, Scientific Director of HSUS, addressed the annual conference of the United Egg Producers (UEP), which had drafted "Recommended Guidelines for Husbandry Practices for Laying Chickens", in which a minimum cage space per hen of 48 square inches—about two-thirds the size of this page—was recommended. Fox argued that UEP should draft guidelines which would, at the very least, be in line with those recommended by the European Economic Community (EEC), which advised producers in EEC member countries to allow 70 square inches of cage space for each bird. Though Fox's proposal was extremely moderate and workable from an industry perspective, his pleas (and implicit warning) fell on deaf ears. As the animal protection movement steps up efforts to fight factory egg production, UEP's disregard for Fox's diplomatic approach to improving husbandry practices will be remembered as a major industry blunder.

While U.S. egg producers busy themselves writing "guidelines" that give hens less and less cage space, steps are being taken in European countries to eliminate the battery cage system entirely. In Switzerland, efforts are being made to phase out battery cages by 1991, and a phase-out program is slated to begin in The Netherlands in 1990. In 1981, the United Kingdom's House of Commons Agricultural Committee recommended a five-year phase-out of battery cages, but unfortunately this was not enacted. The Eurogroup for Animal Welfare in Brussels passed a resolution calling on the European Commission to declare a date for the abolition of battery cages. And in September of 1985, the British government's own Farm Animal Welfare Council condemned the battery cage.

Can Americans expect to see legislation passed to abolish battery caging in the United States anytime soon? No. Animal agribusiness has too much political power. This does not mean, however, that nothing can be done to change the way laying hens are treated. But the animal rights movement must begin by establishing widespread awareness and concern about this issue among the general public. Legislation will follow—and not lead—community concern.

Taking the following two steps would help to alleviate much suffering: 1. *Boycott factory-farmed eggs.* People who

Continued on next page



Battery cages deny hens the ability to move about or spread their wings (top left); egg factories may hold captive anywhere from a quarter million to five million birds each (bottom left); hens in loose-housing systems suffer less than their caged counterparts (below right).

Photos: (top), Compassion in World Farming, (left), J.A. Keller (right), USDA

Continued from previous page

of toxic substances. One example are pesticides which can be fed to the hens. The idea is to render the birds' excrement toxic to flies and other insects. The toll these and other pesticides take on the environment is substantial. And there are serious public health issues surrounding the amount of toxins that may be retained in the eggs and flesh of the chickens. Not content with coloring agents such as xanthophyll and betacarotene, the egg industry is experimenting with a wide range of chemical dyes to produce brighter yellow yolks in otherwise dull factory eggs. Much more can be said about these and other health hazards associated with eggs. Antibiotics administered to laying hens and other farm animals constitute a major hazard (see "Feeding an Epidemic", The ANIMALS' AGENDA, May 1987). But for now, we

will continue to examine the plight of the hens.

The Law of Averages

Absolutely no laws protect laying hens from even the most harsh and brutal treatment. Chickens, as well as other farm animals, are explicitly excluded from the federal Animal Welfare Act. In some states, such as California, anti-cruelty laws do not explicitly exclude farm animals and should be protecting them from the nightmare of intensive confinement. Unfortunately, there has never been enforcement.

All aspects of animal treatment in factory farms are left entirely to the owners and managers. If they want to withhold food or water for days at a time, it's up to them. The number of hens stuffed into each tiny wire cage—that's up to them, too. There is only one law that regulates

the treatment of laying hens: the law of averages.

Egg production is not based upon—and does not recognize—the rhythm or performance of any individual hen. In fact, most production practices are not even based upon the performance of the particular flock. The schedule for egg factory procedures is predetermined. It is based upon statistical averages that may include the performance of millions of other birds.

Molting is part of a hen's natural cycle. After approximately one year, the hen will lose her old feathers and begin to grow new ones. A natural molt will normally take place over the course of two or three months. During this time, the hen will lay very few eggs. The hen's reproductive system is given a rest while energy is used to grow new feathers.

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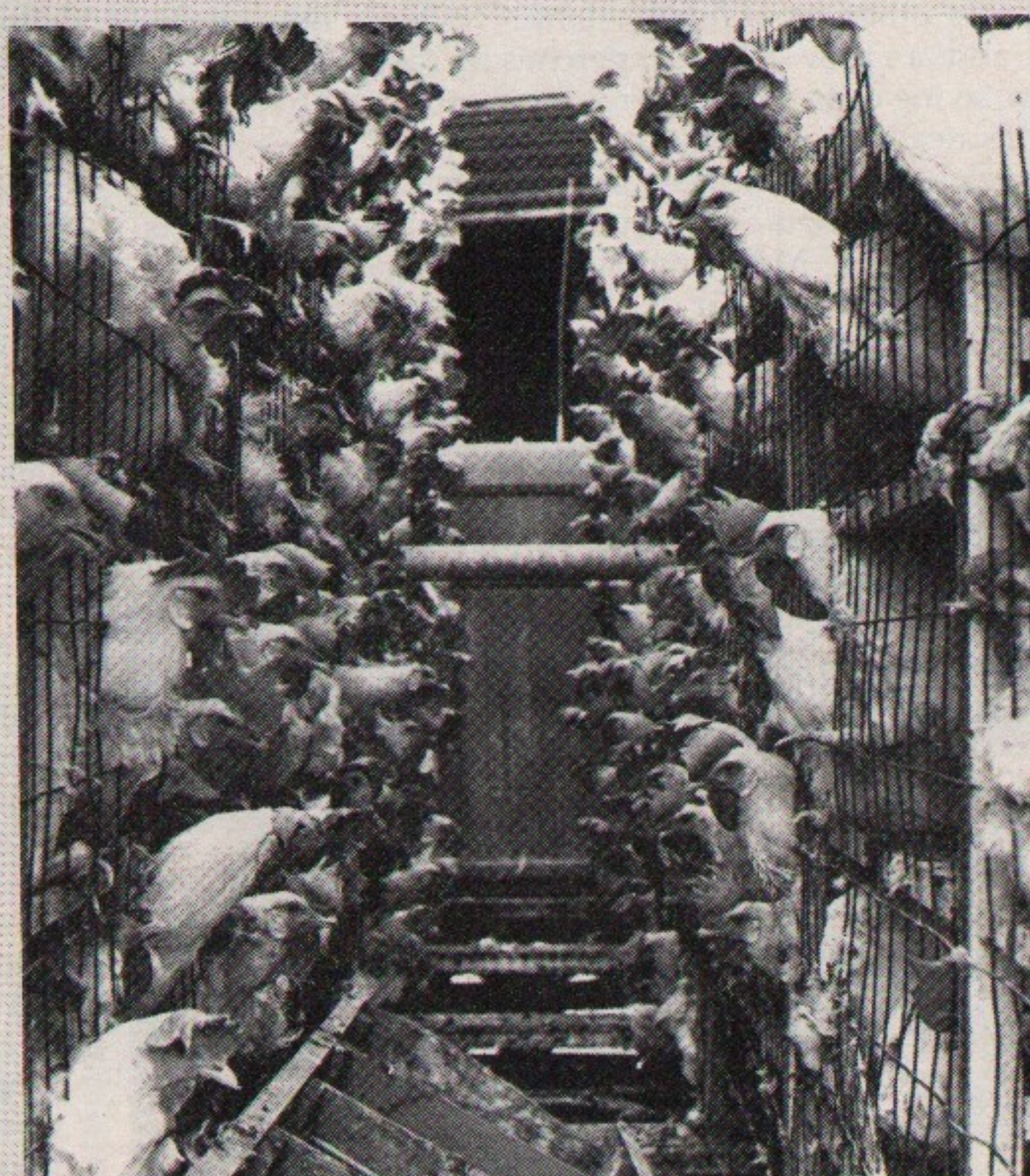
Eggribusiness

Continued from previous page

use eggs should buy only those laid by uncaged hens. Nest Eggs are available in just a few cities at this time. Other sources may take a little effort to locate. Slogans such as "Farm Fresh", "Natural", "Happy", and "No Hormones" are utterly meaningless as guidelines for purchasing eggs. Eggs from uncaged hens are most likely found at natural food stores. As a general rule of thumb, fertile brown eggs in a carton marked "No Antibiotics" are probably from uncaged hens (hens and roosters need some room to breed, and going without antibiotics requires less stressful, more considerate animal husbandry). Ask your local store to carry eggs from uncaged chickens. As consumer demand grows, more laying hens will be raised in "loose housing", and fewer of them will be victimized by battery caging. There are very few real "free range" eggs commercially available in this country. Though there are many small flocks allowed to be outdoors, their eggs are rarely available beyond a particular neighborhood.

2. **Sharply reduce or eliminate eggs from your diet.** For obvious reasons, a public campaign should focus on the battery caging of laying hens. Considering that most Americans are not ready to give up eating eggs altogether, it is important to push for less abusive methods of production. But let's not overlook the equally obvious: we can all live quite well without eggs. We should be willing to acknowledge to ourselves that eating eggs, even those from humanely raised hens, involves killing. Chickens have a natural life span of between 15 and 20 years, but most are killed between the ages of 15 and 20 months to make room for younger, more productive hens. Cannibalism can be a problem in any operation that keeps a significant population of chickens in close quarters, so hens may still be debeaked in loose housing systems. And for the countless millions of male chicks born in hatcheries each year, there is no difference between battery caging and loose housing—they are mercilessly killed before seeing either.

The thought of giving up eggs is not an appealing one for most people, even for some of those who have already stopped eating meat. It restricts food selection, especially when hav-



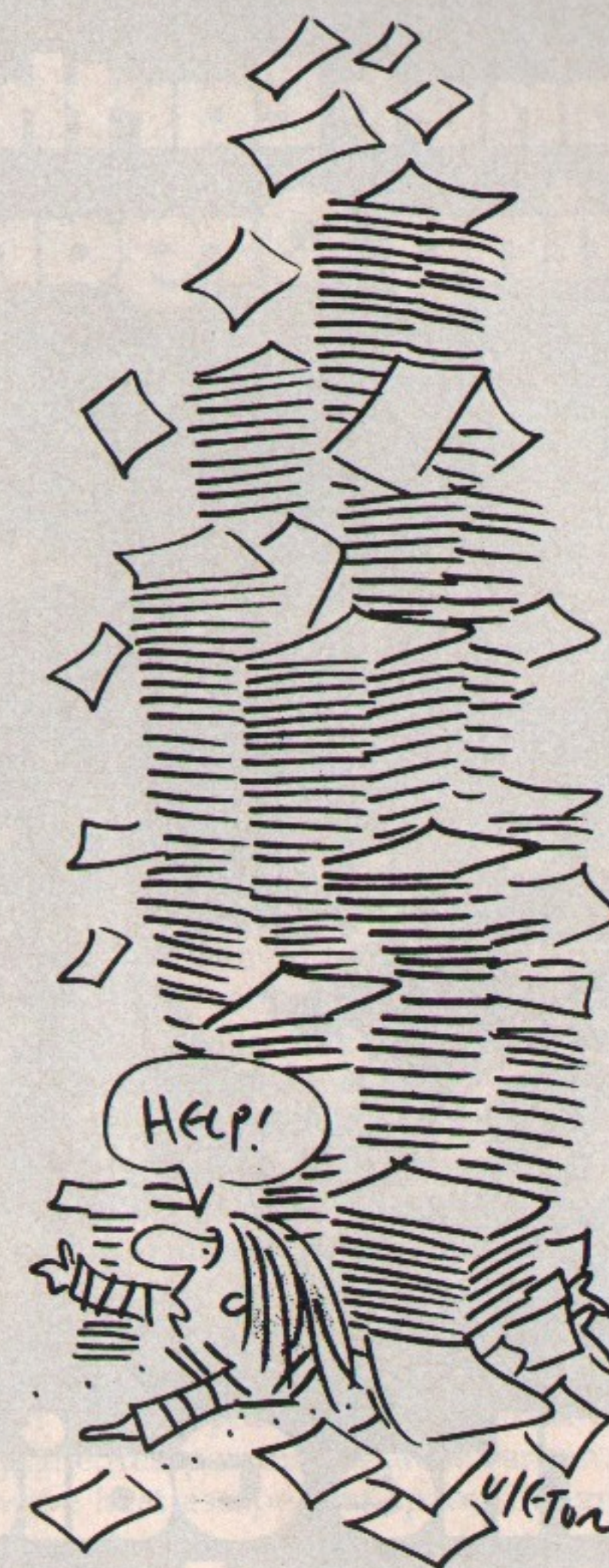
Birds are so crowded in egg factories that if air circulation systems fail during the summer, the entire population of a farm may die from the heat.

ing meals prepared by family or friends, or when eating out at restaurants. One way to make a transition easier is not to worry so much about a very small amount of egg used as an ingredient in something. Many start by simply eliminating egg dishes (omelets and scrambled, fried, boiled, etc.), and by eliminating eggs in their own cooking.

Diet is like most everything else. We each have to find our own way. It finally comes down to a question of priorities. What comes first, the chickens or the eggs?

—B.S.M.

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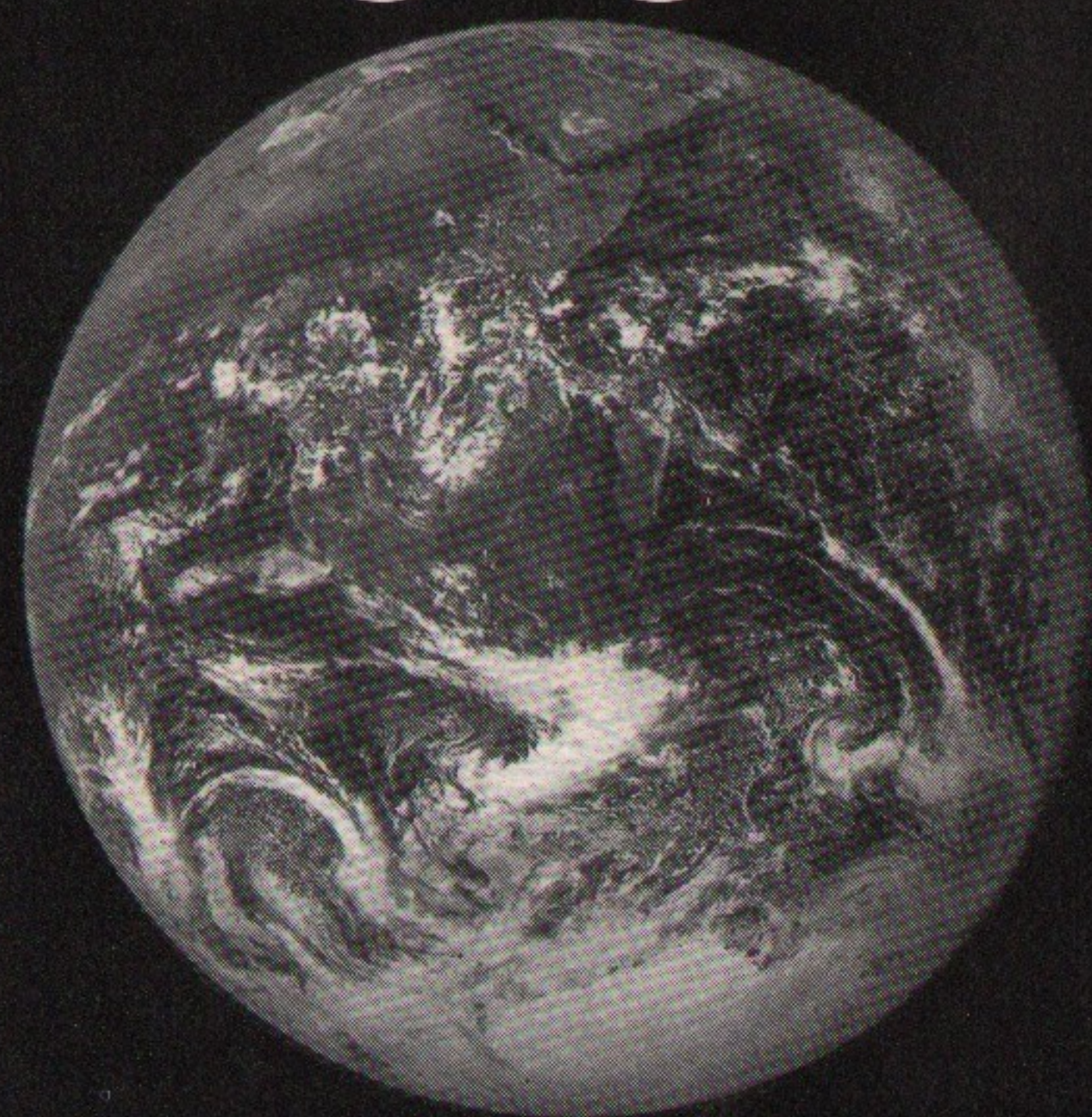
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Planet Earth is a Living Organism



The Gaia Hypothesis

BY MICHAEL J. COHEN, Ed.D.

