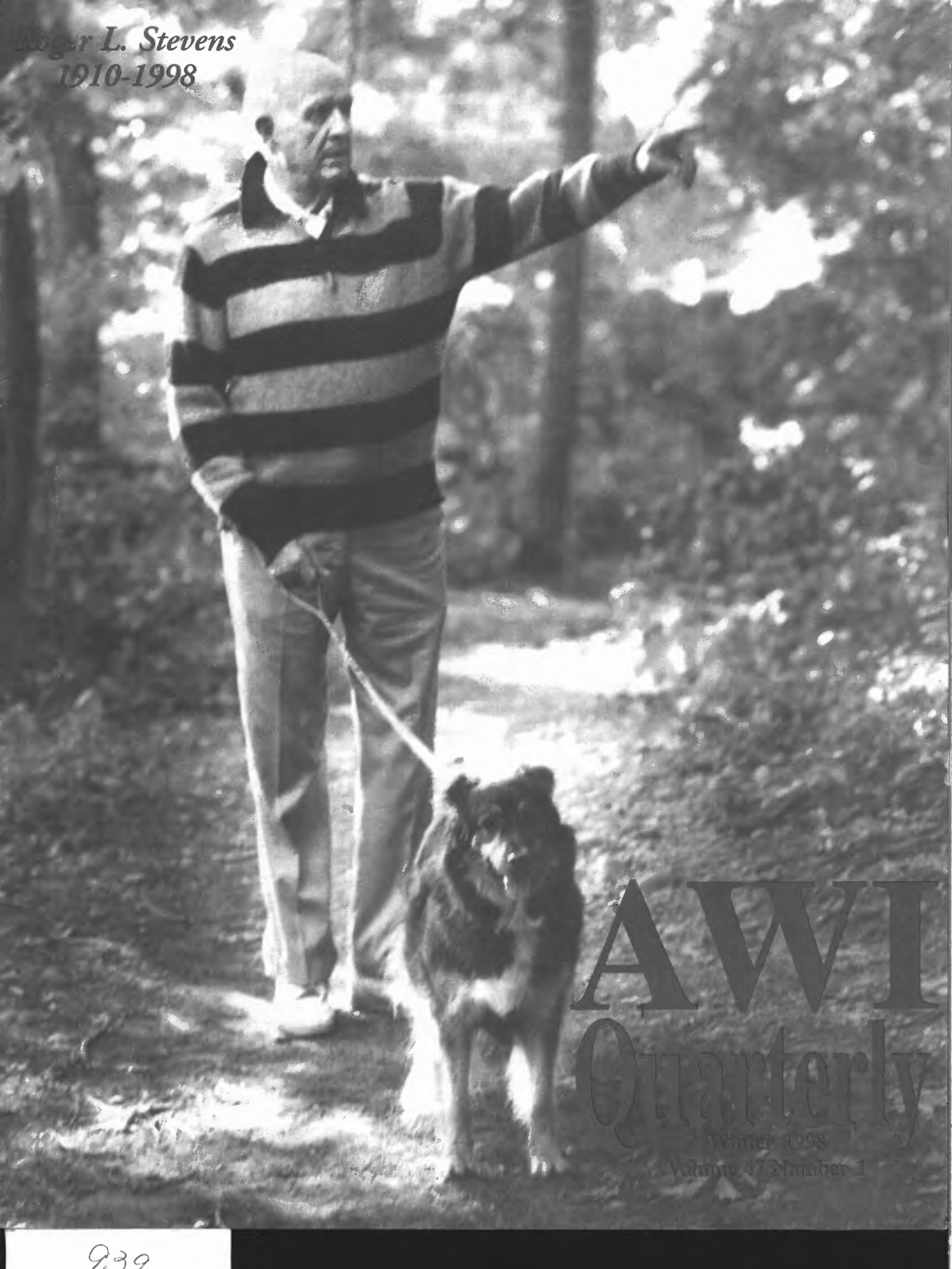


Roger L. Stevens
1910-1998



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Cover: Roger L. Stevens—the theatrical producer, arts patron and administrator who helped to found the Animal Welfare Institute, and served as its treasurer for 46 years—walks with the Stevenses' dog May. See our appreciation of Mr. Stevens on page 13.

May herself was an interesting character; she was adopted by the Stevenses after a traumatic early life as a stray on Long Island. She died in 1996.

cover photo by Joan Marcus

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"Tamworth Two" Win Fame by Cheating the Butcher

The two pigs shown above, nicknamed Butch Cassidy and Sundance Pig, were the subject of widespread public sympathy in January when they escaped from a Malmesbury, England abattoir shortly before they were to be slaughtered.

When they saw their brother killed, the nimble, ginger-colored pigs eluded slaughterhouse workers, who chased them for ten minutes till Butch wriggled through a hole in the wall and Sundance followed. They then swam across the river Avon to a small wood. They spent six days on the run, during which they caused quite a lot of media and public attention, as well as comical efforts to apprehend them.

They were eventually caught: Butch (actually a female) was cornered in a field, while Sundance was tranquilized by the RSPCA. In light of the notoriety the porcine escapees had won, their owner changed his mind about having them slaughtered, and they will live out their lives in an animal sanctuary.

...But Slaughterhouse Conditions Are No Laughing Matter

Though the Tamworth Two's story had a happy ending, slaughterhouse conditions are anything but happy. V & G Newman, the slaughterhouse from which the pigs escaped, was among 70 slaughterhouses and meat plants "named and shamed" later in January by British government inspectors for problems with hygiene, food safety and handling.

But conditions in slaughterhouses in the United States, generally, are worse by far than their European counterparts. There is widespread failure to observe or enforce even the most rudimentary provisions of the Humane Slaughter Act, as the Humane Farming Association's Gail Eisnitz revealed in her book *Slaughterhouse* (see story, page 10, and see also the Fall 1997 *AWI Quarterly*). 🐾



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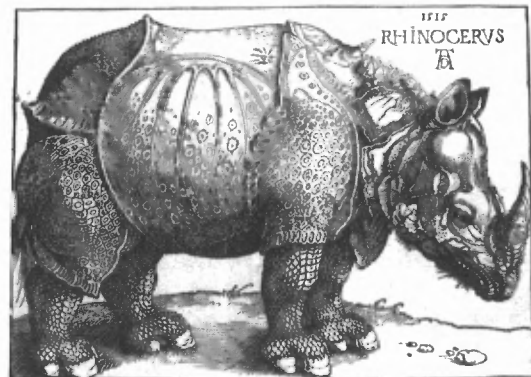
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Ham, the first astronaut (see story on page 4)



A drawing by Albrecht Durer of an Indian rhinoceros, dated 1518 (see story on the Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act, page 8)

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Note to World Wide Web users: back issues of the AWI Quarterly, and other publications, are now available online at <http://www.animalwelfare.com>.

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CHIMPS DESERVE AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE

"My ultimate wish for the Air Force chimpanzees is the same as it is for all the other chimps in labs... to know the grass and sun, and to know freedom and peace." —Dr. Jane Goodall

by Adam Roberts

In the 1950s, the United States Air Force took 65 infant chimpanzees from the wilds of Africa to use in America's burgeoning space program. As the race for space exploration accelerated, a three-year old "astrochimp" named Ham was rocketed into space on January 31, 1961. Later that year, five-year old Enos took a similar dangerous adventure. Soon thereafter, John Glenn led another historical American primate mission into outer space.

Now, almost four decades later, John Glenn is retiring from the Senate and preparing to return to space aboard the shuttle, but what of the original chimpanzees and their offspring? 142 chimpanzees, currently "owned" by the Air Force, are up for grabs—but not necessarily to the highest bidder. The Air Force has issued a "Request for Proposals (RFP) for Divestiture of the USAF's Primate Research Complex (PRC)," including the chimpanzees it owns. The Air Force will examine proposals that allow the further utilization of the animals "for scientific research or medical research purposes" as well as those that aim to "retire and provide adequate care for such chimpanzees." The latter plan—retirement for these American heroes—is the only acceptable option.

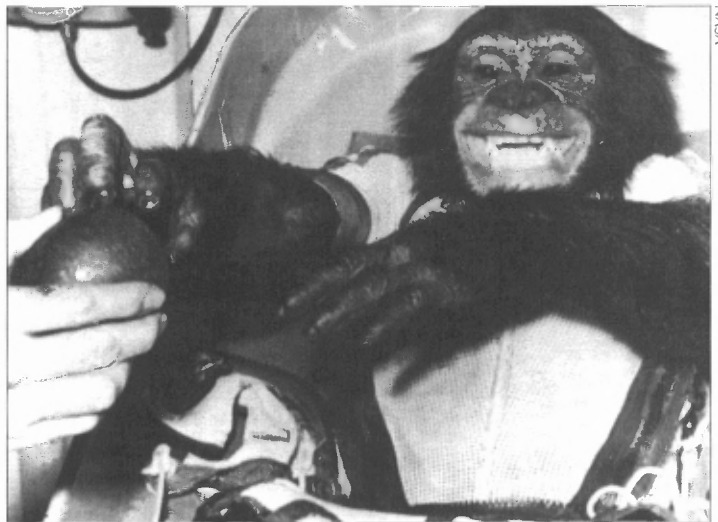
The Air Force has not shown a preference for either more research or justified retirement. It only specifies that the chimps will be given to whoever presents "the best opportunity for the Air Force to divest itself of the PRC and chimpanzees while assuring the continued well-being of the chimpanzees." These chimpanzees have served the country well and deserve an honorable discharge from military service. They should be retired to an appropriate facility where they can thrive without the threat of further laboratory experiments.