From space, I get the definite, but indescribable feelings that this my maternal planet is somehow actually breathing—faintly sighing in her sleep—ever so slowly winking and wimpling in the benign light of the sun, while her muscle-like clouds writhe in their own metric tempo as veritable tissues of a thing alive.

—Guy Murchie

In California's Benson Laboratory, Dr. James Richards shines his sunlamp on a microscope slide containing brown, planet-like rock samples. Like an astronomer observing the planets through a telescope, he peers through his microscope at his wondrous rocks that behave and look like planets.

Scanning the slide in the sunlamp's light, Dr. Richards detects amongst the brown rocks an unexpected new object. It is a globular rotating blue rock consisting of the minerals found on Planet Earth. As do the brown rocks, the blue rock has an atmosphere, and the motions of subatomic, atomic, molecular, and chemical activities. But it alone exhibits moisture laden clouds, oceans, and continents.

Unexplainably, Dr. Richards finds free oxygen gas and chlorophyll on the earth-like blue rock, but not on the brown ones. Yet, unlike its brown counterparts, the blue rock rejects the addition or subtraction of oxygen gas to its atmosphere.

Dr. Richards increases the sunlamp's intensity. The brown minerals increase in temperature and their water boils away, but the blue one's color lightens, its gas ratios change, and its temperature and water remain constant.

The scientist adds salt to each rock's liquid areas; all increase their salinity except the blue one.

Dr. Richard's energy measurements disclose that unlike the brown minerals, the blue rock continually absorbs high quantities of light energy and emits low energy quantities.

Upon turning off the sunlamp, the blue mineral's motions cease, its free oxygen disappears, its atmospheric gas ratios change, large amounts of carbon dioxide appear, and it turns brown.

Dr. Richard's final report states that in the presence of sunlight, the blue mineral regulates its temperature, atmospheric gas ratios, salinity, chemistry, and metabolism.



It functions like a warm-blooded plant cell—a living organism. He observes that, in the long run, the active and inert entities of the mineral interact as a whole—like organelles in a cell. Only when he separates them in time or focus do they assume different properties including life and death. In congress, they create the optimum environment for their cell's life.

The scientist concludes that the blue rock is a mineral, but it is also alive. It appears to be a hologram of the third planet from the sun. He names the blue substance Earth, because it does what our planet does.

I wrote the above fictional dramatization encapsulating recent "Gaia Hypothesis" science because it affirms my observation that planet Earth is a living organism. My findings come not as an astronomer, but from 19 years of constantly living outdoors, as an independent scientist and educator living in a learning community that camps out year-round. Although some people believe I have been in the woods too long, the state of the environment and our attitudes toward nature show that too many of us have not been there long enough.

Whether the Earth is alive or dead is not simply an academic matter. We treat things we perceive as *living* differently than we do those we believe to be dead or inert. If the Earth is a living organism, it's the only one of its kind we know. Therefore, we might protect it under the Endangered Species Act. As far back as the written and spoken word allow us to go, there have been cultures that thought of the planet as Mother Earth, a living ensouled being. Scientifically, we have pronounced the earth inert or dead because we mostly measure the earth against our artificially stabilized standards, not nature's ever-changing reality.

The essence of the matter is that planet Earth as a whole has been found to organize, perpetuate, and regenerate itself.

Studying other planets' atmospheres for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) led renowned British scientist James Lovelock to formulate the Gaia Hypothesis, named for the Greek earth goddess. Lovelock reasoned that the gases in a planet's atmosphere should react according to the laws of chemistry and physics to form stable compounds and settle into an equilibrium. The Martian atmosphere is just such a tame equilibrium. However, the earth's atmosphere defies this natural expectation: gases coexist when they should combine, and elements and compounds appear in gaseous form when they should remain solid and settled on the surface. The only explanation for this wild disequilibrium was the continuous emission of gases and energy into the atmosphere by the earth's plants, animals, and bacteria.

Particularly struck by the vast amounts of free oxygen in the terrestrial air, Lovelock wondered why this highly volatile gas did not react with other elements such as carbon to form stable compounds like carbon dioxide. A dominant gas in the atmospheres of other planets, carbon dioxide accounts for only three-hundredths of one percent (0.03) of our air. And despite extreme differences in the globe's chemical composition, what keeps the earth's atmospheric oxygen level at approximately 21 percent? If it shifted a few points higher, fires would burn out of control—a few points lower and most organisms would die.

The ocean's salt content, 3.5 percent by weight, remains roughly constant—while runoff from the continents dumps more than 500 megatons of salt into the water every year. Were salinity to climb, when it reached six percent, virtually all ocean-dwelling organisms would die.

The earth's average surface temperature has remained



relatively constant at between 50 to 68 degrees Fahrenheit even during the Ice Ages, yet over the course of approximately 3.5 billion years of life on earth, the sun's output of energy may have increased by as much as 30 percent. Receiving just a two percent increase in solar output should—theoretically—cause the earth's seas to boil, and an average temperature rise or fall of two degrees would prohibit life. Lovelock claims these life-terminating changes are prevented by planetary temperature controls such as *albedo*, the reflective surface of the earth which changes with increased or decreased cloud, snow, and vegetation cover. Regulation of atmospheric carbon dioxide content also regulates planet temperature because carbon dioxide prevents long-wave heat escape into space (the greenhouse effect).

Lovelock concludes that the climatic and chemical properties of the earth seem always to have been optimal for life. Unlike other planets, earth's waters neither freeze nor boil away. For this to happen by chance is virtually impossible.

Scientists calculate that all the carbon buried in oil, coal, and limestone deposits equals that which would combine with atmospheric oxygen to form carbon dioxide. They postulate that, like the other planets, the earth once had a carbon dioxide atmosphere. Like that of a living organism, the earth's plant and animal "organ system" removed carbon from the air. By regulating the planet's geology, the earth's life force buried the carbon away from the atmosphere. Today we release it as we burn coal and oil. And our acid rain releases it from limestone. Thus, our modern lifestyle changes the atmosphere's makeup and temperature.

Recent findings indicate that the planet can no longer bury carbon as fast as our industrial society produces it as a waste product. The predicted long-term effects of modern human activities include triggering a new glacial age or a readjustment of the planet organism's metabolism—to our discomfort or demise.

The essence of the matter is that planet Earth as a whole has been found to organize, perpetuate, and regenerate itself. This demonstrates that the planet has some level of communication and sensation—the attributes of life.

Although scientific methods place organisms with common ancestry in the same family, subjective Western thinking habits prevent us from scientifically

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FUR...

The Look That Kills

Mounting a Media Campaign

BY KIM STURLA

Last year, the fur industry spent \$5 million on an advertising campaign to convince the American public that furs are luxurious garments that no one should live without. Their campaign was originally titled "Fur is for Life"—a misnomer meant to mislead, calculated to divert consumer attention from thinking about all the lives sacrificed for the fur industry.

As a response to the aggressive pro-fur media blitz, my organization orchestrated an anti-fur campaign—the first major campaign we had ever undertaken. Lots of time, expertise, and donated dollars were invested in our effort to reach the community. To encourage other animal groups to begin similar campaigns in their areas, I have outlined our program, including information on the costs and the time investment. With the fur industry pledging \$5 million a year for advertising, it is certain that animal advocates need to start designing and implementing multifaceted media campaigns. Scattered anti-fur pickets and demonstrations won't make a dent in public awareness without sophisticated strategies and long-range planning.

Planning: Begin planning as far ahead of the fur season as possible. Mull over your ideas, and get constructive input from as many people as you can. For each part of the campaign, decide exactly what you want, when you need it, who is to do it, and to what particular audience it will be presented. A schedule should include time for researching, planning, and implementation stages.

Budget: If you spent sufficient time researching and planning, you will have an idea of what the campaign will cost. We estimated our costs at \$2,000, and added another \$500 as a buffer (figures that turned out to be accurate). Focus on



Kim Sturla and companion

specifics in your fundraising. For example, if you need money for billboards, show prospective donors the designs, and tell them the exact costs for getting them printed and posted. They may be more inclined to contribute large sums if they know just where the money's going.

Slogan/Logo: Give plenty of thought to developing a slogan and designing a logo. They should sum up what your campaign is all about, and also be catchy enough to grab the public's attention. Our slogan was "Furs . . . the Look that Kills". We waged a mini-campaign, "Clean Your Closet and Clear Your Conscience"—urging fur owners to turn their furs in to our shelter, and collected 50 fur coats and 75 pieces of fur-trimmed apparel. We felt it was important to address the issue of "closeted" fur because of the large number of people who feel it's wasteful to just pack up their fur coats and never wear them again. We tried to point out

the flaws in that rationale, telling them that every time they wear fur, they're making a public statement that they find it acceptable to wear dead animal skins. They are perpetuating the fashion. Granted the damage is already done, and the animals are dead. But the moral mistake of buying a fur is compounded by any encouragement to others to wear them.

Spokespersons: Delegate the responsibility of speaking for the organization to one or two people. They should handle all media contacts, knowing the issue thoroughly and being prepared to articulate the philosophy and goals of the campaign.

Media List: Critical to the success of an anti-fur campaign is an extensive and up-to-date media list. If you don't already have one, try contacting other animal or nonprofit groups and see if they will give you a copy of theirs. Also check with a local press club, and find out if anyone publishes a media guide (The United Way, for example, compiles such a list, and it may be available). If you can't secure a good list from another organization, begin phoning the local media. Call every radio and television station, and every newspaper and magazine in your area. Find out who gets news releases, and who handles public service announcements. Ask about talk shows—when they are aired, the names of the host and producer, the format, and so on. Always keep in mind that your use of the media will make or break your campaign. If you don't attract media attention, much of your work will have been in vain. Develop a good sales pitch as to why your campaign is a critical issue. Our efforts resulted in numerous newspaper articles, several radio discussions, and an interview on a major television talkshow.

ACTIVISTS' AGENDA



Media Packets: A complete press packet is essential. It is your vehicle for educating the news media. Provide them with adequate background information, and present it in an interesting and easy-to-follow format. They should be able to



adapt or include your information in their own articles or stories without doing further research. We sent out our press packets to news directors, public affairs directors, radio talk show hosts, producers of radio and television interview shows, assignment desk editors, and reporters who had covered animal issues before—about 150 in all. We also provided them to local legislators.

Our packets included: personalized, typed letters (with the help of a word processor, of course); several press releases (one general information release on the campaign, another on a seminar we were holding, and one on our "Clean Your Closet and Clear Your Conscience" drive); a poster, bumper sticker, and button; a seven-page position paper on furs; informational brochures on furs (like those published by Trans-Species Unlimited and the International Society for Animal Rights); and a business card.

Take care to package your material

nicely. You want the recipients to take notice of the information inside. We purchased bright red, glossy folders, and imprinted the fronts with our slogan and logo. The folders were mailed in a solid black envelope with address labels that also displayed our slogan and artwork.

Follow-Up: A week after the media packets were mailed, we began our follow-up phone calls. We asked if they would like additional information. We urged them to do a story on furs or, in the case of talk shows, asked them to consider having us appear on their show to discuss the issues.

Billboards: We contacted the outdoor advertising firms in our area and inquired about the availability of public service space for nonprofit organizations. Of course, the choice locations weren't available, but they did give us ten spots—each one to be used for one month. We had ten 12 by 25 foot posters printed at roughly \$50 apiece. The only other cost incurred in connection with the billboards was the labor fee of about \$80 per board for hanging the posters. The total cost for the ten billboards was just under \$1300.

Bumper Stickers and Buttons: We distributed a thousand stickers and buttons free. The approximate cost of the buttons was \$300, and the bumper stickers cost about the same.

Public Programs: We held a "Facts on Furs" evening seminar for the public, drawing a crowd of about 60. It was free, and all attendees received an anti-fur information packet. We had a panel discussion, and showed the Greenpeace/Lynx anti-fur commercial and a video produced by The Furbearers. We also demonstrated setting and releasing a steel-jaw trap, and had all the furs we had collected on display.

Evaluation: It's critical that you maintain good files throughout the campaign on everything from the research to the implementation. Use all of this information when you evaluate your project. Monitor community and staff response, media coverage, seminar attendance, and feedback. Rate each campaign component for success or failure. Taking note of everything possible will make your next campaign stronger and easier to organize.

For a copy of our campaign materials, contact Susan Regan, Fur Campaign Coordinator, Peninsula Humane Society, 12 Airport Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94401. Start working, and good luck!

Kim Sturla is Director of Society Services at Peninsula Humane Society.

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Do Native Americans Have Hunting "Rights"?

BY RAINI SEQUOYA

In December of 1983, James E. Billie, chairman of the Seminole Indian tribe in Florida, shot and killed a rare Florida panther. In April of 1987, Billie was charged by the Justice Department with violating the Federal Endangered Species Law. But his attorney, Bruce Rogow, argues that hunting panthers is part of the Seminoles' religious and cultural tradition, a freedom protected under the Constitution and by treaty. Rogow holds that the government is trying to punish Chief Billie for the sins of the "white man". He claims, "We find it a bit of an irony that the panther is endangered by the white man's commercial development of the Everglades, and yet Chief Billie is the only person ever to be prosecuted for this offense." Donald A. Carr of the Justice Department countered with the argument that while "the onslaught of the white man's civilization" is indeed responsible for the panther's endangered status, it is "a sociological externality which doesn't, in our view, bear on the pure legal question which will be litigated: whether the Endangered Species Act applies to Native Americans." We asked Raini Sequoya, a Florida animal rights activist who happens also to be of American Indian descent, to comment on what might be viewed as a situation of conflict between animal rights and Native American rights.

Is it right to levy such a strong penalty on James Billie since it was the "white man" who caused the species to become endangered? My answer to that question is an unequivocal YES, he should receive a strong penalty. Two wrongs do not make a right. Though the "white man" has been almost solely responsible for the panther—and many other species—being on the verge of extinction, it does not follow that a non-white individual—because of heritage and tribal custom—has a right to join in the destruction of one of these beautiful, sentient creatures. Respect and reverence for all life forms should have no racial or religious boundaries. Although I deeply sympathize



—Jean Griffin

with the plight of my people, I sympathize even more deeply with the plight of our animal brothers and sisters, for they have no voice in their destiny.

The species *Homo sapiens* (the human animal) is very quickly constructing a concrete earth—all in the name of greed—that will ultimately destroy not only the other animal species, but the human species as well. What was once a green paradise designed for all living beings will become a concrete hell. If there is no longer a niche for a species in the natural world—where the animals can live in freedom and autonomy, and without human interference—then I don't see why efforts should go towards saving them. Even more tragic than extinction is the plight of animals incarcerated in zoos.

I will never excuse any human—regardless of race, color, or creed—who harms and exploits a member of our nonhuman family. Justice for all sentient creatures stands above one's heritage.

It's Only an Animal?

BY NIEL GLIXON

We've all heard it. "So a rabbit was sacrificed to make cosmetics safer. Who cares? It's only an animal." That attitude makes a friend of mine livid. "Only an animal"? But what else is a human being?

And among the animals, where does the human animal stand? Not at the pinnacle, my friend suggests. Contrary to Hamlet, he doubts that *Homo sapiens* is "the paragon of animals". Perhaps the opposite.

He offers an intriguing version of the evolutionary pecking order. The objects of our world, he believes, can be divided into five broad groups: 1) inorganic matter; 2) plants; 3) the herbivores; 4) the carnivores; and 5) the omnivores—mostly us.

Group No. 1 includes the inert, lifeless things: air and water; iron and copper; rocks and rubies. These objects eat not, neither do they breathe. But they do serve.

Group No. 2 comprises the plant world: pea and pear; oak and oat. They consume the air, minerals, and water of Group No. 1 and, in turn, serve other groups.

Group No. 3 is the family of herbivores: the cow chewing his ration of hay and clover; the whitetail deer browsing forest grass and acorns; the horse and goat and elephant picking off the pea and pear, oak and oat of Group No. 2.

The members of Group No. 4—turtle and trout, lion and lynx—feast on the flesh of cow and deer and other herbivores of Group No. 3. They are the carnivores. High in the chain of consumption, they are not yet the ultimate consumers. Rather they, too, serve as consumables of others—Group No. 5.

As for Group No. 5, to paraphrase cartoonist Walt Kelly, "We have met the omnivores, and they are us." Though there are other omnivorous species (opportunistic feeders), human beings prey on and consume the members of all the other groups: the air and water of Group No. 1; the pea and pear of Group No. 2; the cow and deer (beef and venison to most people) of Group No. 3; and the trout of the lake and the

swordfish of the sea, and occasionally even the flesh of the loggerhead turtle and the Florida alligator, of Group No. 4. Not to mention that we peel the hides off gators and others to shield our bodies against the caprices of Group No. 1.

Now, what creatures do we omnivores serve? What creature batters on Group No. 5? Think it over. For the most part, the answer is "no one"—unless you care to count the mosquito or the microbe. There is no Group No. 6. The line ends with No. 5.

What does this signify? You might argue, as many do, that it signifies the supreme importance of humankind. All the other groups have been put here for our sustenance, comfort, and delectation.

But quite a different perspective is also possible. In this view, each group serves a clear purpose—to nourish the denizens of one or more of the other groups. Each group exists not only for itself, but also as fuel for other groups. Each group, that is, except one—us.

The line of usefulness ends abruptly at the top (if it is the top). We humans batten on each of the other groups, but no group batters on us. And no one has yet suggested that "they also serve who only sit and eat."

In this scheme of things, we humans are hard pressed to justify our existence. And we are particularly hard pressed to justify our exploitation of the other groups.

This humbling view of humans is what my friend thinks of when he contemplates the horror stories about human exploitation of "subhuman" species.

And perhaps he has a point. The noted Czech novelist Milan Kundera has written, "Mankind's true moral test consists of its attitude toward those who are at its mercy: animals." In 1987, it seems, we require a new perspective if we are never again to utter the fateful words, "It's only an animal."

Niel Glixon is a writer living in Great Neck, New York.

Victims of a Meaningless Show of Force

BY GERALDINE Q. RUTHCHILD

On the night of May 19 1987, New York City police, responding to reports of screams coming from Prospect Park Zoo in Brooklyn, found two polar bears fighting over the already dismembered body of an 11-year-old boy. They could see the clothing of three children within the bears' enclosure; they had seen two children walking toward them when a zookeeper led them onto the grounds of the closed zoo. The children had run away before the police could question them.

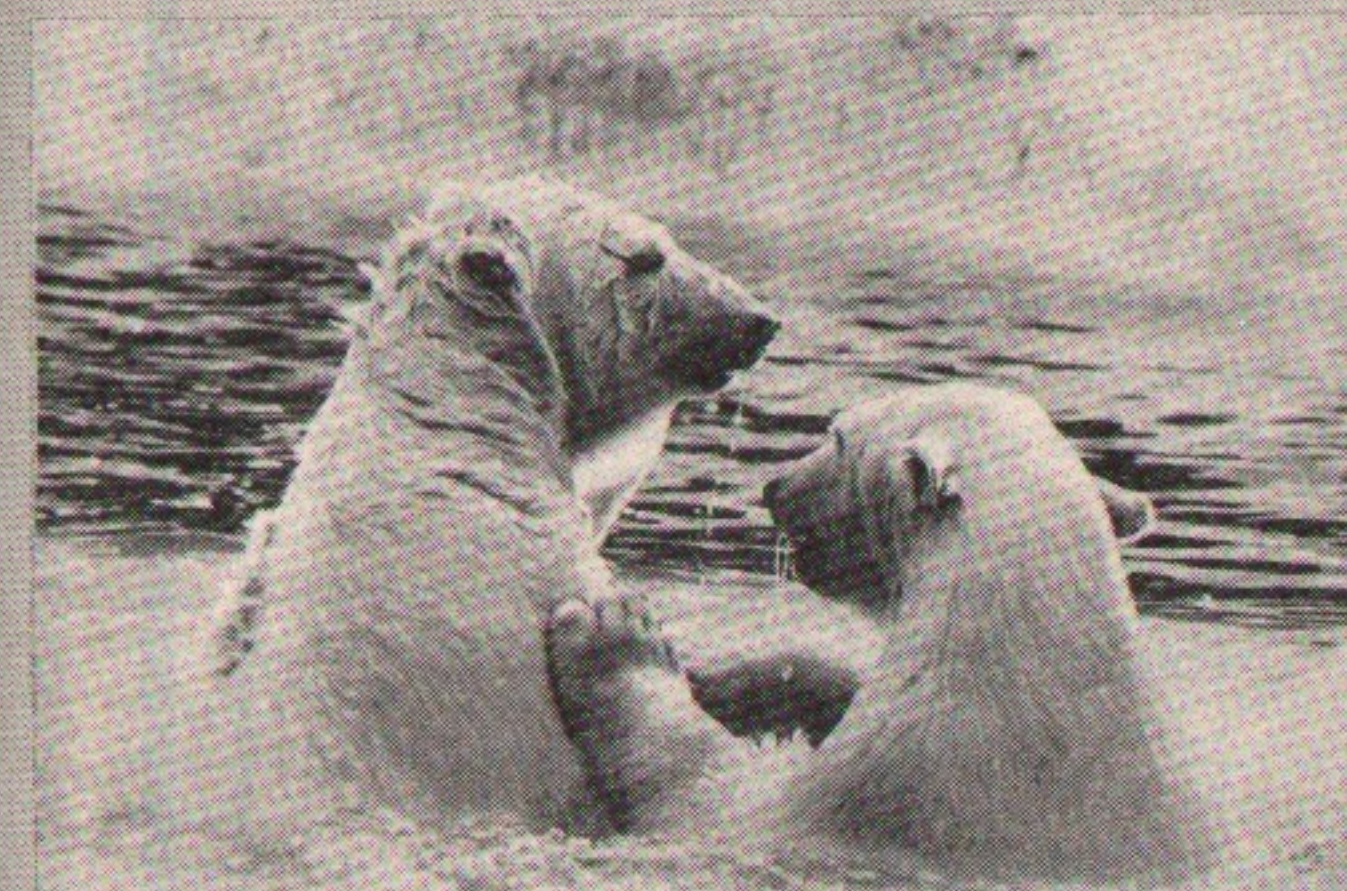
Seeing the bears and the body of Juan Perez within the cage, the four police officers emptied twenty blasts from a 12-gauge shotgun and a .38 caliber revolver into the animals, killing them. In the aftermath of the tragedy, hundreds of people called the police to mourn over and complain about the shooting of the polar bears.

Apparently unprepared for such outpouring of sympathy for the bears, the *New York Times* and other leading publications saw fit to refer dismissively to the callers protesting the

bear killings as "animal lovers". That epithet implies that their objections were founded upon the dogmatism of an extremist group ruled by sentiment. On the contrary, the people who took the time to register a protest seem to me far more likely to have been motivated by an appreciation of logic, a commitment to fairness, and a belief in practical rather than merely symbolic action. I am in sympathy with their reaction.

Polar bears, extremely territorial by nature, are kept in Prospect Park Zoo in a very small area—exacerbating, as one might easily imagine, their fierce protectiveness of their space. To protect the public, zoo architects had erected high fences topped by spikes, so forbidding-looking that it is impossible for anyone, even a child, not to understand that the bears are very likely dangerous.

Into this environment entered three children, who admit they were taunting the bears; who, in addition to scaling that fence and climbing over those spikes and invading that territory, were throwing rocks at the animals. For the bears to at-



tack the child who did not run away fast enough was for them simply to be acting as bears naturally act.

By the time the police arrived, Juan Perez was plainly dead, clearly beyond saving. Yet the police emptied two firearms into the bears, shooting them over and over until they were dead.

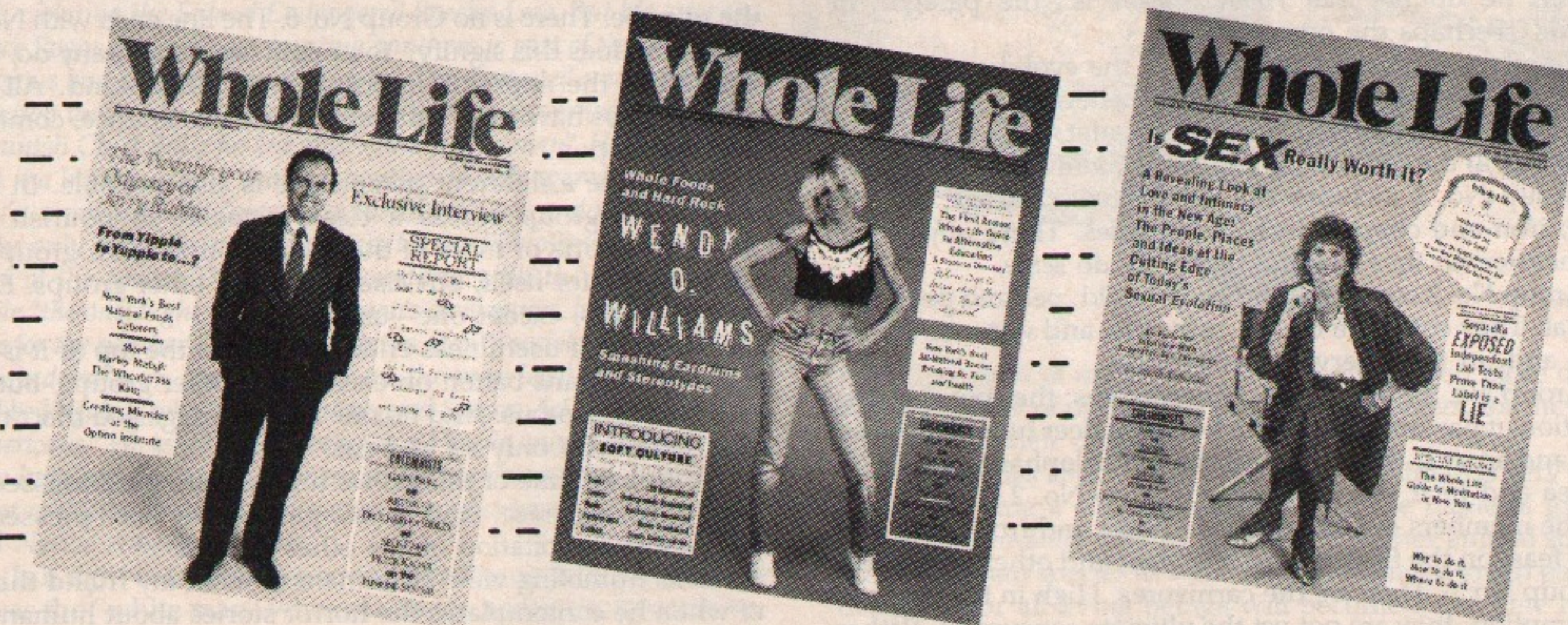
Killing the bears was not a logical act, for it was not—and the police have admitted they knew it was not—going to bring Juan Perez back. It was certainly not a fair act, because the bears had been behaving not only instinctively but under provocation.

Further, it was not a practical act, for it accomplished absolutely nothing—not even the protection of the other children whose clothing was in the cage, for the police had seen them leaving the zoo when they entered. It seems, therefore, that the shooting was merely a symbolic act, designed to show the public that the police were not going to stand by helplessly. But the truth is that it was too late for help. All that was achieved was the killing of two of God's creatures, who had been provoked by taunts and rocks.

I object to the killing of the polar bears on the grounds that it was illogical, unfair, and a meaningless show of force. Presumably, at least some of the hundreds of callers protesting this act had equally reasoned objections.

Geraldine Q. Ruthchild, Ph.D., is a New York-based freelance writer and consultant. The above is an expanded version of a letter published by *The New York Times* on June 4, 1987.