To meet the chimpanzees' long-term needs, a number of compassionate individuals have created a non-profit organization, the Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care. The center, whose board of directors includes renowned scientists such as Dr. Roger Fouts and Dr. Jane Goodall, intends to bid on the Air Force chimps and retire them to a sanctuary created specifically for their care. According to Dr. Fouts, "The Air Force has an ethical obligation to honorably retire these involuntary recruits to a sanctuary where they can live out their lives in peace."

Interestingly, one of the criteria for evaluation of proposals for these chimps is a "suitable" historical record that demonstrates that "the offeror can competently care for each chimpanzee the offeror might receive." Furthermore, preference is to be given to those individual bidders "who have a documented history of compliance with public law and regulations and/or a history of responsive correction of noncompliance pertaining to the care and use of chimpanzees."

The well-financed Coulston Foundation, owner of the largest chimpanzee colony in the world, surely will bid on the Air Force chimps in an effort to profit by keeping these animals in some kind of laboratory research. In fact, Coulston already leases some of the animals from the Air Force for use in HIV and hepatitis testing. Coulston does not, however, have a clean record with respect to the well-being of animals in its care (see facing page).

There should be great concern among all animal advocates at the thought of these intelligent, highly social chimps falling into Coulston's hands. The youngest individual, Lil' Minnie, is just four years old, born in 1993. Her mother, the oldest, Minnie, was born in 1957. The elder Minnie, Chimp #46, began her research "career" with a "Thermal-Humidity test" in late 1959. She endured a "Project Mercury Zero G test," a "Drug Study," a "Comparative Psychology test" and, between 1972 and 1998, languished while being used for breeding.



Ham shows his teeth—in what chimpanzee authority Jane Goodall calls an expression of "extreme terror"—after a mission in the Mercury space capsule.

The National Academy of Sciences has recently determined that there should be a chimpanzee breeding moratorium for at least five years. Sadly, Minnie died on March 14, before getting the well-deserved opportunity for a peaceful retirement.

There are, of course, many other notable chimpanzee inmates deserving to be free from further servitude. According to the Air Force's behavioral profile sheets, for instance: Beth, #1327, "likes apples, bananas. Offers fruit, biscuits, and other food to people. You must take what she offers you or she gets very upset. Also has to touch caretaker's face for reassurance.... Understands human language. Talk to her a lot." Doug, #750, is "Very athletic, likes to climb, loves magazines, paper, mirrors.... He can leap a long distance.... Likes to roughhouse, likes to observe humans, apparently sees images in photos well.... He is very observant, very smart, likes to interact with humans."

Since so many of the chimpanzees are already in Coulston's facilities, it is difficult for other bidders, such as the Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care, to get all information related to the medical care and health status of the individual animals. It is very tough for bidders to plan for the chimps' long-term care without this crucial medical information. Thirty-seven members of the US Congress sent a letter to the Air Force asking that all relevant information about all animals be made "readily available" in order to "carry out the divestment in a truly fair and competitive manner." New York Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan has also shown concern for the fate of these research primates. In a letter to a New York middle school, Moynihan wrote: "I am strongly in favor of the humane treatment of animals during *and after* research programs" (emphasis added).

The current lease for the chimpanzees expires on September 30, 1999. However, the Air Force is expected to decide the chimps' future by this summer. You can help these chimps by writing to the Air Force urging it to give the 142 chimpanzees the retirement they so richly deserve. Write to: Chimpanzee Divestment Officer, HSC/PK, 8005 9th Street, Brooks AFB, TX 78235-5353.

For more information about the Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care, write to: Dr. Carole Noon, The Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care, P.O. Box 3746, Boynton Beach, FL 33424; or, on the World Wide Web, see <http://www.savethechimps.org/main.html>. 🐼

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Wild Apes Leave One Another "Little Notes"

Researchers have found that bonobos—close relatives of chimpanzees and humans who are often called “pygmy chimpanzees”—leave sophisticated messages for one another, calling into further doubt human claims of a monopoly on symbolic communication.

Bonobos, who live in groups of about 100 along the Congo River, nest in trees together at night but split up to forage by day; they nest in a different place each night. E. Sue Savage-Rumbaugh, of Georgia State University, announced findings in February (in a presentation to the American Association for the Advancement of Science) that illuminate the mystery of how the roving bonobos find the new nesting site.

Savage-Rumbaugh found that at trail intersections, bonobos systematically left complex markers behind, so that those who followed would know where to go. A lead group would stamp down vegetation or rip off large leaves and carefully point them in the direction of travel. “What they are doing,” said Savage-Rumbaugh, “is leaving little notes in the vegetation.”



Carole Noon

Chimpanzees develop and share strong family bonds. Even laboratory chimps, who have been isolated and emotionally deprived for long periods of time, are capable of forming complex social relationships with other chimpanzees.

According to an Associated Press story on Savage-Rumbaugh's discovery, the signs are by no means arbitrary and surprisingly adaptive: “In muddy areas where footprints were obvious, no plants were disturbed. When a

tree trunk crossed the path, there were smashed plants in front and behind. If plants were disturbed only in front of the trunk, the animals then walked on top of the trunk, following it to another trails.” 🐾

NEW BOOK ON PRIMATE CARE PUBLISHED BY AWI

Environmental Enhancement for Caged Rhesus Macaques



a photographic
documentation

Viktor Reinhardt
David Seelig

Environmental Enhancement for Caged Rhesus Macaques, by Viktor Reinhardt and David Seelig, is a fully illustrated, comprehensive resource for providing rhesus macaques with species-appropriate environments.

The book is available free to libraries, humane societies, and to research facilities; for others, the cost is \$2, postpaid.

New USDA Complaint Filed Against Coulston

On March 27, the United States Department of Agriculture hit the Coulston Foundation (TCF)—a New Mexico research facility run by maverick toxicologist Frederick Coulston—with its second official complaint for failing to comply with the Animal Welfare Act. Among other serious animal-care problems, two chimpanzees died under suspicious circumstances at TCF in 1997.

One of the chimpanzees, Jello, died in an incident in which he and two other chimps were anesthetized together; he apparently choked on his own vomit. TCF had claimed that Jello died because another chimp had stepped on his neck. Whichever was the cause of Jello's death, USDA found that sedating the chimps together *and* sedating them in the same room *both* constituted inadequate veterinary care, punishable by law.

Echo, another chimp, died after surgery for an injury to her arm. Whistleblowers—who contacted the group In Defense of Animals—said that “the veterinarians who operated on Echo were so inexperienced that they were forced to consult a surgery manual while the young chimp was on the operating table.” Eleven highly experienced veterinarians have left TCF, 5 in the past year alone; those hired to replace them have had very little experience with chimpanzees.

In addition for charging TCF for its tragically inadequate veterinary care, USDA cited grave problems with the maintenance and cleanliness of its primate enclosures, as well as with food spoilage, contamination, and infestation; waste disposal; pest and parasite control; structural soundness; shelter from temperature extremes; and ventilation.

USDA issued an earlier complaint against Coulston on July 6, 1995. Inspectors discovered “that the Coulston Foundation failed to provide water to 14 nonhuman primates... causing all these primates to become severely dehydrated and causing the death of four of them; control the temperature in a sheltered housing facility for nonhuman primates... allowing the temperature at one den containing three primates to reach 140 degrees Fahrenheit and causing the death of the primates; [and] provide adequate space to 37 nonhuman primates.” TCF was fined \$40,000.

The recent complaint makes it all the more urgent that the 142 Air Force chimpanzees (see facing page) not end up in Coulston's facility. TCF cannot take care of the primates it has now—with tragic results. 🐾

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CALAMITY FOR WILD ORANGUTANS IN BORNEO

Willy Smits, a Dutch advisor to the former Minister of Forestry, recently appeared on television screens throughout the world, personally fighting fires in Kalimantan and asking for Western aid to help endangered orangutans. The situation seems straightforward: the massive fires that raged from July to November 1997 have returned to East Kalimantan (East Borneo) this year as a result of El Niño, the weather pattern responsible for prolonged drought throughout the region. Orangutans, once again, are in danger.

But, like so much else in Indonesia, the situation is not as it appears. Willy Smits is not the hero he appears to be in front of television cameras and reporters. Quite the opposite: Smits allegedly helped write and implement the forestry policy that has destroyed hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of acres of tropical forest, and that has brought orangutans to the edge of extinction. Knowledgeable sources in Indonesia acknowledge that Smits has working ties with Mohamed "Bob" Hasan, the timber and plantation tycoon who headed Indonesia's monopolistic plywood cartel. Last month Hasan was named Minister of Trade and Industry, a position made even more pivotal by Indonesia's economic crisis, which has earned the country the term "Asia's sickest tiger."

Smits is not a primatologist nor does he have any formal training in medicine or wildlife management. Rather, he is an expert in fungi and in grafting technology for the timber industry. He had been in Indonesia many years before he suddenly became interested in orangutan conservation. Coincidentally, with Dutch government support, he became director of an orangutan rehabilitation center about the time Indonesia switched from a policy of selective logging of ancient tropical forests to clear-cutting vast tracts of forest for plywood, a more profitable but far more destructive endeavor. In Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, some have whispered that Willy Smits's forestry and orangutan rehabilitation programs are smokescreens under which the powerful elite of Indonesia, such as Bob Hasan, destroy vast areas of tropical forest to convert the land to timber and palm oil estates.

Smits's insistence that "rehabilitated," wildborn orangutans be sent and released to distant mountainous forests, which have never been occupied by wild orangutan populations, conveniently concentrates orangutans into a small corner of Kalimantan that is difficult to log. It removes the visible endangered orangutans from the most profitable lowland forests, much as earlier programs relocated the Penan hunter-gatherers so that their ancestral forests could be logged at will.