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Classroom Dissection: The Right to Refuse

BY VICTORIA MORAN

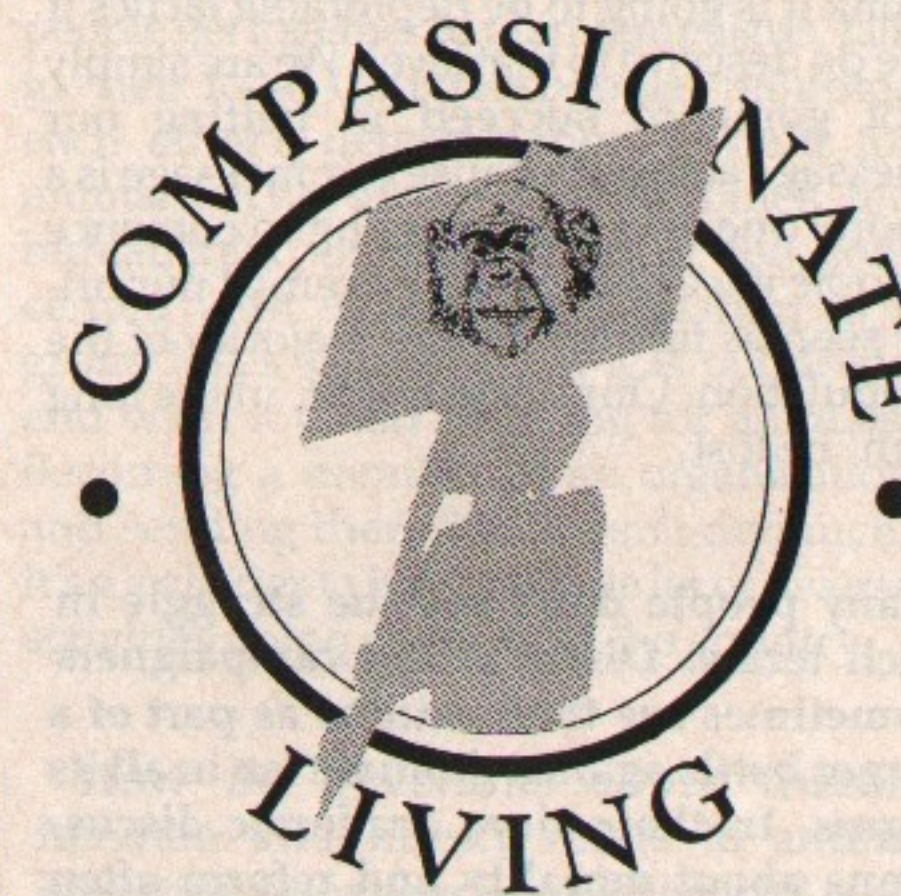
When I transferred out of sophomore biology in high school over 20 years ago to avoid further animal experimentation, I was seen by school authorities as a very foolish adolescent. My transfer wish was granted after a lecture from a guidance counselor who advised me that I'd better sign up for secretarial courses, since without biology I would never get into college.

Well, I did get into college, and between then and now tremendous changes have taken place in our society. When I objected to the slicing of worms, crayfish, frogs, mice, and piglets to supposedly teach me the wonder of life, black people were still riding in the backs of buses in the South. Classified ad columns still separated "Help Wanted: Male" from "Help Wanted: Female". In many respects human rights have made headway, and animal rights have become an issue at long last.

In seeking to avoid classroom dissection and/or vivisection today, students are involved in a concern that bridges both human and nonhuman rights. It is an animal rights issue, certainly, that sentient creatures should not be killed or otherwise harmed at our hands, but it is also a very definite right of every student to be educated without having to perform acts that conflict with his or her personal ethics.

In recognition of this dual violation of rights, many students are taking a stand to refuse laboratory rituals that require animal abuse and/or death. In some cases, a single high school or college student acts alone, and in others entire classes protest this practice—both forms of protest can draw considerable attention. A recent case in California concerning frog dissection has even gone into civil court. This kind of "bucking the system" takes inner commitment and courage, but there is outside help available. An organization specializing in this and similar concerns is the Student Action Corps for Animals (SACA), 423 Fifth St. S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003. The following suggestions are taken from the SACA News and from their helpful pamphlet

It is a very definite right of every student to be educated without having to perform acts that conflict with his or her personal ethics.



"Say No to Dissection".

As this school year begins, if you or someone you know wishes to be exempted from lab procedures involving animals, keep in mind:

- 1) Ethical lab choices are a right, not a "special privilege".
- 2) The school should inform students of their rights; a clear school policy should be established and announced to all students at the start of each semester.
- 3) Remain clear on why you are refusing to dissect so that you can decide whether the options offered you are reasonable.
- 4) Assure the teacher that you want to remain in the class and complete it like everyone else, but in a way consistent with your ethical beliefs.
- 5) It is the responsibility of the instructor, not the student, to devise non-animal

labs. Among the possibilities are: a) studying animals in their natural environment; b) drawing from medical encyclopedia diagrams and transparencies; c) using *The Anatomy Coloring Book* by Wynn Kapit and Lawrence M. Elson (I used this in college anatomy and physiology, and even know medical students who have found it beneficial); d) studying heart functions with the Harvard Bio-meter, thus replacing frog pithing (write Phipps & Bird, Inc., 8741 Landmark Rd., Box 27324, Richmond, VA 23261); e) investigating biological principles via mechanical models and mannequins; f) learning about human chromosomes with human cells grown in tissue cultures available in kit form; g) observing in hospitals and CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) training as a practical learning experience; and h) asking teachers to examine closely biomedical supply catalogs with non-animal supplies that inspire humane projects.

6) Inform your instructor as soon as you know that lab procedures are not to your liking, and find out just what is planned early in the semester to give yourself and your teacher time to work out alternatives.

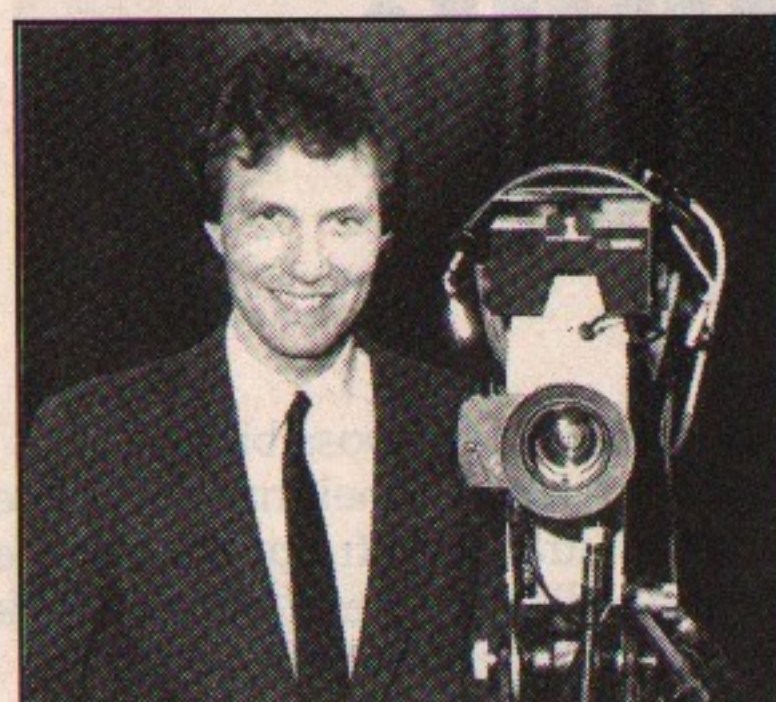
7) Use school media to get your message out, and organize with others in a support or action group. Involve parents and parent-teacher associations, if possible. Talk to school board officials and organize a community letter-writing campaign.

8) Prepare for the long haul with follow-up actions to create permanent school policy that respects the ethical choices of students. Get in touch with SACA and with local animal rights organizations for help.

SACA also recommends the book *The Rights of Students* by Alan H. Levine and Eve Cary (Avon Books, 224 W. 57th, New York, NY 10019). Refusing to dissect or vivisection is a student's right. And besides, it's right!

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

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INTERVIEW

Continued from page 9

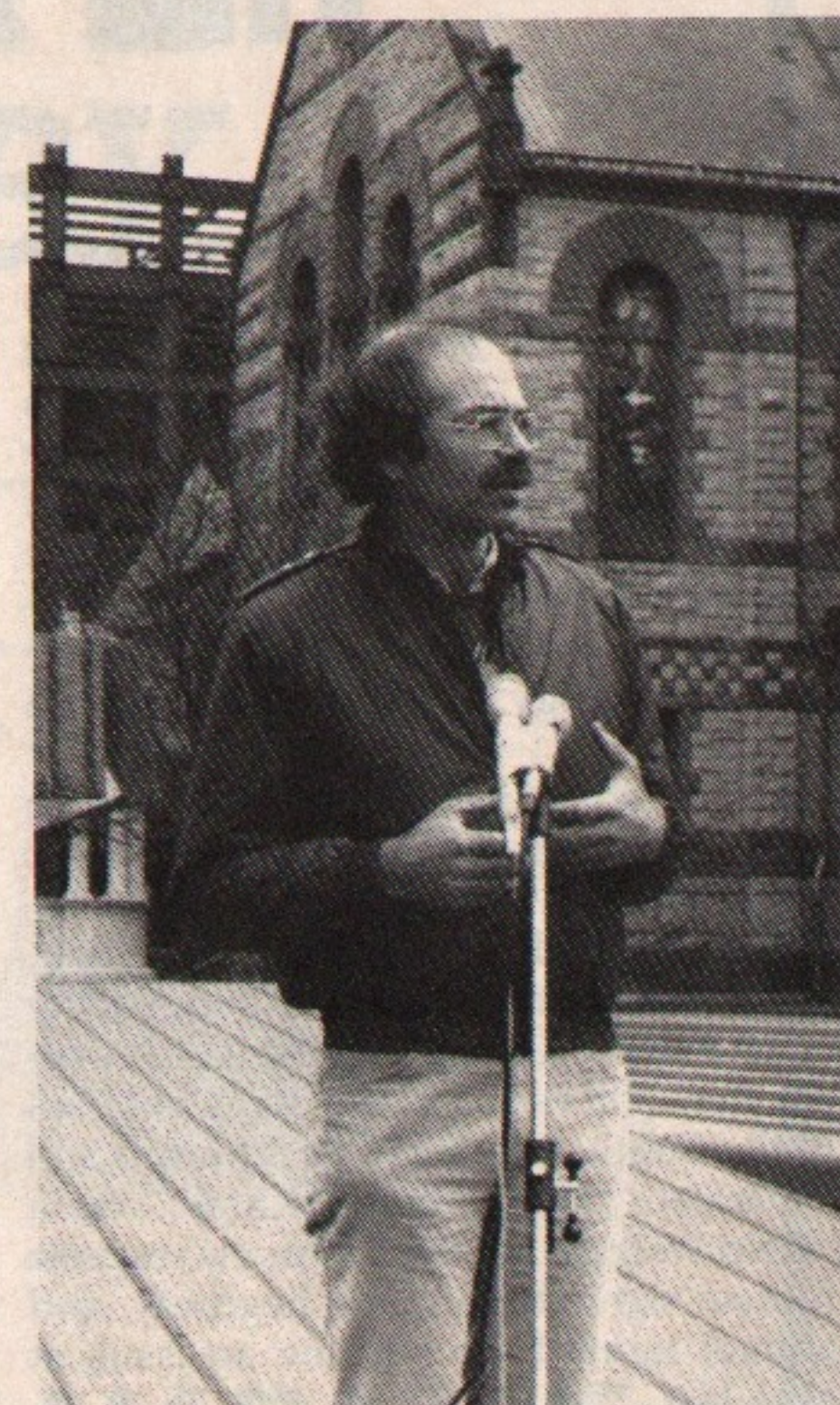
people who operate it are in a sense just cogs in that system. Sure there may be some experimenters who we feel have a sadistic streak and we might find their work particularly reprehensible, but if they are in fact harmed by anyone in the animal liberation movement, they are simply going to become martyrs and it's not going to be doing the movement any good. I also think that as evil as animal experimentation is, it is not really proper to compare animal experimenters to Hitler. They have been brought up in a system where they don't value animal suffering. They have made their careers in that way, and I'm not trying to excuse what they do in any sense, but they are more what Don Barnes has called "victims of conditioned ethical blindness" than they are people with a deep propensity for evil.

Let's return to the point about violence. By violence I specifically mean violence involving harm to humans or nonhumans; I'm not talking about property damage. I think it is going to be deplorable tactics if we do descend to that level. We are simply not going to succeed in getting our message across, because our message is a moral one and it is not going to convince people if we become an extremist minority seen as fanatics by the majority of the population. Our cause might, in the long run, be lost.

Many people don't see the struggle in such terms. Direct action campaigners sometimes see their actions as part of a larger battle against domination in all its forms. In their view, academic discussions about morality and reform often don't carry much weight in light of the extreme conditions under which most animals live.

I can understand the view that human society is at war against animals. Certainly a lot of what we do to animals involves the weapons and attitudes of war. So one might say, "All right, this is a war and we should take the side of the animals, we should use all the methods of war that are open to us." In a sense that's understandable; yet it seems to me absolutely hopeless as a strategy because I think you would need to ask yourself, if you take that view, how are we ever going to win this war? The direct action people may well be growing in numbers but they are quite simply microscopic in terms of their numbers in relation to society. If they do grow, then we will start to see all the forces of counter-revolutionary police being used against them, and there is no way they will withstand that. They will be crushed and animals will be no better off for all their ef-

forts and all their sacrifice. So I think that we ought to keep to the broader path, the path of trying to win public approval.



Richard Salvucci

The more radical ends of political struggles, however, often serve to move the mean up. The ALF is a clear example. In the case of Vietnam, one would have to wonder whether those people working through the political system would have had any success if the more radical edge had been absent. So maybe what that suggests is that there is a need for this element as well.

I think that can be the case. It's dangerous. It runs the risk of putting people off and the whole movement gets colored by it. But I do think that sometimes it does make what used to be a radical position seem a more moderate position and that is a good thing.

You said earlier that, in your opinion, the message of animal liberation is a moral one. Isn't it the case, though, that the issue is just as much a political and social one, and that we should come to recognize it as such and to discover and communicate the sweeping range of questions and implications it raises for society in terms of the economic system, education, commercialism, science, government and so on? Do you see this as possibly happening?

I think it would be valuable to have that broader vision of the nature of animal exploitation, what underpins it, and what

INTERVIEW

keeps it going. But I don't know whether that in itself will be a key to animal liberation.

Many people working for animals would like to keep such ideas and issues out of the picture. However, animal liberation is going to require major institutional and attitudinal changes. The social consequences will undoubtedly be very broad. So perhaps it isn't possible or wise to try to restrict the discussion to a purely ethical level.

I'm torn on that. I think on the one hand you're right. We can't really achieve the goals of animal liberation without a very far reaching change which would simultaneously lead us to abolishing nuclear weapons, achieving global justice, and so on. On the other hand, if what we are talking about is not the attainment of all the goals of animal liberation, but only some significant steps forward along that path, these steps might be achievable without that big change in attitudes; and if they are, then it's worth trying to get them. The big change in attitudes has been a long time in the works and I don't see any sign of it coming rapidly. So I wouldn't like people to abandon efforts to achieve particular practical goals.

We want to build the widest possible movement in order to have some hope of getting enough people to support us to achieve those worthwhile changes, and yet we need to achieve more sweeping attitudinal changes for peace and justice. So I think we are sort of stuck with this dilemma: either lose some people from the movement who are more politically conservative on other issues but who are prepared to go along with animal liberationist views about such things as factory farming and animal experimentation, or postpone re-educating people about the other basic issues.

On a related note, there is a recent trend in the U.S. among animal liberation groups toward professionalization and bureaucratization of their structures in the same way that animal welfare organizations became large, corporate entities in the not-so-distant past. The "bigger is better" mindset is now part of many activist groups, and mailing lists, media attention and money have come to occupy much of the movement's dialogue and time. What have you been seeing in this regard and what suggestions do you have for animal groups?

I think there is a very dangerous tendency for groups to be too concerned with their own survival as groups and with maintaining their own importance. It's easy to justify strengthening the financial

basis of your own organization because you can't do anything without money, but the problem is that you end up doing things that are not really what you started out to do. It's much easier to raise funds by focusing on animals that have a public appeal, for example, or are victims of extreme abuse, but it is very important to focus on the laboratory rat or the veal calf, and the factory-farmed pig or chicken.

The other dangerous thing that can happen is that you cease to be an activist, grassroots organization. What really does matter is having groups in every city doing things, getting media attention, stirring up the local universities or commercial laboratories or factory farms. If you simply have a large organization, basically run from Washington or Boston or wherever it might be, it doesn't matter if they have 100,000 members around the country who send them money, because if those people do nothing but send a donation, it's really not going to change things in the end. There must be local activist groups where people get together to plan campaigns, talk to their local Congresspeople, reinforce each other's determination to fight for animals. The group that becomes too bureaucratic or centralized or too concerned with its own perpetuation as a group loses sight of what it is not doing and what it could be doing for animals. Becoming a member of an organization and sending them \$10 doesn't do much. It's a lot better to have a whole lot of diverse activities going on around the country.

How do questions about human freedom and liberty relate to animal liberation from your perspective and what kinds of things might people reflect upon when considering these interconnections?

I think that it is very important that animal liberationists have a sharp concern for the suffering of human animals as well as nonhuman animals. It's quite incongruous to me when, occasionally, you hear some outburst from a supporter of the animal movement that suggests that he or she really doesn't care much about fellow human beings at all. After all, if we think that it's a bad thing that nonhuman animals suffer, we must also think that it's a bad thing that human animals suffer, otherwise we'd simply be speciesists in reverse. Therefore, we can't possibly look with indifference to things like famine, oppression, or malnutrition in poorer countries of the world. Politically, I think we must be involved with those movements which do not turn a blind eye to suffering, human or nonhuman—wherever it's avoidable.

Do you find it hard to respond when doctors claim we owe most medical advances to animal experimentation?

Yes, you need to be in touch with Civitas, the American branch of CIVIS, the international organization based on the research of Hans Ruesch that opposes vivisection specifically for medical reasons as opposed to emotional and moral reasons.

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Problems with the Animal Model

AIDS Research

BY NEAL D. BARNARD, M.D.



T4 lymphocytes infected with the HTLV-III virus; the virus is budding from the plasma membrane of the lymphocytes.

— Center for Disease Control



— Courtesy PEFA

In spite of repeated injections of tissues from infected human patients, no chimpanzee has ever developed AIDS, and AIDS remains a uniquely human disease.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was first recognized in 1981. Since then, about 35,000 cases have been identified in the United States, and perhaps 1 to 1.5 million Americans are infected with the virus that causes the disease. The high rate of fatality associated with AIDS has led to diverse efforts to bring this illness under control, but progress in understanding AIDS has mainly come from three sources: epidemiology (studies of populations), clinical studies of patients, and *in vitro* (meaning literally "in glass", the term refers to procedures like tissue cultures which do not require the use of a living human or nonhuman animal) laboratory studies to isolate and examine the AIDS virus.

Careful epidemiological studies showed increasing numbers of individuals with unusual infections. They showed evidence of weakened immune function. Studies of the population of affected individuals showed that what had first appeared to be isolated cases was actually a newly emerging disease. These studies also showed that the disease probably involved an infectious agent such as a virus. They revealed who was at most risk to contract the disease, and how it was passed from one individual to another. They suggested the means of preventing further spread of the ill-

ness: changing sexual practices, and taking precautions when handling injection equipment and performing blood transfusions. Clinical studies of patients in hospitals demonstrated the course of the disease and led to the continuing search for means to combat the viral damage. They showed much about how the virus invades the body and weakens its defenses.

The report of the isolation of the virus from human blood by French researcher F. Barre-Sinoussi in 1983, and by Robert Gallo in the U.S. the following year, confirmed that a virus was indeed responsible for AIDS. This critical step allowed further studies of the virus, and studies of agents that may help control the virus. The virus has been referred to by several names including HTLV-III, LAV, and HIV (human immunodeficiency virus).

Many chimpanzee experiments have been carried out in order to demonstrate that AIDS is a transmissible disease, or in an attempt to cause the disease in chimps. Alter et al. (1984) infused plasma from AIDS patients into three chimps, none of whom developed AIDS, although two developed antibodies to the AIDS virus. Francis et al. (1984) injected the virus into two juvenile chimps, both of whom remained healthy. Fultz (1986) reported further observations of those two chimps as well as four more injected with the virus. No chimp

Animal experiments were not necessary nor particularly helpful in showing human transmissibility of AIDS, and animal experiments directed at developing a "model" for the disease have met with little success.

developed AIDS, although the virus could be recovered from five of the six into whom it had been injected. Gajdusek (1985) reported on 25 chimps as well as several monkeys inoculated with various bodily tissues or fluids from AIDS patients. None of these animals has developed AIDS. One of the infant subjects died in the course of the experiment, but his death was not attributable to AIDS. The surviving animals remain under surveillance.

The stated goal of one team of AIDS researchers was "to transmit a severe, lasting immunodeficiency or clinical disease to chimpanzees and monkeys . . ." (Gajdusek, 1984) They injected samples of spleen, lymph node, bone marrow, brain, and plasma from AIDS patients into chimpanzees, rhesus monkeys, cynomolgus monkeys, stump-tail macaques, a capuchin monkey, and a squirrel monkey. The injections were done into the skin, muscles, abdomen, and even brain of the animals. To the disappointment of the researchers, all animals remained well up to a year after injection.

Animal experiments were not necessary nor particularly helpful in showing human transmissibility of AIDS, and animal experiments directed at developing a "model" for the disease have met with little success. Researchers have managed to keep the virus active in some chimps for extended periods; some of them have made antibodies to the virus or have had enlargement of lymph nodes. However, some chimps do not keep the virus alive, and some have no response to it at all. In spite of repeated injections of tissues from infected patients, no chimpanzee has ever developed AIDS, and AIDS remains a uniquely human disease. Only humans have developed the malignancies and opportunistic infections that are characteristic of the disease.

For all our similarities with the chimpanzee, the chimp's immune system has significant differences.

They naturally have lower numbers of the T4 lymphocyte, the cell which is the principal target of the AIDS virus (Eichberg, 1984). They have higher numbers of another blood cell commonly measured in AIDS patients, the T8 lymphocyte. Chimps show a different ratio of T4 cells to T8 cells. This ratio is one of the principal blood tests for the AIDS syndrome. In response to the virus, some researchers have found that chimps have no change in the T4:T8 ratio (Fultz, 1986), while in humans a change in this ratio is the signal that AIDS is underway. In humans, the AIDS virus can be found in blood plasma. In chimps, little or no free virus is found in plasma. The virus is found only in blood cells.

A disease with some similarities occurs in monkeys. Often referred to as "Simian AIDS", this disease has been manifested by opportunistic infections and death in some infected rhesus monkeys. Others have suffered wasting, diarrhea, and changes in blood cell numbers, but have not died. Still other monkeys have shown only blood changes and lymph node enlargement. This disease is not caused by the same virus that causes AIDS, and it is unknown to what extent the ongoing research on the simian disease will be relevant to AIDS.

Stress and Immune Function

An additional problem is that infant and toddler chimps are often used in this research. The time frame for maturation of a chimp is roughly similar to that of a human, and a two-year-old chimp is physiologically and sexually immature. Infants and juveniles are not ready to live apart from their mothers, let alone in the isolation often used in viral research. The psychological effects are of concern in and of themselves, but also have important secondary effects on the immune function of the animals. It has been shown that the immune system, which is of principal

interest in AIDS research, is significantly affected by stress such as separation and confinement in the laboratory environment. Psychosocial factors, in fact, can modify resistance to infectious diseases, including viruses. This has been documented for the herpes simplex virus, poliomyelitis virus, coxsackie virus, and polyoma virus. In addition, stress and manipulation can affect susceptibility to malignancies, of obvious concern to research on AIDS since part of the syndrome of AIDS is a susceptibility to unusual malignancies.

While isolation and confinement are probably the most chronic and difficult stressors on chimps used in AIDS research, there are many other stressors as well. These chimps generally undergo regular examinations before and after infection with the virus, involving repeated manipulation, biopsies, and injections.

The Abuse of the Chimpanzee

The fact that no animal other than the human or the chimpanzee maintains the AIDS virus in the body has prompted many in the scientific community to call for a massive federally-funded project to intensively breed chimpanzees for research. The limitations of this proposal are apparent. There is a significant lag time between the decision to breed chimpanzees and the increased availability of mature animals. Artificial insemination of females and electro-ejaculation of males are the grim realities of this sort of proposal. Should pregnancy occur, the babies are taken away from their mothers at the earliest opportunity. This practice may promote fertility, but it also promotes marked psychological deficiencies in both mother and infant, and is contrary to the provision in the federal Animal Welfare Act which requires attention to the psychological needs of primates. Animals involved in AIDS research are at particular risk for long-term suffering. Not only is there prolonged and strict isolation from their peers, there is also a lack of contact with caretakers due to fear of contagion.

Because of the small number and the unique nature of the chimpanzee, a special report on AIDS from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and the Institute of Medicine (*Confronting AIDS*, National Academy Press, Washington, D.C., 1986) expressed concern about the ways chimpanzees might be used: "The committee is gravely concerned that chimpanzees

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have been and might be used for experiments for which the rationale is not compelling in light of the scarcity and irreplaceable nature of these animals."

Antiviral Agents and Vaccines

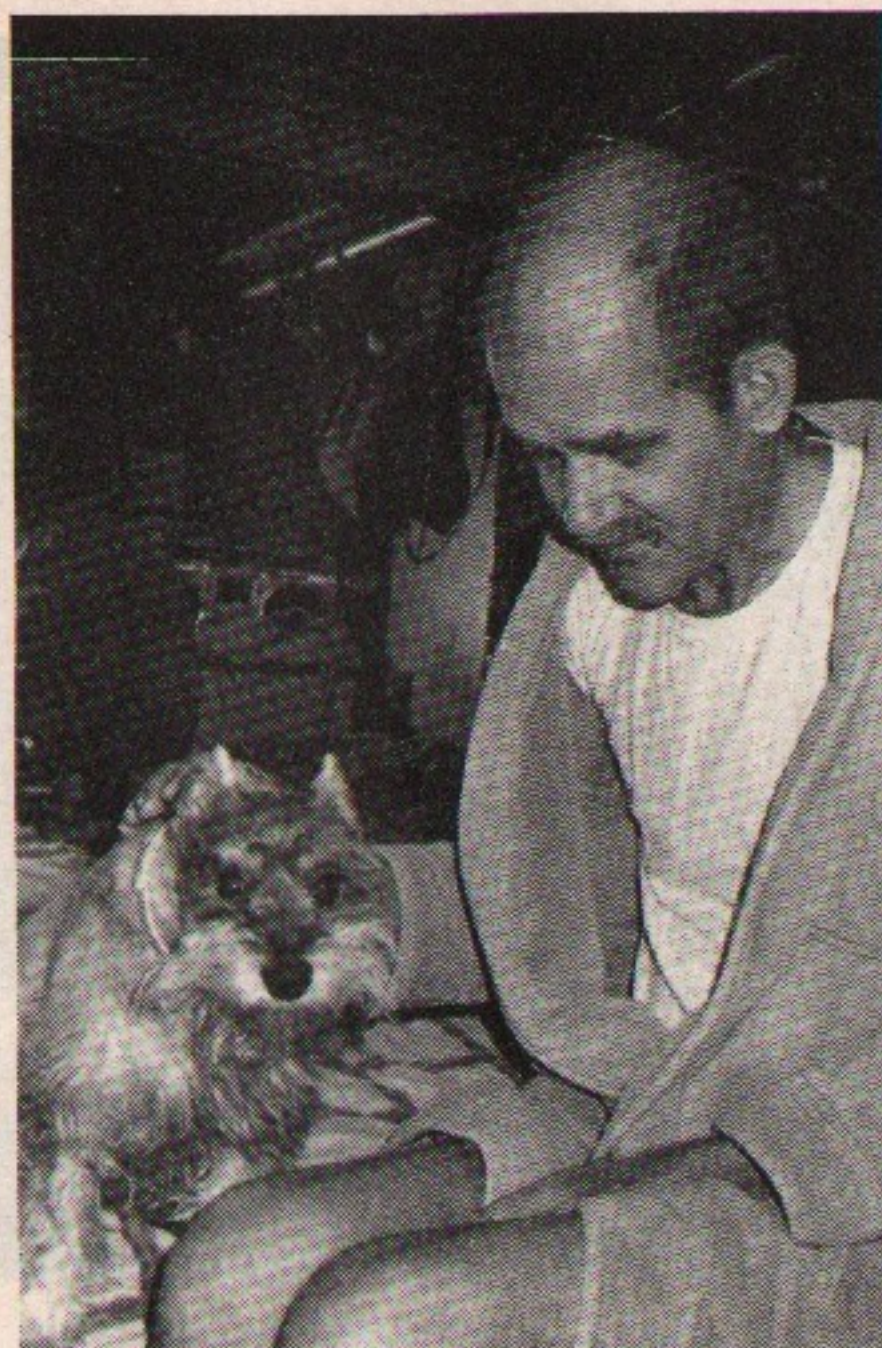
Innovative *in vitro* techniques have been the backbone of AIDS research. These techniques have been enormously helpful in research on the AIDS virus, and in the search for agents that might fight or prevent the disease. For example, new agents are tested *in vitro* for their ability to block the viral enzyme *reverse transcriptase*.

In spite of this, the NAS/Institute of Medicine report pointed out that no significantly effective AIDS treatment is expected in the foreseeable future: "HIV must be approached as a member of the class of viruses for which successful treatment may be most difficult to find. Furthermore, as a member of the family of retro-viruses, HIV represents a type of viral pathogen whose therapy has never before been attempted in humans."

One major stumbling block in the search for an AIDS treatment is the fact that the AIDS virus invades the brain and central nervous system. There are reports of neurological signs and symptoms in 30 to 75 percent of AIDS patients. Brain infections may be due to the HIV virus itself, or to viruses, bacteria, or fungi that invade the brain because of the weakened immune system. Kaposi's sarcoma, a form of cancer commonly seen in AIDS patients, may metastasize (spread) to the brain in rare cases.

An effective drug must be able to pass from the blood stream into the brain. This is difficult because of the "blood/brain barrier" which often excludes therapeutic drugs. This was a problem with suramin, one of the early drugs tested against AIDS. In addition to other failures of suramin, it cannot penetrate the barrier into the central nervous system.