The end result of this orangutan relocation policy will be orangu-

tan extinction throughout much of Borneo. Soon there will only be tiny populations of wild orangutans in parks and reserves. Most orangutans in the "wild" will consist of a genetically mixed population of orangutans from all over Kalimantan concentrated in an ecologically peripheral area that probably cannot support orangutans long-term. Thus, the elite who profit from the conversion of Indonesia's forests will not be bothered by the inconvenience of a large, charismatic species such as the orangutan going extinct in full view of the world, especially if the fires can be blamed. Smits will have taken care of the problem for them.

To complete this removal policy, Smits advocates a strict policy of isolating orphan and older orangutans from human contact. He argues that isolation is necessary to protect wild populations from diseases contracted from humans. Over the past quarter century, hundreds of rescued wildborn orangutans, nursed and reared by people, have been released at various sites in Borneo. There is no evidence of the spread of contagious diseases to wild populations, such as the polio epidemic that occurred among chimpanzees at (then) Gombe Stream Reserve. Rather, these rehabilitation sites have begun to attract ecotourists, who create jobs for local people and put much needed cash into local economies. The true reason for removal seems to be that if orangutans are out of sight, they are out of mind.

In addition, Smits takes care of the problem by "leading the charge" against anyone who dares dissent from the publicized forestry "party line" designed by Smits as Forestry Minister advisor. He also runs the forestry computer network and wages email wars against dissidents.

The victims of the fires and this forestry policy have been the people of Kalimantan, the forests, and wildlife such as the orangutans. Beginning in July of last year, forest and brush fires raged across vast areas of Indonesia, particularly in Kalimantan and Sumatra, blanketing much of Southeast Asia with smoke that spread as far as Darwin, Australia and Bangkok, Thailand. Throughout the region, the toxic haze closed schools and airports, disrupted both sea and ground transport, inflicted eye, skin and respiratory illnesses on millions of people and probably caused numerous deaths among the weak and elderly.

Last year commentators repeatedly noted that efforts to fight the fires were too little, too late and that many government agencies seemed to be paralyzed. Indonesia's then Minister of the Environment was the first to speak out, warning as early as March 1997 of expected drought conditions and then later blaming commercial interests for using the fires to clear forested land. The Minister of the Environment mobilized

the Indonesian NGO's, many of which established and maintained fire monitoring posts and distributed face masks and other equipment in the field. Teams of volunteers, many students, went out under the auspices of the Environment Ministry to fight the fires directly. The Minister of Forestry also spoke out strongly, even offering to resign, but took little or no action against those setting the fires.

Few governments are willing to admit that palm oil and pulpwood plantations are being installed immediately after the clearing of ancient primary tropical forests. Indonesia is an exception. A 1995 report by the World



Wide Fund for Nature notes that "Indonesia is perhaps the only country where the planned expansion of the pulp and paper industry openly involves the clearfelling of substantial areas of rainforest." Fire, of course, is an effective tool for clearing forests.

Approximately 2 million hectares (about 5 million acres) of forest burned last year. Analyses of satellite data and land-use maps have confirmed that approximately 80% of the fires originated in lands controlled by palm oil and timber concessionaires. Fire is simply the cheapest way to clear tropical forest once the large valuable timber is removed. The timber industry is regulated, but the wood from palm oil plantations, is not. Not only does the palm oil concessionaire initially get the valuable timber "free," but burning costs about a quarter as much as any other method of removing trees. Some fires are, of course, started by slash-and-burn horticulturists, but these fires are typically small and well controlled. Yet timber and plantation baron Bob Hasan, as well as Willy Smits, continue to blame traditional shifting cultivators for the fires in the face of evidence that strongly suggests otherwise.

The more recent fires reported in East Kalimantan are a result of a predicted second, more severe phase of El Niño which has again denied rain to East Kalimantan. Decades of unsustainable logging and recent conversion of forest to plantations has degraded millions of acres of once primary tropical forest, leaving the forests unusually vulnerable to fire. Forest that is damaged by logging is eight to ten times more likely to burn than primary forest. Forestry policies related to illegal and legal logging, palm oil and timber estates and other industrial agriculture have provided concessionaires, government contractors and local villagers with incentives to clear large areas of land by fire. Lack of oversight over the large logging and plantation companies has led to a situation where economically powerful business conglomerates appear to be in a league of their own apparently above the law. Finally, weak community rights over land and resources, whether traditional or contemporary, have left local villagers without mechanisms for challenging policies and holding concessionaires and others accountable for forest destruction.

Indonesia had been the darling of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank for many years. With its annual economic growth rate of 7%, Indonesia was considered one of Asia's "dragons." The enormous wealth accumulated by the First Family and their friends, such as Bob Hasan and others, was seen as part of the price to be paid for Indonesia's economic miracle. However, in mid-1997, while the sun was obliterated by smoke haze throughout southern Asia, a crisis swept through the stock exchanges and currency markets of Asia, beginning in Thailand and pulling in other nations of the region as well. Indonesia's initial response to the crisis was seen as admirable, but this rapidly changed. Soon Indonesia was also forced to compromise with the IMF. Among other reforms imposed by the IMF, Bob Hasan's plywood monopoly was dismantled.

Indonesia's economic crisis means that there are now even fewer resources to fight the fires. But the crisis has another more important effect. Adding fuel to the fire, companies and concessionaires are accelerating forest clearing and conversion in a scramble to make up

the dramatic losses incurred since the economic crisis hit last year. Before the crisis, Indonesia had plans to increase pulpwood plantations to about 15 million acres during the next decade. Now the plans for forest conversion to pulpwood and other plantations have increased dramatically the size of the areas to be cleared.

The fires and the forest conversion to plantations have wreaked havoc on the orangutans. During the last twenty years at least 50% of orangutan habitat has been destroyed and the wild orangutan population halved. Current estimates of the number of orangutans in Borneo range from 20,000 to 30,000 individuals. Last year's fires resulted in several thousand orangutans slaughtered and their infants taken into captivity and the pet trade. Last year Indonesia's rehabilitation programs were deluged with newly captured infants under dire emergency conditions. Orangutans, flushed out of the forest by fires and lack of food, were frequently killed by local villagers, themselves suffering from illness and poor harvests from the fires. In the battle for diminishing resources, local villagers have shown no hesitation in killing or capturing any wildlife, including orangutans. In booming times, the killing and capture of orangutans held less interest. This year's burning season may be even worse, if current predictions hold. The orangutan has never been under greater threat.

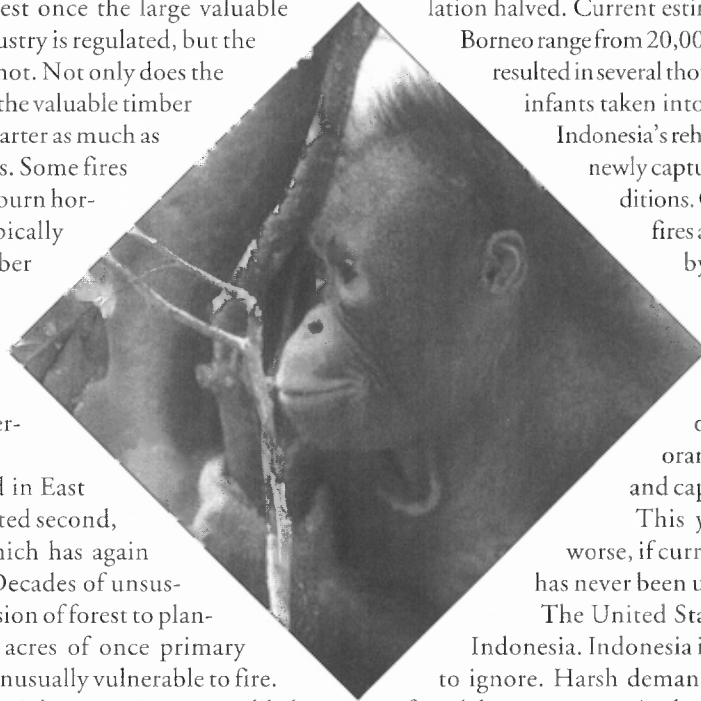
The United States should be very careful in aiding Indonesia. Indonesia is too important a player in the world to ignore. Harsh demands might backfire, plummeting the fourth largest country in the world into political and social chaos. But there is no reason to support destructive forestry policies and an unaccountable system of environmental regulation. There is no reason to support giant pulp mill complexes owned by Bob Hasan and others in East Borneo or the huge mega-rice swamp clearing project proposed by another tycoon who saw an opportunity to make even more millions of dollars at the expense of villagers and wildlife in the area.

The US has voiced concern about Indonesia's economy and political future, focusing on Indonesia's monopolies, weak banking system and "fat cats" at the center. But it has said little about the fires that ruin people's health and lifeways, as well as hastening the destruction of biodiversity and wildlife.

North American governments should also support the local NGO's, some of them tiny indeed, which as a group attempted to monitor the fires and took leadership action in local communities. But these NGO's must be of the soil, of the land and of the forest and they must be run by Indonesians for Indonesia.

The Ministry of the Environment needs to be supported with technological and financial assistance at all levels.

Finally, people should realize that while El Niño is a natural phenomenon, that the forestry and orangutan policies which are causing the orangutans to go extinct are orchestrated by visible people such as Willy Smits, an official advisor in the Ministry of Forestry, and Bob Hasan, timber tycoon extraordinaire. They help dictate the policies that are leaving dead orangutans in charred forests while local villagers, angry and in ill health, wonder why the forests of their youth are gone and why they grow poorer every day while Smits flies in helicopters inspecting the fires and Hasan—smiling, counting his fortune, and selling his plywood—becomes a cabinet minister. 🐾



LABELING ACT TO PROTECT RHINOS & TIGERS

by Adam Roberts

When former Massachusetts Congressman Gerry Studds called for House consideration of the "Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act" on September 27, 1994, he noted that he introduced the bill "out of concern over the senseless slaughter of these magnificent creatures by poachers to satisfy the demand for rhino and tiger parts in oriental medicines." The bill was unanimously passed. While the demand for products containing these highly endangered species still exists, so, too, does Congressional concern for their protection.

This legislative regard for rhinos and tigers recently led the US House of Representatives to approve the reauthorization of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act through the year 2004. The law gives the Secretary of Interior authority to select and fund projects around the globe which will contribute to the long-term viability of these fragile species.

On April 28, the House also approved a separate bill, H.R. 2807, "The Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act." This bill would ensure that no person may import, export, or sell within the United States "any product, item, or substance intended for human consumption containing or purporting to contain any substance derived from any species of rhinoceros or tiger."

The tiger and all species of rhinoceros except the South African White Rhino are listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). As such, international commercialization of their parts and products is prohibited. Enforcement of this trade restriction is complicated, however, when products *claim to contain* rhino or tiger, but actually may not. It is difficult and expensive for customs agents to confiscate and reliably analyze such products and determine conclusively that they originate from these endangered species.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, testifying before Congress on behalf of the legislation, noted: "Once these products reach the United States—even when their labels blatantly claim that the items contain rhino or tiger parts—the burden of proof is still on the Service to demonstrate scientifically whether the products contain what the label says.

"This is a time-consuming and expensive process. Forensics experts estimate a cost of up to \$100,000 to develop a DNA analysis test to identify any particular group of wildlife, such as all rhinos or all tigers, and the process would only work if DNA markers had not been destroyed when the product was manufactured. For example, if a product reported to contain tiger bone has been heated to high temperatures during compounding, a DNA analysis test could not be conclusive. The only substance which could be confirmed is the presence of calcium, an ingredient just as likely to represent cow bone and tiger bone." H.R. 2807 would prevent the importation and marketing of such medicines and other products, thus facilitating enforcement of important wildlife laws.

This legislation is especially important given the current demand (especially for tiger bone products) in Asian communities throughout the United States and other major cities around the world. In 1997, the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) set out to assess availability of tiger parts in London, Glasgow, Japan, Amsterdam, and New York.

In the United Kingdom, legislation currently prohibits sale of endangered species and products that claim to contain endangered species. It is not surprising to note that EIA's investigation into six London pharmacies and supermarkets and eight Glasgow pharmacies uncovered no instances of tiger bone products offered for sale.


However, a telephone survey of 30 Chinese pharmacies in Tokyo and Yokohama revealed that 20 admitted to offering products which purported to contain tiger bone. This is an almost twenty percent increase since a similar survey was undertaken in 1995. In Amsterdam, five out of six stores visited had tiger bone available. And a survey in New York's Chinatown found that a remarkable 14 out of 17 pharmacies and supermarkets entered had products claiming to contain tiger parts.

This astounding availability in New York was confirmed in a new study by the Wildlife Conservation Society which reveals that during a six-month investigation in New York, of the 37 shops surveyed, "67 percent... contained at least one product" that claimed to contain tiger parts. The report also notes that "all of the products... were manufactured in China"—especially ironic since this is the Chinese Year of the Tiger.

When the House Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans held a hearing on these bills February 5, Dr. Lixing Lao of the American College of Traditional Medicine, concluded his remarks by pleading with the subcommittee to "do whatever is in the

scope of the committee and of your individual offices to help make this a Year for the Tiger." Part of that goal must focus on education and elimination of the demand for these unacceptable products.

The subcommittee staff briefing document for the hearing references CITES data which notes: "South Korea has imported about 10,500 pounds of tiger bone in the last six years. During the same period, China reportedly exported more than 78 tons of tiger bones, which represents about 5,600 tigers or more than what is alive today." Secretary Babbitt added during his testimony that "three of the recognized subspecies of tigers have become extinct, and the remaining five species have come under severe threat." Babbitt further said that "to break the cycle of poaching and illegal trade which has devastated so many rhino and tiger populations, we must also work to break supply lines and remove rhino and tiger products from the marketplace."

It can not be a unilateral effort by the United States, however. All Parties to CITES must invest heavily in rhino and tiger conservation and the removal of endangered species products from all store shelves. The Parties to CITES decided last summer that the CITES Standing Committee shall examine tiger-trade issues "with a view to identifying, on a country-by-country basis, additional legislative and enforcement measures that may be necessary to stop the illegal trade in tigers and tiger parts and derivatives." The Rhino and Tiger Conservation Act and Product Labeling Act are two important steps toward ending this disastrous trade. Other nations should enact similar laws to save the rhino and tiger for all future generations. 



Above and below: Chinese tiger products



946

Shahtoosh Trade Puts Endangered Antelopes, Other Wildlife at Risk

by Adam Roberts

"Fashioned for Extinction" is an enlightening new report from the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), in which authors Belinda Wright and Ashok Kumar expose the danger facing the endangered Tibetan antelope, or "chiru."

Traditionally, the chiru has been poached for its meat and the males' horns, which are used in traditional medicine. "Shahtoosh," the undercoat, or down of the chiru, literally translated from Persian means "king of wool." Today, the international illegal trade in this incredibly valuable fiber is the main driving force behind the poaching of the species.

Sadly, in order to get the rich, soft, warm wool, the chiru face a cruel fate. WPSI's report vividly describes the leghold traps traditionally used to catch chiru. The foot traps have "small pointed sticks projecting toward the center.... When an antelope or gazelle steps into the trap and tries to withdraw its leg, the sticks dig into the skin, holding the animal fast. Once ensnared, the animal is shot by the trappers."

In 1995, it was estimated that there were roughly 75,000 chiru left throughout its range across the Tibetan Plateau, although there are undoubtedly many fewer today. As a result of the intense pressure on the remaining chiru population, the species is listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and products such as shahtoosh are prohibited from international commercialization.

However, in the past year alone, shahtoosh products have been seized in India, China and the United Kingdom. Most notably, an ongoing sting operation by the London Metropolitan Police department dubbed "Operation Charm," resulted in the confiscation of 138 shahtoosh shawls with an estimated value of half a million dollars. The garments were exported from India to Britain.

The profitable black market trade in shahtoosh—a single shahtoosh shawl can fetch well over \$1,000—threatens not only the chiru, but other threatened and endangered species as well. Tiger bone, bear gall bladders and musk deer pods are all valuable products in traditional Asian medicine and are traded for the high-priced chiru wool. As long as this wildlife barter system functions without strict enforcement, all the species involved in this lucrative wildlife trade are at risk.



The bones and skin of a large male tiger, who was trapped in a steel snare and beaten to death by poachers in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.



Tibetan antelopes, or chiru, search for food in the harsh winters of the Chang Tang plateau in Tibet.

photos from "Fashioned for Extinction"

Debbie Banks, of the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) explored the illegal trade in shahtoosh during her presentation to the 40th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, on March 4, 1998. Ms. Banks described the following:

Raw shahtoosh wool, carried on the backs of mules and yaks, is brought to China's borders with India and China by Tibetan nomads. There it is traditionally bartered at remote Himalayan passes. For the past ten years the preferred barter items have been wildlife products—tiger bone, bear gall bladders and musk.

The profits in this barter trade are enormous, up to 600%, and the increasing demand for shahtoosh is proving disastrous for the tiger! More recently control of the trade has passed into the hands of sophisticated traders and smugglers. There is now a strong connection with the narcotics trade. Militants are also known to smuggle shahtoosh from Nepal to Pakistan and then back to Kashmir in India....

It is unrealistic to believe that the illegal trade in shahtoosh can be curbed unless consumer nations world-wide increase public awareness and enforcement efforts.

AWI joins EIA and WPSI in calling upon the governments of India, Nepal, and China to take immediate steps to end the trade in endangered chiru and tigers. Part of WPSI's recommendations focus on an enhanced information campaign to educate consumers about the increased dangers to wildlife when one purchases shahtoosh. Specifically, WPSI is urging the Indian government to require all shops selling shawls to post a notice describing the conservation risks involved in the illegal shahtoosh trade. All relevant governments must vigorously enforce the prohibition on the trade in products from the chiru and all other Appendix I CITES species, especially the highly endangered tiger.

Without extraordinary pressure from animal protection advocates to ensure the governments' will both to educate consumers and to enforce the international prohibition on the shahtoosh trade, the chiru could disappear forever, taking other fragile wild species into extinction with them.

Copies of *Fashioned For Extinction: An Expose of the Shahtoosh Trade* are available from:

The Wildlife Protection Society of India
Thapar House
124 Janpath
New Delhi 110001
India

VALIANT TREE-SITTER PROTESTS OLD-GROWTH LOGGING

Julia Butterfly (pictured at right) has shown remarkable courage and compassion by taking up residence in a 1,000-year-old tree to protest old-growth logging. Her tree-sitting vigil, when we last heard, had lasted a world-record 100 days—days of freezing weather, high winds, frostbite, and harassment from logging giant Maxxam/Pacific Lumber's helicopters.

The 24-year-old activist, who prefers to climb barefoot, is shown here perched on her tiny platform, 18 stories above the ground, equipped with a propane stove and sheltered by tarps.

In the meantime, all around her, Pacific Lumber is busy clearcutting, not only devastating the precious old-growth forests and their dwindling wildlife habitat, but opening the door to widespread, destructive erosion and mudslides.