Vaccine development will most likely proceed through *in vitro* testing and production by recombinant DNA techniques. Nonetheless, the difficulties in developing a vaccine against HIV are enormous. Vaccines against other viruses act to mobilize the immune system against the virus. Unlike other disease viruses, however, HIV acts specifically to destroy the immune system. No vaccine has ever been developed against a virus that attacks the human immune system. The



Sam Alford, founding member of the People With AIDS Coalition, found comfort in the company of Trischler—his best friend.

NAS/Institute of Medicine report ponders the serious questions about the development of an AIDS vaccine: "Developing a vaccine to prevent HIV infection and AIDS presents a number of scientific challenges that have never before been responded to successfully. As a result, an effective vaccine may be very difficult, if not impossible, to produce . . . Even for the next five to ten years, the committee generally believes that the probability of a licensed vaccine becoming available is low."

Testing vaccines on chimps will carry a significant problem in interpretation, as neither safety nor efficacy in chimps is any guarantee of the behavior of a potential vaccine in humans. This problem was evident when the polio vaccine actually gave polio to some children in whom it was first tested. This problem will be even graver with an AIDS vaccine because of the fatality of the disease. Because the AIDS virus is far more problematic, some have raised the question as to whether a vaccine can safely be given to people at all, and whether any pharmaceutical company will be willing to carry it. Vaccines have been dropped by many manufacturers because of the tremendous liability involved in their production. An additional stumbling point is the tendency of the virus to change. Several forms of the virus exist. An agent or vaccine against one form may or may not be effective against other forms.

Because of multiple problems with the use of chimpanzees, new strategies have been developed that may dispense with animal tests of vaccines. Vaccines against whooping cough, Hemophilus influenza, and meningococcus were marketed essentially without animal testing because of the absence of a usable animal "model". Production and batch testing for safety of some vaccines can now be done with *in vitro* techniques. These should be expanded in order to streamline research on AIDS.

Researchers are beginning to test potential vaccines on human volunteers. Daniel Zagury of the Pierre and Marie Curie University in Paris has injected himself and several other volunteers with a vaccine created by Bernard Moss at the National Institutes of Health. The vaccine is a live vaccinia virus with a small piece of the AIDS virus within it. An increasing number of scientists are recommending testing of vaccines in humans without prior tests on chimpanzees.

Future Directions

It is not the intention of this article to suggest that a vaccine or antiviral agent for the AIDS virus is impossible to develop. It is, however, essential to recognize that neither of these will be available for several years. It is critical to keep hopes for distant advances from limiting other public health efforts that must be undertaken immediately.

What are the areas most likely to help turn the tide of the epidemic? The NAS/Institute of Medicine report stated: "For at least the next several years, the most effective measures for significantly reducing the spread of HIV infection are education of the public and voluntary changes in behavior . . . Public education about HIV infection is, and will continue to be, a critical public health measure, even if a vaccine or drug becomes available."

In addition, important *in vitro* research, and clinical and epidemiologic studies should continue. These are the areas that have been most fruitful to date. It is imperative that the efforts against this difficult disease not lead us to destroy chimpanzees or other animals in the vain hope that they may someday act as an exact surrogate for the human patient.

Dr. Barnard is chairman of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), P.O. Box 6322, Washington, D.C. 20015.

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Herscovici's Lament

Second Nature: The Animal Rights Controversy

By Alan Herscovici

254 pages; \$12.95 (Canadian), paper

CBC Enterprises, 1985. Box 500, Station A, Toronto (Ont.), Canada M5W 1E6. Order directly from the publisher.

Making questionable viewpoints seem perfectly normal and legitimate is the stock-in-trade of a good propagandist, and by this measure the author of this volume surely ranks with the best. For in *Second Nature*, a supposedly factual overview of the issues dividing Canada's indigenous peoples and animal rights advocates, Alan Herscovici, a Montreal-based journalist and broadcaster, has in actuality handed the fur industry what may well become its standard line of defense.

The arguments marshalled by Mr. Herscovici don't follow the usual pattern. Aware of the futility of debating again which method of trapping is more "humane", and apparently convinced that in propaganda wars truth is not essential, only what people believe, Mr. Herscovici takes a different tack. Donning the hat of "common sensical" conservationist and zealous defender of a threatened culture, he hits his targets obliquely. The result is an elegant book that talks a great deal about Indian rights and ecology, and about the virtues of living close to the land, but which rarely misses a chance to discredit the idea of animal rights.

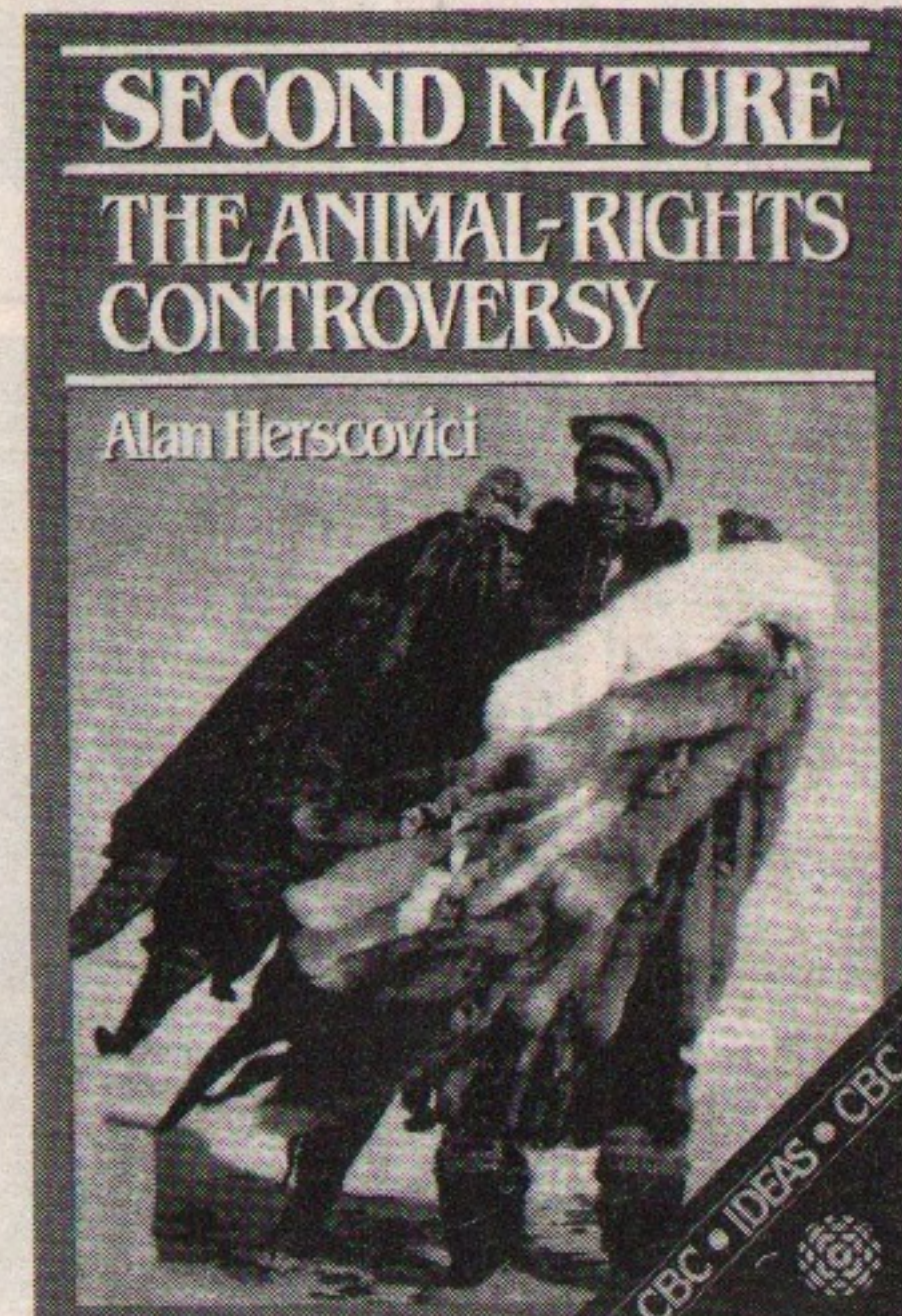
That Mr. Herscovici is prepared to go to any length to prove the perfidy of radical ecologists and animal defenders is clear throughout the book. If one is to believe Mr. Herscovici, the only serious issues facing wildlife are those posed by a vaguely defined habitat encroachment and the fanaticism of animal defenders:

The root of our ecological crisis lies in technology, urbanism and wealth. Animal rights groups, however, have to date attacked those who live closest to the land, who are poorest and who have remained relatively aloof from mass technological society: sealers, fur trappers and native peoples. (Pages 40-41, italics ours.)

This is vintage Herscovici, at once seductive, plausible and supremely demagogic. But first of all, if animal defenders are opportunistic bullies, as he tars them, how does he account for the

fact that animal rights activists and radical ecologists stand today in the forefront of opposition to some of the most powerful interests in the land, including the Pentagon, agribusiness, the medical research establishment, and the hunting lobby? Besides, his repeated denunciations of "wealth"—by which he means a higher level of individual consumption—is peculiar, coming as it does from an individual who has made it his business to defend the fur industry, an entity well known for its repugnant catering to the corporate rich and its deliberate encouragement of self indulgence.

Second, if the "richer" we become, the more we tax nature, does it follow that the



way out of this dilemma is by preaching a massive conversion to asceticism? Does Mr. Herscovici—an astute observer of society—really expect technology to fold up while almost five billion people return docilely to a stage of primitive handicrafts?

Perhaps the answer is that Mr. Herscovici actually doesn't care. The purpose of *Second Nature* is to prove a point about the legitimacy of commercial fur-trapping, not to provide a credible blueprint for sound ecological and social change. Still, enough is said in the book to plant a great many seeds of confusion. For example, Mr. Herscovici's inveighing against "Western civilization", "wealth", "urbanism" and "technology" as heavy burdens on the ecosystem is on target as far as it goes, but the context of the critique remains shallow and expedient. If Western civilization threatens the environment, as he claims, it's not because it has been "successful" (whatever that may be), but because technology and industrialism have been yoked from the very beginning to the imperatives of profit maximization at the expense of almost everything else. People who are quick to condemn "technology" as being intrinsically malignant forget that all human technology is shaped by the economic system in which it is ingrained, and that it is that system that imparts technology its character, not the other way around. Elevating technology to the status of a mysterious and autonomous force is simply fetishism.

But it is the recurring theme of animal rights people as callous "cultural imperialists"—*Second Nature's* main thrust, that provides Mr. Herscovici and his allies with a trump card in their public relations offensive. Never mind that, as explained below, his pleading in this controversy is rather suspect; the charges of "gross interference in the affairs of indigenous peoples" have already proved effective. (Soon after they were floated, the accusations knocked Greenpeace out of a successful antifur campaign.) Still, if we leave politics and image considerations aside, what are the facts?

Mr. Herscovici paints an alluring picture of life in the Great North, describing the Crees, Metis, Inuits and other tribes as paragons of ecological wisdom. Unfortunately, the realities tell a different story. It's been a long time since the animals killed by native people supplied all the physical needs of the population (food, shelter, clothing, fuel, tools, etc.). In today's world the aboriginal culture is so dependent on the commercial economy instituted by fur traders in the 18th century that animals are largely killed for cash. As previously pointed out in these pages (see *Intelligencer*, Nov./Dec. 86),

Continued on next page

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The old assertion that a picture is worth a thousand words is especially true of films on animals. The film medium is a powerful mirror for the creatures' beauty and innocence, and a devastating witness to the horrors we visit upon them. Images and sounds require no formal literacy, nor a capacity for elegant thought. All that is needed is decency, and the ability to feel.

It is therefore very good news that the animal defense community can now boast its own (nonprofit) video and film distribution center. Activists have long complained of not being able to secure films or videotapes on time or at reasonable prices from various commercial sources. Argus Archives, for example,

which catalogs and evaluates films for humane education, but which does not stock any films or tapes for rental purposes, receives many requests which must be routed to as many as 100 different distributors. Something had to be done about this horrid bottleneck, and finally, it was. In 1986 Ron Scott, a director of Argus Archives, approached Esther Mechler with the idea of starting a center devoted exclusively to the distribution of video materials dealing with animal issues. The group applied for grants, and in December of that year the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation sent word that a funding request had been approved. (The Dodge Foundation has an admirable track record in this regard, having funded

many worthwhile projects over the years, and provided crucial support for some of the best cultural, informational and nature-oriented programming on public television.)

Soon after that, The Humane Society of the United States contributed additional funding and the project was on its way. Today, *Focus on Animals* stocks 16 films under the categories of "general", vegetarianism, animal research, hunting, furs, wildlife and pet overpopulation. The growing list includes *We Are All Noah*, PETA's *Unnecessary Fuss*, and CBS's classic, *The Guns of Autumn*. Negotiations are under way to obtain *The Animals' Film*. The formats available are half-inch VHS tapes for home and small-group viewing; 16 mm films, and three-quarter-inch tapes which include broadcasting rights. To facilitate discussion, *Focus* offers teachers' guides with each item. All these films can be used to raise consciousness in schools, churches and civic groups, to educate legislators and opinion leaders, and for broadcast on public access television.

—P. Greanville



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REVIEWS

Continued from previous page

native Canadians have been reduced to a welfare-dependent culture not unlike that found in America's inner cities. Indeed, the average income of native Canadians is about two-thirds the national average, and their second largest source of income is welfare checks. More ominous still, in 1979 publicly-assisted natives accounted for 70 per cent of all inmates in provincial and federal jails in the prairie provinces, and the juvenile delinquency rate was three times the national average. Suicide alone is six times more frequent among them than among other Canadians.

That picture is bleak enough, but there is something else to consider. In the Northwest Territories, the fur industry is worth about \$4 million, and in the Yukon it amounts to only \$1 million. Those are Canada's northernmost regions, where employment opportunities are minimal. Can anyone honestly believe that after having become almost totally dependent on welfare and on a huge industry of which they are but a tiny, shrinking and impoverished component, fur-trapping will now provide the ticket to salvation for their entire culture? Native people are not so naive. A research paper compiled by the government in 1984 shows that indigenous students listed career aspirations not significantly different from students in southern Canada, and that trapping was not a major source of cash. Indeed, trapping as a career was chosen by only one per cent of the youngsters responding to the survey! In light of this, I'm not too sure that animal rights groups—advocating alternative occupations and a genuine program to give native peoples a footing in the national economy—are the worst offenders. In fact, the accusations can be easily upended. For if people, and especially the young in these aboriginal communities, are downright unhappy with their present lot, what gives Mr. Herscovici and his allies in the fur industry and Canadian bureaucracy the right to help perpetuate this status quo? Isn't that attitude evocative of the rich tourist who, blinded by his own colonialist prejudices, sees nothing but quaintness and folkloric color in the social backwardness and pain of a poor nation?

Now, for the most part, latter-day converts to a cause can be suspected of political opportunism. The hunting lobby has been protesting for some time its ecological credentials, but such arguments did not surface in the good old days when killing animals for fun was "above reproach." In those simpler, less

self-conscious and more truthful years you never heard hunters talking about ecology; only how good it felt to blast away this or that animal. Still, to enter the forest as an enlightened environmentalist rather than as a moral retard is a good move in this age of government by image-making.

The alliance struck between furriers, assorted bureaucrats, wildlife managers, and the more conservative wing of the indigenous movement is equally cynical. Who ever heard of a furrier worrying about the rights of native populations before radical ecologists started shaking the boat? It's obvious that this sudden concern is nothing but a ruse calculated to advance these groups' objectives behind the shield of "indigenous rights." Cruelty, the secret ingredient of every fur coat, is impossible to defend, but who can argue against "sensible" conservationism, or the right of a noble, long-victimized people to its own way of life? Still, the game was practically given away by Chief Erasmus, head of Indigenous Survival International, and a crucial player in the pro-fur propaganda campaign. "We are more than convinced," he declared in an interview, "that [it] is the indigenous population angle that will give strength to the fur industry in general."

Examined against this background, Herscovici's impassioned pleas on behalf of the North's native cultures lose much of their righteous vigor, and the fact that his polemic fits so snugly with the p.r. objectives of the furriers adds to the suspicion that *Second Nature* may have had a second, less exalted motive for its publication. (Mr. Herscovici happens to be the son of a prominent Montreal furrier, but neither he nor the publisher chose to communicate this fact to the readers.)

Finally, as a typical "hard-nosed" conservationist, Mr. Herscovici's arguments nimbly ignore the "quality of life" issue. Time and again he stresses, almost wistfully, that all is well because the indigenous trappers are "responsible", finely attuned to nature, and will not overhunt an area. That is certainly admirable, but it misses the point. Paying attention to the survival of a species is an important issue, but species are abstractions which do not suffer—only individual animals do. So the question remains: *Who* is responsible for the unnecessary infliction of much pain and premature death on countless individual animals? Mr. Herscovici's answer to this question is simply to plead the old social Darwinist excuse: nature is cruel, death inevitable and necessary. Humans are not obligated to rise above this "natural" moral ethic.

REVIEWS

It may be argued that predators or muskrats in an overcrowded marsh have no choice but to kill. Humans, it is said, do have a choice. All animal populations produce more offspring than are needed to replace their own numbers. The excess must be eliminated one way or another. The central fallacy of the animal rights groups' opposition to trapping is that they suggest death and suffering would be ended if trapping were banned. Nothing could be more false. (P. 124)

Should we really abide by this minimalist ethic? The absurdity of this position and its profound speciesist base become immediately clear when we apply the prescription to human circumstances. For Herscovici's suggestion is analogous to arguing that we should not prevent war because death, suffering and random violence already occur in human society. But more importantly, the moral question facing humanity is not to try to perform miracles, but to decide whether it is proper to inflict great suffering and death on an animal when one's own immediate survival is not at issue. Animals, imprisoned by their own evolu-

tionary limitations, cannot easily escape the level of cruelty demanded by a life in the wild. But we do. Our culture and technology represent a liberation from the more primitive levels of moral choice. And since we live in human-created environments, to define humans as still bound by the older ethic is dishonest.

In sum, a conservationism devoid of empathy for the suffering of animals is an ethically incomplete faith. For if the quality of life is irrelevant, and survival is all, what is the point of living? If the only thing that matters is whether we plan a total extermination campaign or not, what makes human slavery and oppression so atrocious? Why is torture—even when not meant to cause death—indefensible? Without his speciesist crutch, I'd bet that not even a thinker as wily as Mr. Herscovici could provide credible answers to that.

—Patrice Greanville

My special thanks to Barry Kent MacKay of the Toronto Humane Society, and Marlene Lakin, of F.A.R.M.'s Canadian division, for their assistance with this review.

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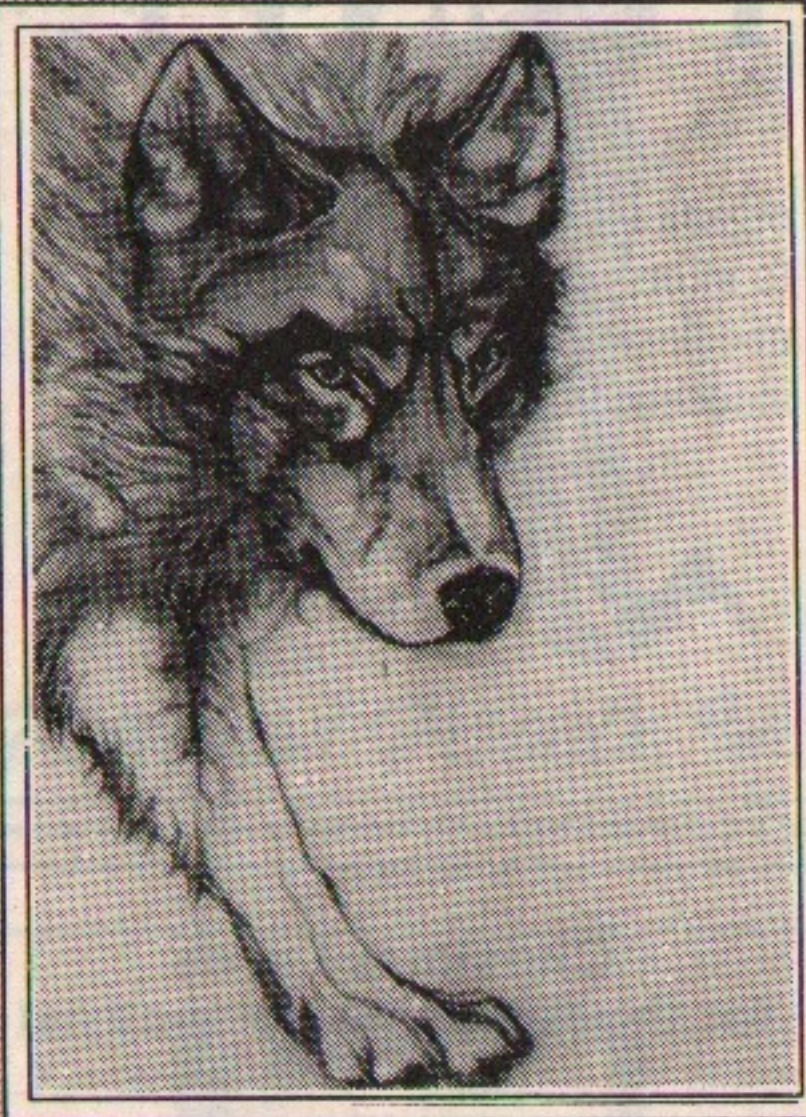
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LETTERS

Continued from page 5

in our battle to increase the public's awareness of the horrors of the biomedical laboratory, its presence must also serve as a constant reminder of the dangers inherent in any human exploitation of other animals. No matter how engaging the message, the development of a movie is no different from the development of a new medical regimen based upon the use of nonhuman animals; the ends *cannot* justify the means.

It is my sincere hope that whatever evidence of abuse in the making of *Project X* is finally documented, such material will be used to its maximal potential in removing other animals from any threat of physical or psychological mistreatment for the so-called "entertainment" of humans.

—Donald J. Barnes
National Anti-Vivisection Society
112 No. Carolina Avenue, S.E.
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Grateful for Letters

Two months ago, following an accident, I went through the worst slump of my life, and proceeded to set about ridding myself of all possessions—books, collections, and even things that pertained to my interest in animal rights.

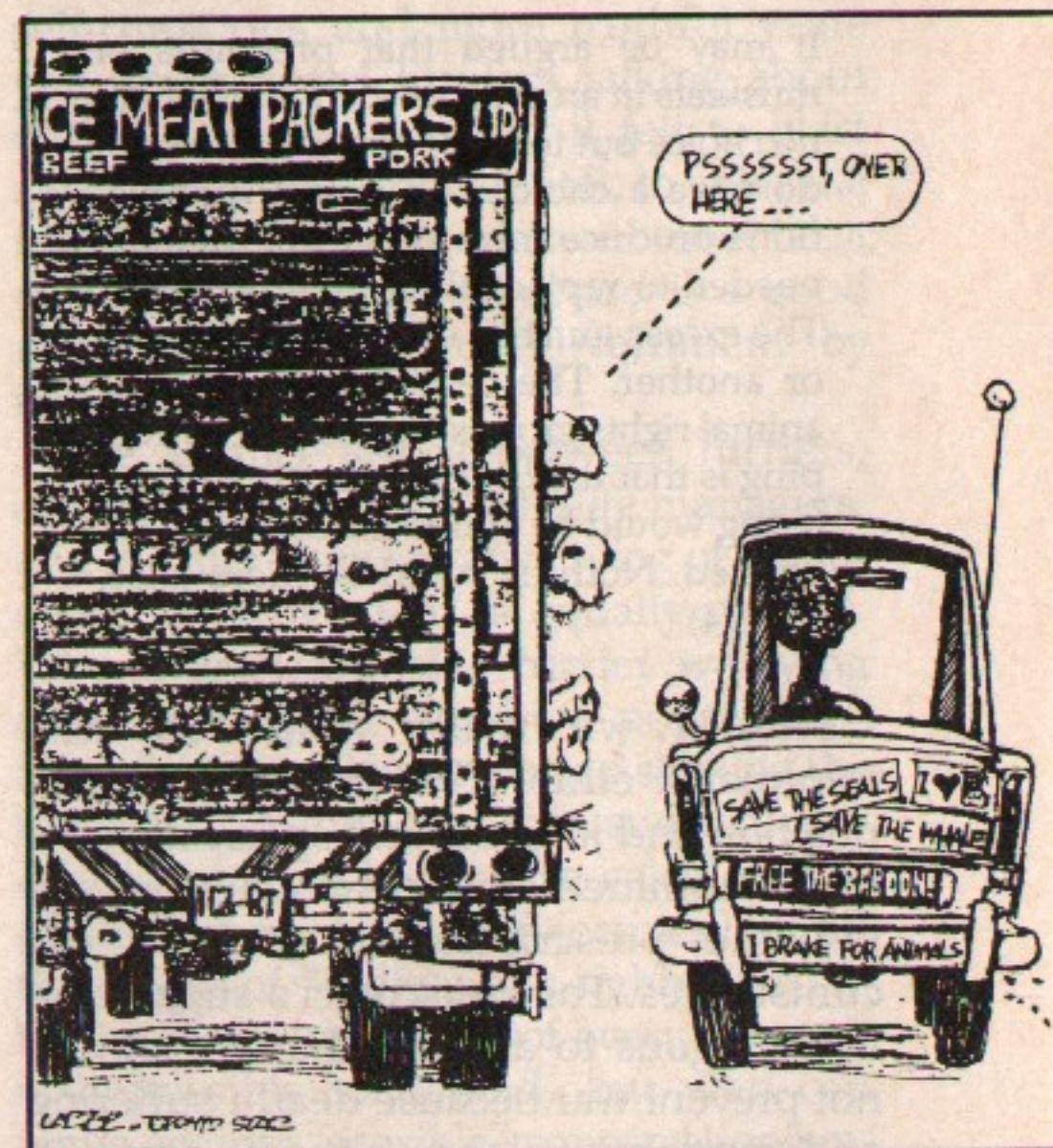
Yesterday, the June issue came in the mail, and happened to fall open in the Letters section. Each and every letter had a positive message or suggested an original approach to the subject dealt with. I can say now that I am back in the fight for animals. Thanks, writers!

—Pauline Blanc
San Francisco, CA

Pro-Dolphin Messages Helped

My article in the June ANIMALS' AGENDA ("Dolphin Killing on the Rise") came out just as we became aware of draft regulations that would have been disastrous for our dolphin cousins. These regulations would have permitted the tuna vessels of foreign nations to kill dolphins at a rate 400 percent higher than the U.S. fleet and still meet the present requirement of a "comparable" kill rate. This would allow 180,000 dolphins to be killed before the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) would have to take any action.

The letters and postcards generated by activists plus the threat of a lawsuit caused the NMFS to reconsider. At this



time, NMFS is weighing tuna industry pressure against what the American public will accept as a tolerable number of killed dolphins. We believe that no dolphins should be sacrificed for corporate greed. It is imperative to keep up citizen pressure now, and demand an end to the killing. Animal advocates should write: Secretary of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230.

—Todd Steiner
Earth Island Institute
300 Broadway, Suite 28
San Francisco, CA 94133-3312

New Friends

The coverage of the "shakeup" at Friends of Animals (News Shorts, June 1987) focused on the negative side of the "shakeup" at Friends of Animals (News Shorts, June 1987) focused on the negative side of the transition. We'd like readers to know the positive side:

Friends of Animals (FoA) is making efforts to coordinate and cooperate with other animal rights organizations to avoid duplication and competition. We want to support the effective campaigns of other groups, and we encourage them to help us with ours—all in the spirit of building massive political action against exploitation of animals.

FoA is continuing its long-established programs—notably the nationwide low-cost spay/neuter program, the campaigns against hunting and trapping, campaigns to protect marine mammals, and our professional lobbying efforts.

FoA has employed a leading New York advertising agency to cook up a television ad campaign aimed at deglamourizing

LETTERS

fur in the eyes of consumers. The ads are set to run on prime-time shows in the New York City area this fall.

FoA is preparing campaigns against factory farming and the related abuses of animal agriculture. In concert with Farm Animal Reform Movement, Food Animals Concerns Trust, Humane Farming Association and other groups, we have launched a national campaign to stop the exploitation of male dairy calves by the anemic (milk-fed) veal industry.

—Priscilla Feral and Jim Mason
Friends of Animals
P.O. Box 1244
Norwalk, CT 06854

The Tears of a Dove

I read the article about the fight to protect mourning doves in Michigan (June 1987) with interest. Dove hunting portrays the hunter's lack of respect more than anything else. Not only is the dove an international symbol of peace, doves are held very sacred throughout the Bible.

One of the reasons I quit hunting was because I noticed that the dove actually has tears in his eyes after being shot—real tears! Most dove hunters have noticed this phenomenon.

—Dallas Gragg
Montezuma, NC

Editor's Note: Dallas Gragg's inspiring story, "Why I Quit Hunting", appeared in the November 1986 issue of *The ANIMALS' AGENDA*.

A Pet Store Scene

A few days ago, my daughter and I were in a pet store that happens to sell reptiles. While passing the reptile display, I noticed a small pink-colored object in one of the snake cages, and stopped to see what it was. I was shocked to see that it was a baby gerbil or mouse, about an inch long, who was leaning up against the snake—eyes closed, bare-skinned, wiggling, and obviously unaware of the danger. The baby needed the warmth of his mother, her milk to survive.

I began to feel pity, rage, fear for the little animal, and anger at the pet store for allowing this to proceed. I approached one of the workers, and advised him of my disgust. He commented, "I wish he would eat something else," and walked away.