MORE TROUBLE FOR MAXXAM

The state of California refused to renew the timber operator's license for Maxxam's Pacific Lumber, citing 103 violations of timber harvest rules over the last three years. Subsequently the state issued a conditional license which can be suspended on 24 hours' notice.

Pacific Lumber is the largest company ever to be put on probation. Neighbors of Pacific Lumber's forest holdings are suing the company.

More direct action was taken by Alfred Day Decker, who announced he would seek the Republican nomination for Congress for the North Coast of California. He is standing trial after being charged with mashing a fruit pie onto the head of Maxxam chief Charles Hurwitz. "It's time to put the conserve back in conservative," said Decker.

LEGHOLD TRAP APOLOGISTS SURFACE AS A RESULT OF WHITEWATER INVESTIGATION

You never know where you might bump into an acquaintance. Two of ours, Parker Dozhier and Steve Boynton, showed up in—of all places—the front page of *The Washington Post*, named by Dozhier's former girlfriend as supporters of David Hale, a prime witness in the Whitewater affair.

Parker Dozhier will long remain in our memories for his nearly incoherent testimony, on behalf the American Fur Resources Institute, at the 1984 trapping hearings in the House Commerce Committee. "We are talking about pain and our understanding of pain" Dozhier testified. "I started trapping 35 years ago. I have not seen the type of pain and suffering.... I don't hear a sound. They are not telling me anything.... Until an animal can talk to me, I don't believe there's a scientist or veterinarian in the room today that understands an animals perception of pain, and until those animals can talk in our language, I don't believe we will."

Steve Boynton—who, along with an associate, has reportedly been receiving \$26,000 per month from *The American Spectator* magazine to assist in "The Arkansas Project"—is a longtime lobbyist for furriers, trophy hunters, and wildlife traders. Boynton attracted considerable attention with his flamboyant behavior at the 1979 CITES meeting in Costa Rica. Now the exploits of these two gentlemen appear destined for even wider recognition.

TIMBER SALES NOT A BARGAIN FOR US

The US Forest Service has now admitted that it loses money on its timber sales from national forests. The Forest Service's road system is 378,000 miles in length—a shocking eight times the size of the US interstate highways! Each year the Forest Service adds an average of 10,000 miles of new roads.

The Western Ancient Forest Campaign (WAFC) estimates that the timber sale program lost at least \$300 million last year and has been losing an average of this amount since 1992. "The timber industry has received an average of four billion feet of timber per year while the taxpayers got nothing in return for these plundered assets," said a spokesman for WAFC.

GROUP SEEKS WAYS TO PROTECT EUROPE'S WOLVES

by John Gleiber

There is nothing more heartwarming and hopeful for the future than hearing about small, modestly funded and hard-working organizations devoting themselves to the protection of animals, often against overwhelming odds. This outpouring has been occasioned by the arrival of a report issued by the International Wolf Federation with a summary of the visits of M. Chiacchia, B. Cypers and F. Van Meulebeke (not exactly household names) to Poland and Slovakia this past year.

They sought to find out who is working on behalf of the beleaguered wolves, how effective they are proving to be, what future priorities should be and to show the flag, so to speak. Hunting interests and habitat destruction have proved to be the main obstacles in developing a sane program to prevent needless wolf slaughter.

The main programs have been education of the young through schools, forest protection, networking, predator protection and demonstrations. They came into contact with a variety of groups and organizations, all of whom seem to be young, indefatigable and sincere. With all that is going on in *Mittel Europa* today, scenes of dedicated and selfless groups meeting marching and just plain carrying-on may just presage good news for a lot of animals and the citizens who love, admire and respect them.

CATTLEMEN LOSE IN WINFREY SUIT

Television personality Oprah Winfrey won her hotly contested lawsuit over "Food Libel" in February. The brash talk show host was targeted by a group of Texas cattlemen because a guest on Winfrey's wildly popular show—vegetarian activist Howard Lyman—speculated that Mad Cow Disease could spread to the United States.

The cattlemen charged that beef sales subsequently plummeted, and that Winfrey and her production company had knowingly aired "false and defamatory" statements about the beef industry in general. Winfrey and Lyman were sued by the cattlemen for \$12 million plus damages. Winfrey's defense was that Lyman's views were protected as free speech, and the judge in the case agreed, throwing the case out.

Had Winfrey lost, the chilling effect would have been disastrous—the powerful industries that produce our food would be able to crush reasoned inquiry into every aspect of how they operate, from food-safety issues such as Mad Cow Disease, Salmonella and *E. coli* to environmental questions such as pollution from hog waste to issues of humaneness such as intensive confinement and slaughterhouse conditions (see below).



Julia Butterfly



OPPOSITION TO HOG FACTORIES IS RISING IN THE WEST AND MIDWEST

Though one doesn't necessarily associate the majestic Rockies with mass-produced pork and the foul smell of hog waste, the expansive lands of Colorado host some of the largest single hog factory farms in existence—several confine 50,000 sows in hideously cramped crates.

A number of Colorado farmers and ranchers have formed an organization called STENCH, which is pushing for a statewide ballot initiative on the mammoth hog farms. It would cap the factories at 5,000 animals, along with placing restrictions on the storage and disposal of manure.

Blocked by a two-year moratorium on new hog factories in manure-soaked North Carolina, the huge corporate operations such as Murphy Family Farms (don't be misled by the "Family" of the corporation's name) are looking for new lands to conquer, and Iowa and Minnesota are in their sights.

In Iowa—fast being taken over by huge hog operations—a new star is rising in the gubernatorial race: candidate Mark McCormick, who has entered the race as an opponent of hog factories. McCormick intends to place stiffer restrictions on pollution of air, water and soil by the factories; empower state inspectors to close substandard operations; and reclassify the factories as industrial, rather than agricultural, businesses—thus preventing them from getting the same tax advantages enjoyed by traditional family farms. McCormick would also repeal the state's notorious File 519, which gives hog factories immunity to lawsuits and to regulation by local counties.

Minnesota, officially known as the "Land of 10,000 Lakes," was quickly satirized as "Land of 10,000 Lagoons" by hog-factory opponents—referring to the gigantic cesspools in which hog waste is stored. In its gubernatorial race (a smorgasbord of political legacies that includes the sons of Hubert Humphrey, Walter Mondale, and Orville Freeman), three of four candidates are pushing moratoriums on massive hog operations.

"ORGANIC STANDARDS": GOVERNMENT/INDUSTRY WHITEWASH

In 1990, Congress created the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) to determine what foods could legally be certified organic in the United States. The board came up with recommendations which vexed the powerful agribusiness lobby: most tellingly, the board was against cruel factory farming methods like intensive confinement.

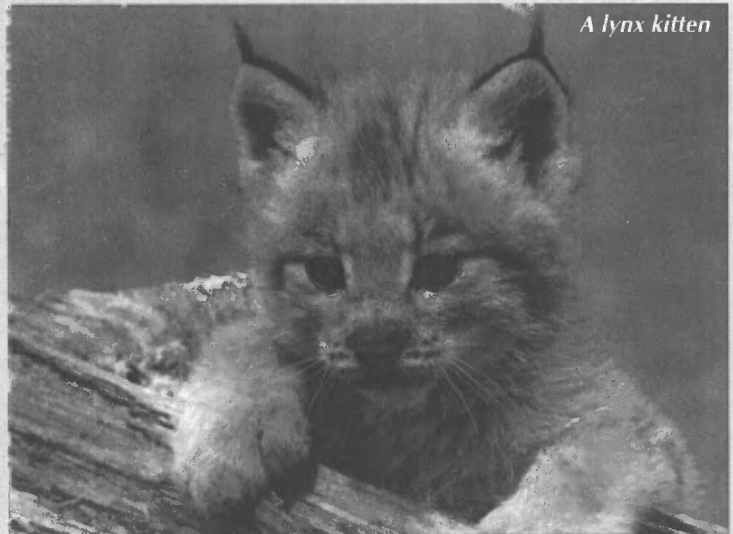
Accordingly—against the intent of the Congress—the NOSB's recommendations were swept aside by the Clinton Administration, to make room for a more corporation-friendly definition of "organic" food: bioengineered animals, dining on produce fertilized with toxic sludge, raised in horribly inhumane factory farms.

In addition to ignoring the NOSB's recommendation that farm animals must have outdoor access, USDA's proposed regulations would prohibit labels such as "humanely raised" and "pesticide-free farms," effectively shutting consumers out of the picture.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE: EXPOSÉ GAINS ATTENTION, CORROBORATION FROM INSPECTORS

Gail Eisnitz's shocking book *Slaughterhouse* (see Fall 1997 *AWI Quarterly*) was backed up by the personal stories of current and former USDA employees who were charged with enforcing the Humane Slaughter Act—a law which Eisnitz revealed is being routinely ignored in

Lynx To Be Protected at Last



A lynx kitten

At long last, the lynx, a secretive creature who seeks refuge in deep forests, will be protected by the US government. The decision to protect the lynx was brought about through an order by US District Court Judge Gladys Kessler. Only a few hundred lynx still exist in the United States.

It took six years of litigation by environmental and animal protective organizations to achieve the settlement with the US Departments of Justice and Interior. Judge Kessler stated: "The court shares all the concerns eloquently voiced by the Plaintiffs.... The intensity of Plaintiffs' fear of delay is well-founded. Moreover, the government's failure to have even raised the possibility of a preclusion finding—with its concomitant substantial delay—is very troubling and raises serious questions about the degree to which the Government has been fully candid and forthcoming with the Court."

The Department of the Interior will publish a proposed rule to list the lynx under the Endangered Species Act by June 30, 1998. Humanitarians should express their support for strong, effective rules to keep lynx habitat safe from the timber industry and its boosters within the US Forest Service.

According to a Defenders of Wildlife press release, Jasper Carlton of the Biodiversity Legal Foundation in Colorado stated: "While the decision to protect the lynx is way overdue, it will finally force the Forest Service to more effectively protect lynx habitat. Currently, there are no standards nor guidelines for logging in lynx habitat in any of our national forests."

The Forest Service's propensity to build roads in our national forests' pristine areas must be curbed. 🐾

slaughterhouses across the country, at a press conference held at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, on April 2.

"I've seen cows with their feet cut off, they've been de-horned, their ears cut off, and their heads have been skinned and their udders have been removed—and they're blinking, they're mooing, they're moving," said Steve Cockerham, an investigator with the USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service.

"Americans need to know what's going on behind the closed doors of federally inspected slaughterhouses," said Eisnitz. "The system is terribly broken and it needs to be fixed." She said that the department's responsibility to enforce the law has been "woefully and shamelessly mismanaged by the people who we trust to manage it."

And the animals—some of whom are dragged to slaughter by chains, their legs broken—are not the only losers. As the plants, in a fanatical rush toward profit, have recklessly increased line speeds (some as fast as one hog every three seconds), inspectors can do none of their jobs properly. The controversies over Mad Cow Disease and *E. coli* are just the tip of the iceberg: food-borne illnesses have quadrupled in the last 15 years. 🐾

True Trapping Reform Won't Come from Vague, Weak Agreements

The trapping compromise reached in 1997—after two years of haggling between the European Commission and negotiators from the Russian Federation and Canada—was a bitter disappointment to humanitarians. (see Fall 1998 *AWI Quarterly*) The European Council's acceptance of the deal showed, once again, the smothering impact of the World Trade Organization and "free trade" on environmental and humane regulations.

Whatever their faults, however, the agreements between the European Union and Canada and Russia are binding, bilateral treaties. In contrast, the US-EU "agreement," accepted by the European Council late in 1997, consists of two brief, vaguely worded documents issued by the office of the US Trade Representative. One is called the "Agreed Minute," the other the "Side Letter." The Agreed Minute, after disavowing any intention of limiting state jurisdiction over wildlife, endorses the standards as a "common framework for implementation by its competent authorities [the state game and fish agencies] for humane trapping." It then promises to "encourage and support research" and "encourage... competent authorities to monitor and report on progress."

The Side Letter is slightly more specific. It stipulates that use of all jaw-type restraining traps for ermine and muskrats will be ended four years after the entry into force of the bilateral agreements (ermine and other weasels are almost never deliberately trapped for fur; the muskrat market is now virtually dead). The use of "conventional" steel jaw leghold traps will end six years after the agreements are implemented.

In fact, neither the Federal government, nor the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA—the powerfully entrenched Washington lobby whose fur resources committee negotiated the deal with the EU) has any feasible way of forcing individual states to comply with the agreements. The view within the ranks of the state managers—forcibly stated at the recent North American Wildlife Conference—is that state compliance is purely "voluntary." The Europeans may regard their acceptance of two obliquely worded scraps of paper in lieu of a binding agreement as an act of faith; state managers evidently regard it as an act of surrender.

As their long-touted process for achieving "best management practices for trapping furbearers" (BMP) gets underway, the states' intentions remain opaque; BMP trap testing so far has merely repeated tests—carried out intermittently for two decades—that compare victims taken in conventional traps with those trapped with padded traps. Current testing seems almost identical to the "nine-state study" carried out by IAFWA's fur resources committee in 1986-7; it involves the same traps, the same species, and many of the same people. The only relatively new design being tested is the so called EGG trap, a raccoon trap with holding surfaces shielded by an egg-shaped plastic cover to prevent self-mutilation.

The absurdity of the current research is nowhere more evident than in the case of raccoons. The behavior of raccoons caught in leghold traps has been confirmed by dozens of field studies; the animals chew—and often amputate—their feet. In one New Jersey study, nine of twelve captured raccoons amputated portions of the captured foot; one animal was retained only by a digital flexor. In a trapping test carried out in Illinois, 15 of 39 raccoons taken in small, double-jawed legholds and 10 of 28 taken in #1 ½ padded traps had either chewed off portions of the captured foot, suffered compound fractures, or both. Among raccoons trapped by Tuller in New York, 50% of those taken in #1 ½ padded traps and 55% of those

taken in #1 ½ standard traps, engaged in self mutilation. The nine state study did not distinguish self mutilation; however among raccoons trapped in the Southeast US 40 of 98 taken in standard traps and 25 of 75 taken in padded #1 ½ traps had damage scores above 125 on the Olson/ Nettles scale, which implies severe self mutilation, fractures, or both.

The standard contained in the bilateral agreements, and "endorsed" by the US, stipulates that 80% of trapped animals must not exhibit injuries and behaviors deemed to be "indicators of poor welfare." These include "self directed biting leading to severe injury (self mutilation)," fracture, amputation and several other injuries often suffered by trapped raccoons.

There is not the slightest possibility that either "conventional" or padded #1 ½ steel jaw leghold traps can pass this standard for raccoons. On the other hand, it is well established that baited cage traps are not only fairly benign, but efficient at catching raccoons, very possibly—when escapement through "wring offs" is taken into account—more efficient than are legholds. With the decline of commercial trapping and the increase in pest control, cages have become the most widely used raccoon trap in the US.

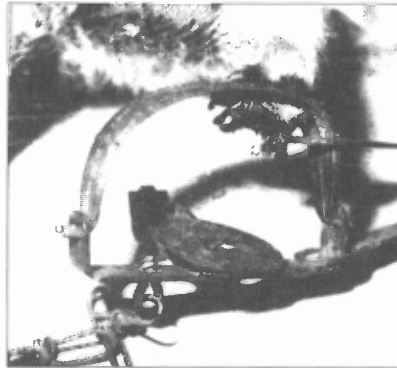
Why, if the state authorities intend to conform to the standard, are they testing traps (including "conventional" legholds) that cannot meet it, and ignoring the one trap that most obviously can?

US policy on trapping, first within the ISO trap standards process, then in international negotiations, now in shaping so called "BMPs" has been dominated by a small group of state managers and professional trappers, whose devotion to the steel jaw leghold trap, hiding behind phrases such as "indispensible management tool," is nothing short of fanatical. There is no evidence at all that these dogged, resourceful men have flagged in their determination to retain this, somehow precious, "tool."

There is evidence, however, that ideologues such as those who have defined state and national trapping policy are increasingly out of step not only with a great majority of the general public, but with their professional colleagues. In a paper given at the North American Wildlife Conference, Professor Robert Muth of the University of Massachusetts presented the results of a questionnaire sent to 4000 members of four professional wildlife societies, including the Society of Conservation Biologists and the Wildlife Society. On the question of whether it is "appropriate" to use steel jaw leghold traps, the 3200 respondents split: 43% against, 42% in favor. Among those registering disapproval, 93% listed cruelty as a reason; 88% listed capture of non-target species.

These results puncture the claim, repeated *ad nauseam* by defenders of the steel jaw leghold trap that their views are the views of all "trained wildlife professionals." They also reflect a growing unease, even among state managers, with their reactionary leadership, and a recognition—galvanized by the results of public referendums in Arizona, Colorado and Massachusetts—that this is damaging the credibility of state agencies with the public.

Eventually, the reformers may prevail. In the meantime the charade continues; senseless repeat testing, *ad absurdum*, of "conventional" leghold traps at federal government expense; maneuvering and stalling behind a screen of persiflage. The USDA's Division of Wildlife Services provided \$350,000 to carry out this season's BMP testing, apparently with no strings attached and no questions asked. It should not commit another dime toward trap testing until it is clear that the research is directed toward genuine reform of trapping and bringing the US into compliance with the commitments the Europeans—however naively—believe we have made. 🐾



Exposed bones on the foot of a raccoon caught in a leghold trap.

IN MEMORY OF AWI TREASURER ROGER L. STEVENS, 1910-1998

by John Gleiber

Roger Lacey Stevens, the treasurer of the Animal Welfare Institute and of its companion organization, the Society for Animal Protective Legislation, died on February 2 of pneumonia. The husband of the founder of the two organizations, Christine Stevens, he, like her, had served without pay and, like her, gave of his expertise in his commitment to the cause of animal welfare.

In fact, the Animal Welfare Institute was founded in 1952 as the result of his intervention in the National Society of Medical Research's effort to destroy the organized humane movement in the United States.

After the Second World War, the NSMR launched an aggressive attack on humane society shelters, forcing them in state after state to surrender dogs and cats to experimental laboratories for painful tests. Mr. Stevens offered a gift of \$10,000 to the organization that collectively represented the humane groups—albeit weakly and ineffectively. When his offer was refused, the Animal Welfare Institute was founded to fight the NSMR's animal seizure bills, and to advance the welfare of Animals by reducing the sum total of pain and fear inflicted on animals by humans.

Mr. and Mrs. Stevens worked together during their marriage of 60 years for their respective and joint interest. Roger Stevens's business sense and grasp of the needs of non-profit organizations were invaluable to the continuing success of the two organizations. We mourn our loss and are grateful for his steady, unselfish and dedicated service to our cause.

Following are excerpts from The Washington Post's February 3 obituary of Roger Stevens, written by Bart Barnes.

Roger L. Stevens, 87, the founding chairman of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts... served 27 years as chairman of the Kennedy Center's board of trustees....