I wrote the store manager, and a few days later received a call. The first thing he asked me was if I was a vegetarian,
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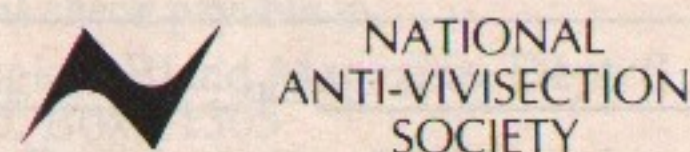
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LETTERS

Continued from previous page

and I was glad to be able to say yes. He explained that some snakes will only eat mice, and that he had made a "profit" choice in deciding that the snake was worth more than a mouse. He told me that he had some 40 mice a week fed to the snakes, and that he used rats and rabbits with the larger ones.

In their natural environment, snakes eat mice, but there the mouse has a chance to run. I don't want a snake to starve, but predator/prey interaction shouldn't take place in a pet store, or be controlled by humans.

—Laurence Cloodt
Overland Park, KS

Editor's Note: Animal advocates should refuse to patronize pet stores that actually sell animals. Plenty of pet stores only stock supplies, and don't profit from the trade in animals. Such a boycott shouldn't prevent anyone from inspecting the stores that do sell animals, however, and no one should hesitate to point out problems to shop employees (and their customers).

Increasing Group Visibility

I realize that animal rights people are opposed to pet shops, but often they are the first place someone with an animal problem may go for help. This is because they are so visible, and can be quickly located under "pets" in the phone book. Pet shop attendants keep telling me horror stories that are told to them because people aren't sure where else to go. The attendants themselves don't know who to turn to, and don't know of the many

animal rights groups and the services available.

Activists should make up a list of local humane groups (as well as national ones that might respond or have local representatives), and send copies to every pet shop and veterinarian in the phone book.

—Walt Karwicks II
York, PA

Wildlife Relocation is for Hunting

The article "Animal Airlifts" in the May issue was very informative and well written. However, a crucial and unavoidable point was completely omitted. The relocation of Canadian caribou to Maine and the relocation of Canadian moose to Michigan are being done for one purpose: so these species can reproduce themselves in great enough numbers to be hunted one day. So not only do these animals suffer at the hands of those who capture and transport them, they will eventually be subjected to further suffering and death.

We also need to watch out that state income tax checkoff funds donated by taxpayers out of their refunds (which are supposed to be used for nongame and endangered species only) are not being used for relocation programs when hunting is the goal.

—Eileen M. Liska
Michigan Humane Society
7401 Chrysler Drive
Detroit, MI 48211

Merritt Clifton replies:

There's no doubt at all that hunting is the long-term objective of the relocation programs. However, building up a herd big enough to be hunted and still maintain itself will take 15 to 20 years minimum. For several generations, the

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moose and caribou will be legally protected from hunting. A lot could happen over the 15 to 20 year span: public attitudes could shift to strongly oppose hunting, or acid rain could destroy so much habitat that the animals won't reproduce on schedule. As Ms. Liska suggests, vigilance is wise. But, meanwhile, the survivors of the relocations and their offspring should have healthy, natural lives, and the environment should benefit by their presence.

A Rat Fan

I was pleased to see Arthur Hirshorn's article, "Town and Country Rats", in the

May issue. It is ironic that rats have been hated and feared for possessing many of the same qualities we humans pride ourselves on: intelligence, resourcefulness, and strong survival instincts and skills. Being similar to us in many ways, rats make wonderful friends when we are not in competition for living space and food.

I've kept rats as pets for a little over four years, and heartily agree with Hirshorn's observation that they are sociable and adaptable. I'd go further, however, in saying that rats are bright, gentle, affectionate companions and, if kept in decent living

conditions, fastidiously clean. Anyone willing to look beyond all the bad press rats have received, and take a chance on adopting one, will be richly rewarded.

Thank you for publishing the article. Certainly these maligned creatures deserve a better image. In time, perhaps we humans will stop breeding rats and other animals for exploitation—subjecting them to extreme and pointless cruelty in laboratories, and throwing untold numbers of their dead and dying bodies out with the trash.

—Judith Trotter
Herndon, VA

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Gaia

Continued from page 35

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The creation of meaning, value, and purpose no longer hovers inside human physiology, for creativity abounds in the surrounding landscape.

mosphere and underlying geology as a single unit—as cooperating parts of the global life system. And if the planet is a coherent, self-sensing entity, we are circumscribed by this entity. If Gaia exists, then, like fish in the water or an infant in the womb, we are inside Gaia.

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Dr. Cohen is a member of the graduate faculty at Lesley College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and founder and director of the National Audubon Society Expedition Institute. He has authored three books: *Prejudice Against Nature: A Guidebook for the Liberation of Self and Planet*; *Our Classroom is Wild America*; and the recently published *How Nature Works: Regenerating Kinship with Planet Earth*.



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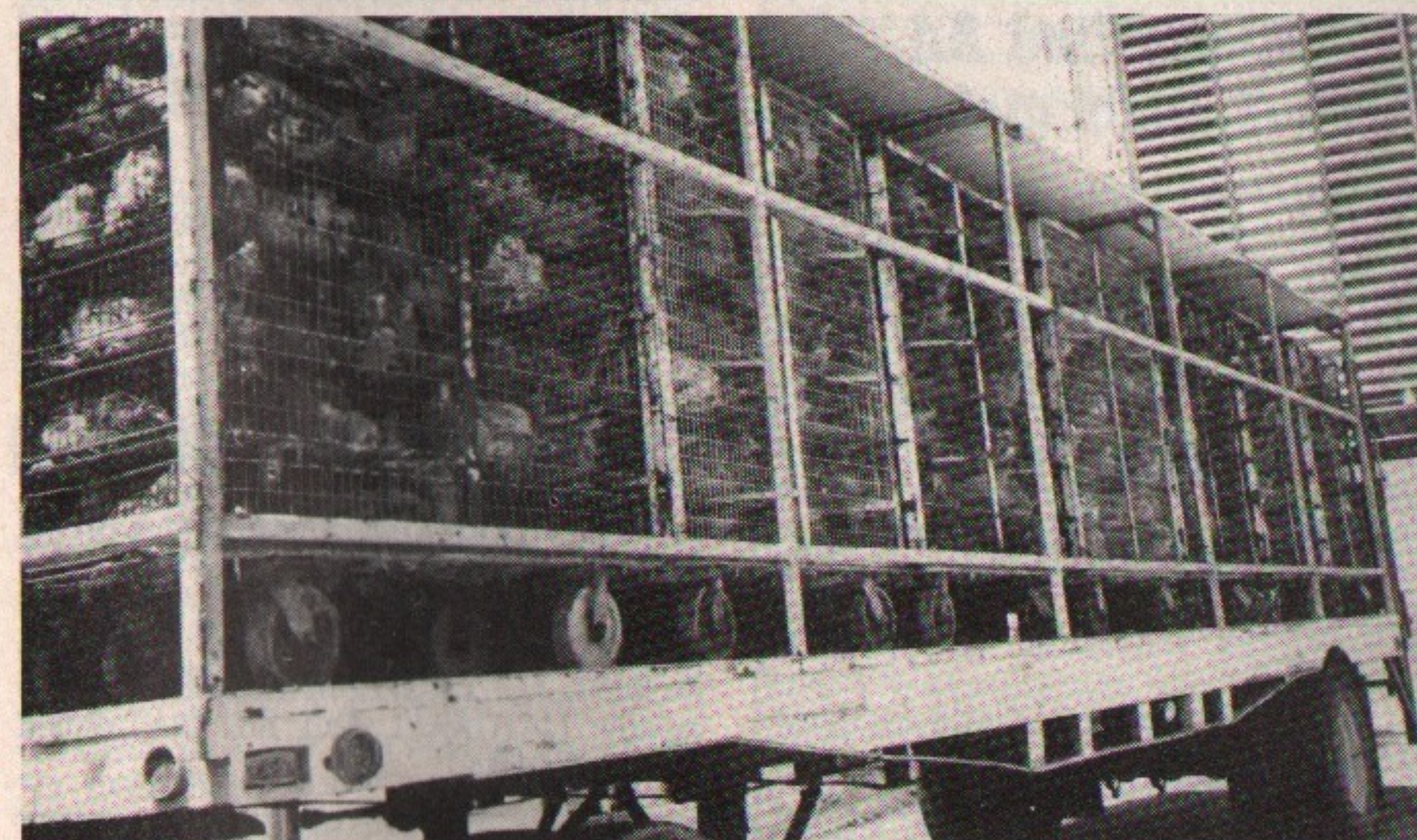


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A CRACK IN THE SHELL

Continued from page 32



Fully exposed to the elements in wire transport crates, "spent hens" may be trucked for days on their final journey.

Molting would normally occur at a slightly different time, and for a slightly different length of time, for each bird in a flock. Even among laboratory engineered hybrids, each hen has her own particular rhythm and cycle. But there is nothing individualized about factory farming. Ready or not, when statistics indicate that egg production levels are about to decline, the egg factories inflict a "forced molt" upon the entire flock. The idea is to bring all the hens quickly and simultaneously through the molting process. It is achieved by shocking the hen's system. This causes all the birds, at the same time, to lose their feathers and (temporarily) cease laying eggs.

Forced molting involves suddenly changing everything to which the hens have come to expect (except, of course, the confinement). Millions of birds, who are entirely at the mercy of their captors for sustenance, are suddenly forced to go without food for up to four days. Water is withheld for two to three days. Lighting is sharply reduced. The forced molt lasts for six weeks. After the initial food and water deprivation, the hens are given water, but only a small amount of low-protein feed. Towards the end of the forced molt, nutrition is slowly increased and the survivors (as many as 5 to 25 percent die during this period) begin to grow new feathers. Shortly thereafter, the entire flock begins another egg laying cycle.

No discussion of battery caging is complete without mentioning "Caged Layer Fatigue" (CLF). Virtually all large flocks are affected by CLF which causes the stressed birds to draw minerals from their bones and muscles. Their bones become

brittle, often breaking.

By the time battery-caged hens reach the age of 16 to 18 months, they are thoroughly worn out. The number of eggs they are able to pump out is slowly decreasing. In the industry, they are now referred to as "spent hens". Life's painful journey is almost over. No longer of value to the egg factories, the "spent hens" are literally torn from the battery cages and stuffed into transport crates. The violent handling involved in this process cannot be overstated. Necks, wings, and legs are routinely injured by hired help whose job descriptions can be summarized in five words: get rid of the birds.

The transport crates, packed full of terrified hens, are tossed onto trucks waiting outside the building. Until today, the birds have existed within a climate-controlled environment. Never before have they been outside. The open trucks do not shelter the crated passengers from the elements. Depending on the region and time of year, the hens may be trucked through bright sun and desert heat, or cold rain and winter storms. No provisions are made for food or water. In fact, some poultry journals recommend withholding food from the birds the day prior to transport since the company will never see a monetary return for feed "wasted on spent hens". The flesh from "spent hens" is so bruised and beaten up that its uses will be limited to soups, processed fast-food, pet food, or other items in which the consumer cannot discern the quality of the ingredients.

Anywhere from one to three days after leaving the egg factory, the hens arrive at the slaughterhouse. Many have already

perished. The transport crates are thrown off the trucks and the hens are unpacked. They are subjected to the same barbaric handling they received at the outset of their journey. In what will be their last contact with humans, the hens are grabbed by their legs and hung upside down on a conveyor line. The panic-stricken birds do not cooperate in this procedure, but can do nothing more than struggle in desperate protest. Wings, which have never before had the opportunity, flap wildly as the hens travel upside down through the slaughterhouse. The sound of machinery and shrieking birds resonates within the building. With varying degrees of effectiveness, the hens are stunned by electric shock. Finally, their throats are cut. Life is drained away with their blood.

By the time this group is processed, a new flock of hens have filled the cages within the house of horrors.

Brad Miller is Director of the Humane Farming Association. For information about its programs, write HEA at 1550 California St., Suite 6, San Francisco, CA 94109.

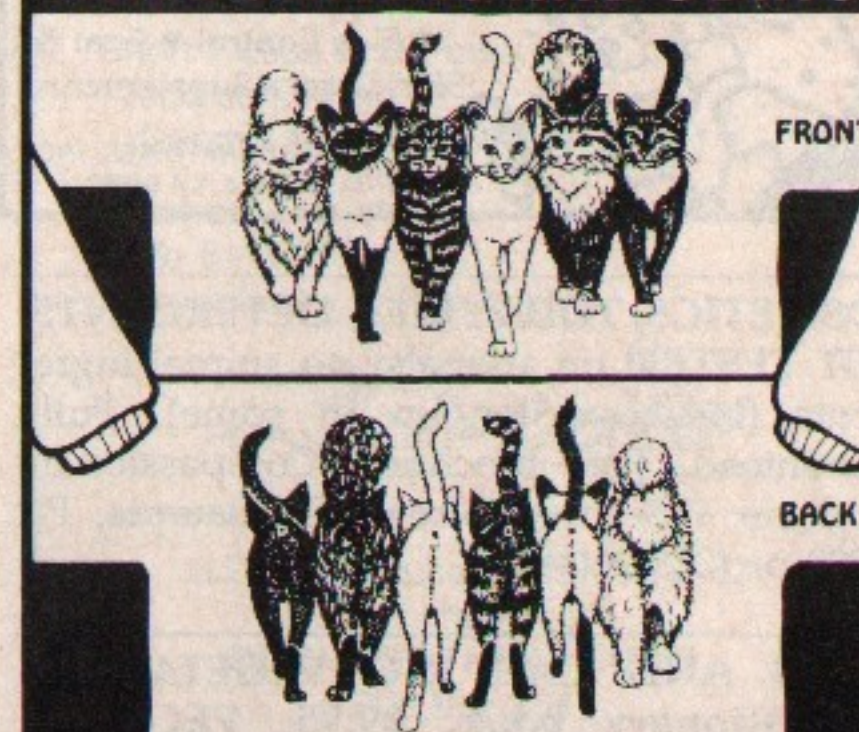
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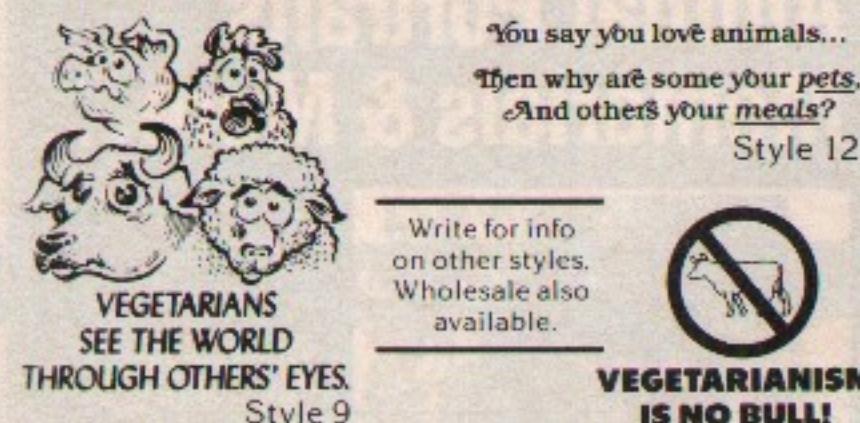


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animals are beautiful and shouldn't be harmed by us. How can they call
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