He was appointed in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy as board chairman of what was then the National Cultural Center. At the time, a national facility for the performing arts in Washington was no more than a vision in the mind's eye of the artistic community. For the next 10 years, Stevens guided and coaxed the project along a slippery and tortuous path to fruition. In 1971, the Kennedy Center, named for the slain president at Stevens's suggestion, opened with its first performance, the world premiere of composer Leonard Bernstein's "Mass." Since then, thousands of the world's leading musicians, actors and dancers and its finest artistic ensembles have performed on the Kennedy Center stages, bringing to the nation's capital a cultural explosion that helped dispel its image as a city of "dead monuments and a dull bureaucracy." Producer David Merrick called it "the most successful cultural facility in the world." Acoustics in its Opera House were said to be among the finest anywhere. In the wake of its opening, scores of other local artistic efforts flourished.

Although best known for his work at the Kennedy Center, Stevens also played a pivotal role in persuading Congress to pass legislation establishing the National Endowment for the Arts, which represented the federal government's first attempt to become a national arts patron. He then served as the endowment's first chairman....

He also had produced more than 250 plays and musicals, including "West Side Story," "Annie," "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," "Tea and



Christine and Roger Stevens at a meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1992.

Sympathy," "The Bad Seed," "A Man for All Seasons" and "Bus Stop." Gore Vidal, T.S. Eliot, Eugene O'Neill, Noel Coward, Robert Anderson, William Inge, Jean Anouilh, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Jean Giraudoux and Harold Pinter were among the authors whose work he brought to the live stage.

He was modest and soft-spoken, and he genuinely disliked talking about himself. Despite his penchant for rumpled suits and reluctance to purchase new clothes, there was an air of elegance about him. In his pocket, he carried a piece of lined and wrinkled paper on which he had written down his daily schedule. Playwright Arthur Kopit called that habit, "carrying his office around in his pockets."

Roger Lacey Stevens was born in Detroit and grew up in Ann Arbor, Mich., where his father was a wealthy real estate broker. The young Stevens attended the Choate School in Wallingford Conn., and had planned to enter Harvard University. But his father suffered serious financial setbacks in the Great Depression, and Stevens enrolled instead at the University of Michigan. In 1930, he left college after a year and went to Detroit, where he worked for the next five years as a gas station attendant and on the assembly line at Ford Motor Co. One summer he rode the rails to Montana, intending to find a job harvesting wheat, but he failed in his first assignment, which was to hitch up a team of horses.

Periodically, he sold his own blood to meet living expenses. He was robbed at gunpoint late one night while working at a Detroit gas station, and he was reprimanded by his boss for carrying too much money—\$25, which the gunman

took. At Ford, where his job involved burnishing gears by holding them up against whirring metal brushes, he always was getting his hands cut. From those experiences, he became a labor union supporter and a lifelong Democrat. During his spare time he compensated for his lack of a college degree by reading extensively at the Detroit public library. 🐾



Bust of Roger Stevens in the Hall of States at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

*IWC Antigua Meeting***Whales Deserve Better than the Irish Proposal**

by Allan Thornton and Alexander von Bismarck

An initiative by the government of Ireland to overturn the international ban on commercial whale hunting ran into a brick wall at a special meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) held in Antigua in January. The proposal, instigated by Michael Canny—Ireland's commissioner to the IWC and currently its chairman—was presented to the special intercessional meeting in an apparent attempt to “flush out” the Japanese and Norwegian governments to gain their support.

Canny's proposed deal would allow resumed commercial whale hunting in “coastal waters” in exchange for an agreement to ban international trade in whale products and an end to so-called “scientific research” catches.

The proposal is ominously devoid of specifics. What exactly “coastal waters” will mean, for example, is entirely unclear. The first suggestion on the table would cover 40% of the world's oceans. Almost all whale populations spend at least part of the year within such coastal waters.

The proposal also ignores the history of misreporting and infractions within the IWC. Currently there is a flourishing trade in whale products from highly endangered species found on sale in Japanese fish markets—unchecked by any Japanese government enforcement. Meat from blue, fin, humpback, Brydes, and other protected species has been found in the Japanese trade. Judging by current infractions, enforcement and monitoring of coastal whaling operations under the Irish proposal would be next to impossible and result in a substantially greater illegal off-take of whales than originally agreed to.

In a misleading press release, Canny presented the Irish proposal as a call for a “global whale sanctuary.” Many whales species would feel as safe under such a “global sanctuary” as a salmon who is being “protected” by a program that allows him to be picked off only at certain designated points while swimming upriver. Some of the greatest conservation mishaps in history have occurred when global resources have been “managed” in separate geographic regions.

Where this proposal is effective is in rewarding the intransigence of Japan and Norway which continue to defy the international ban by exploiting loopholes. Since the beginning of the moratorium, these two countries have tried to bully the IWC into making concessions by the constant threat of walking out. After many tough battles, some member states and NGOs are now apparently tired of a bothersome standoff and are prepared to capitulate, giving up the hard-fought gains of the past three decades.

The Irish proposal has been actively supported by Germany, Switzerland, Sweden and the international office of the Worldwide Fund for Nature. Ireland itself had previously been a strong supporter of the ban on commercial whale hunting, but in 1995 and 1996 it voted in favor of Japan's proposal to establish a commercial hunt of minke whales off that country's coast.

Ironically, the proposal to allow resumed hunting in coastal waters coincides with the emergence of a large body of scientific data which shows that coastal zones are the most degraded and damaged areas of the ocean, so-called “hot spots” of very real stresses on whales and dolphins. These diverse environmental threats, including pollution, habitat destruction, noise... can prove to be every bit as deadly as the exploding harpoon.


While the IWC met in Antigua, the British Government Panel on Sustainable Development released its fourth report, stating that “Five years after the Earth Summit in Rio, little progress has been made in deepening the understanding of marine biodiversity and the vulnerability of marine ecosystems to human impact.... Offshore oil and gas exploration and production result in oil and hazardous chemicals, the mobilization of radionuclides and trace metals, and the disruption of benthic life and fisheries.”

In this UN-declared “Year of the Oceans,” countries everywhere are taking note that the world's marine habitat is becoming a dangerous place to live, whether you are being hunted or not. President Clinton launched his Clean Water Initiative in February, and recommended an additional \$22 million to clean up the country's coastal waters. Dr. James Baker, the administrator of this project—and the US commissioner to the IWC—warned in a February press release,

Significant levels of toxic contaminants are found throughout our coastal areas in sediments, shellfish and animals. In fact, some marine mammals contain among the highest know concentrations of organochlorine contaminants, e.g. PCBs, of any living forms. These are all widespread, complex pressures and stresses on our ocean.... We must determine the extent and causes so further damage can be avoided, areas already harmed can be restored, and wise long-term management practices can be put into place.”

Many believe that the IWC has a unique responsibility to protect whales and dolphins from these dangers. At a time when the threats to cetaceans are becoming more daunting, varied and global, the IWC is the only collection of scientists and policy makers around that could respond properly with the necessary resources, expertise and longevity.

This year is the IWC's 50th anniversary, and many think it could use a facelift. The Irish proposal may look pretty and tidy to some at first glance, but upon closer inspection it is clearly a messy operation. It is bad for the survival of whales and for the survival of the IWC.

The commission should not feel old or behind the times—quite the contrary. The heroic struggle to pass the moratorium on whaling has brought many species of whales back from the brink of extinction. The IWC should proudly guard this achievement and now grasp a unique opportunity to take another progressive step and save whales from a less visible but just as deadly enemy. A long-term, fully funded conservation and research plan addressing the environmental threats facing cetaceans is a vital step towards saving these animals. It is also a valid activity for a 50th birthday celebration. The Irish proposal is neither. 

BEQUESTS TO AWI

To any who would like to help assure the Animal Welfare Institute's future through a provision in your will, this general form of bequest is suggested:

I give, devise and bequeath to the Animal Welfare Institute, located in Washington, DC, the sum of \$ _____ and/or (specifically described property).

Donations to AWI, a not-for-profit corporation exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), are tax deductible. We welcome any inquiries you may have. In cases where you have specific wishes about the disposition of your bequest, we suggest you discuss such provisions with your attorney.

Allan Thornton and Alexander von Bismarck are directors of the Environmental Investigation Agency.

Activists Pull the Plug on Sonic Bombardment of Whales

In Hawaii in March, the US Navy, in concert with whale researchers, tried to conduct an experiment that involved blasting endangered humpback whales with incredibly loud, low-frequency sounds—only to run into David and Goliath-style resistance. The willingness of a handful of activists to put themselves in the water—between the Navy and the whales—effectively stymied much of the researchers' efforts.

The Navy's plan for testing its Low-Frequency Active (LFA) sonar was to target singing male humpback whales, mothers and newborn babies with intense, high-volume sound in order to determine at what level they would be disturbed. The transmissions started by hitting the whales with 125 decibels (humans begin suffering permanent hearing loss at 130 decibels.) If the whales showed no response after an hour, the sound was increased to 135 decibels, then 145, then finally 155 decibels (about 50 times louder than a 747 taking off). If the whales still showed no response at that level, they researchers could, with special permission, increase the volume to 215 decibels.

The test took place at the height of their mating and calving season, in the middle of the whales' breeding grounds (just outside a recently-established humpback whale sanctuary) off the northern Kona Coast of the Big Island of Hawaii. The experiment included no followup. No effort was made to track the targeted whales to find out the long-term effects of the bombardment.

The plan was immediately condemned by respected biologists (see page 16), who said that serious harm could result without a noticeable outward reaction; they also noted that the test could seriously disrupt the highly endangered whales' reproductive behavior, jeopardizing the future of the population.

"Blasting humpback whales with sound of this intensity could kill them," said Dr. Marsha L. Green,

president of the Ocean Mammal Institute and a leading whale researcher. She noted that when the Navy tested its Acoustic Thermometry of Ocean Climate (ATOC) sound source—another low-frequency, high-volume device—four dead humpback whales were found near test sites. "To use endangered whales as military sonar targets is a crime against nature," said Dr. Green.

Further, Greek scientist Alexandros Frantzis published in *Nature* a study which pointed out a suspicious correlation between mass strandings of whales in Greece and the Canary Islands and the use of LFA sonar.

The experiment's opponents, including AWI, first tried to block the Navy plan with a lawsuit, initiated by the Earth Justice Legal Foundation, asking US District Court Judge Helen Gilmor to grant a temporary restraining order—which she denied. The next phase of the concerted campaign against the tests was led by AWI's International Coordinator Ben White.

Among the many people opposed to the test were local residents, many of whom make their livelihoods from ecotourism. Several offered the use of boats and planes in the effort to halt the test.

Since the Navy's protocol required the experiment to be stopped if there were human swimmers in the water within five miles of the test area, White and other activists put themselves in the water near the Navy's research vessel, thus keeping the Navy from turning on their device much of the time.

This simple strategy worked surprisingly well. "We've been shutting them down every day," White reported March 20.

Test opponents made several more courtroom efforts, all blocked by federal judges. One lawsuit charged that the Navy had failed to comply with its permit by continuing the tests even though the whales were clearly fleeing the area in droves.

A provision of the researchers permit stipulated that if there were a significant drop in the animals' numbers during the test, the test should be immediately suspended—regardless of whether it could be proven that the test had caused the animals to leave. Many affidavits were presented to the court from longtime whalewatchers documenting the precipitous loss of whales.

One local citizen, who runs diving, snorkeling, and whale-watching excursions, said that while he usually sees six to eight whales an hour during this season, sightings had dropped to 1 or 2 a day during the intense activity surrounding the LFA tests.

On behalf of another local whale-watching enterprise, a move was made for a restraining order against the Navy—saying the test had seriously endangered the business's income—but the move was denied.

Through the entire controversy, both the Navy and the civilian researchers working with them on the sonar tests presented a blithe public face, saying that there was nothing wrong with the tests, that failsafes were in place and that nothing could go wrong. However, a large number of unanswered questions belied these denials.

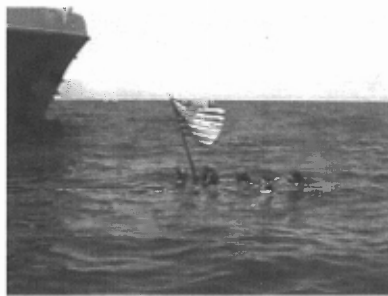
Navy apologists said that the effects of the beams of sound could be carefully controlled and that the volume would be ratcheted up so slowly that any animal wanting to leave the area would have a chance. Seeing that the transmissions were much louder than the accepted safe level for both fish and cetaceans, and that the sound travels with little diminution for over a hundred miles, one wonders how creatures could escape ground zero.

If the sound source was perfectly safe, then why could it not be deployed with humans in the water up to five miles away (see inset)? On March 29, the Navy

itself halted the experiment two weeks early; Navy spokesmen denied responsibility for the whales' exodus—blaming either El Niño or an unexplained early migration. But the most obvious reason the Navy discontinued the test was the dogged efforts of those friends of whales who threw a wrench in the researchers' works. The Navy admitted in court that they had been unable to test the sound source on many days. Their original objective was to emit from 600-800 transmissions over 6 weeks. By the time the dust settled and the ship departed, about 300 transmissions had been achieved, throwing into doubt the validity of the entire operation.

The tests were designed as part of an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the actual deployment of the LFA system on four vessels dispatched around the world to find super-quiet diesel electric submarines. If deployed, these vessels will begin blasting the world's oceans with an ear-splitting 235 decibels, over a thousand times louder than the Hawaii tests. Intended to show that acoustic ocean creatures such as whales are not bothered by such highly intrusive sounds, the studies have been careful to ignore any evidence to the contrary. Even though all phases of the LFA tests demonstrated that the whales exhibited clear signs of avoidance, the Navy and the researchers are already spinning the data to argue that the effects are minimal and the LFA-equipped vessels should be deployed.

With the Hawaii experiment over, AWI's opposition to this unprecedented attack on the living seas has moved into the next phase: stopping the deployment of the LFA system and requiring the federal government balance harm vs. benefit when issuing scientific permits. Though the emergency restraining aspects of the lawsuits filed in Hawaii were rejected, our challenge of the legality of the LFA device will still be heard. 🐾



Above, volunteers near the research vessel. Below, Ben White.



Lee Trepay

Using LFA Sonar "Unconscionable," Says Noted Whale Researcher

Dr. Linda Weilgart has spent the last 16 years studying the vocalizations of whales. She and her husband, Dr. Hal Whitehead, are the acknowledged world experts on whale communication. On February 7, Dr. Weilgart submitted to the federal district court the following testimony against the US Navy's test of its Low Frequency Active (LFA) sonar (see story, page 15).

I am opposed to the use of LFA sonar in Hawaiian waters, even if it is used to clarify the reactions of marine mammals to this noise, for the following reasons:

1) Based on several studies of large whales, the figure of 120 dB emerges with startling consistency, especially given the huge behavioral variability these animals exhibit in the wild and the great difficulty we have in studying these free-ranging animals. Not only do grey and bowhead whales clearly avoid sounds at an **average** received intensity of 120 dB, but several fish species do as well. This evidence should be enough to give us pause. LFA sonar would cover an area greater than the size of Texas with sounds AT LEAST as loud as 120 dB, thereby placing marine life at risk for harassment over this huge area.

2) To place marine life at risk over such an enormous spatial scale would seem unconscionable, but to moreover place **breeding** whales at risk seems outrageous. You are not only endangering the animals present, but the welfare of future generations as well. Particularly when it is well-known that the humpback whale song plays a crucial part in mating, it seems nothing short of reckless to change their acoustic environment so drastically. The research of Phase I and Phase II did not focus on breeding animals, like Phase III does. Breeding humpbacks are not only mating, but they are giving birth to calves at the same time. It is quite likely that young animals are more sensitive to loud noises, and it is entirely plausible that unnatural acoustic disturbances to which these animals are not adapted, could interfere with the crucial mother-calf bond.

Past research on the effects of noise in the grey whale calving lagoons has shown that mothers and calves cleared out of noisy lagoons for periods of months. Most disturbingly, this abandonment of some traditional calving lagoons due to noise resulted in a subsequent dramatically lower number of calves born that year.

3) My understanding from the papers presented at the World Marine Mammal Conference in Monaco and from personal communication is that Phase I and Phase II have already shown significant reactions to the LFA sonar noise by both grey and blue whales. How much more information is Phase III really going to add to this? At which point are all scientists and policy makers going to be convinced of the harmful effects of LFA sonar? And will there still be marine life alive in our seas when this point is reached?

Phase II, because it was studying migrating grey whales, had the greatest likelihood of discovering real effects of the LFA sonar on whales. This is because it exposed huge numbers (much of the Pacific population of grey whales) of un-habituated, novel animals to the LFA sonar transmissions. Much of the unpredictability and variability that usually plagues whale

research at sea was eliminated because grey whale migration routes along the Pacific US coast are well-known and unchanging. When LFA sonar was transmitting, grey whales clearly altered their course kilometers in advance of the sound sources. Moreover, the whales showed a significantly stronger response at source levels greater than 170 dB than would be expected if they were reacting in a linear fashion. This means that the louder the noise, not only the stronger the reaction, but the MUCH stronger the reaction. How much more evidence of harassment is necessary?

Phase I also showed that LFA sonar transmissions seem to decrease blue whale vocalizations. Since we are unsure of the function these vocalizations fulfill in the lives of blue whales, it is unknown what the ramifications of fewer vocalizations might be. The most likely function of blue whale sounds has to do with mating, however. As blue whales are generally solitary animals, it is generally thought that blue whales vocalize to attract and find mates. Interference with their vocalization rates, in this case, could result in a drop in their pregnancy rates with a resulting, long-term drop in population levels.

4) While the above effects of LFA sonar on whales can be surmised to be biologically relevant, they can not be proven to be so. I am opposed to using LFA sonar to study its effects on whales for precisely this reason. To study the health of a whale population, one must have a clear understanding of population parameters such as fertility rates, mortality rates and growth rates for that population. These are practically impossible to determine with any accuracy for any free-ranging whale population. We have no idea what "normal" population parameters are for any whale species, and we certainly don't have any idea of whether these parameters might be changing as a result of LFA sonar transmissions. While studies such as Phase I and II may be worthwhile in studying the short-term reactions of several animals of a particular species at a particular time in a particular condition, these studies cannot be extrapolated to give us any idea of the long-term effects LFA sonar might have on the welfare of populations of many different species. In conclusion, the studies that are being done on whales to determine their reactions to LFA sonar are completely incapable of telling us what the effects of such noise might be on the welfare, especially long-term, of any population of whale.

The marine mammal research that is being done by the Acoustic Thermometry of the Ocean Climate (ATOC) project (by some of the very same scientists involved in the marine mammal LFA sonar research) is being rendered somewhat useless for this very reason. Even though the research has clearly shown that sperm whales avoid the ATOC speaker, the chief scientists for the ATOC marine mammal project argue that this effect is not "biologically significant." This provides a permanent and convenient "out," as biological significance is unknowable for whale populations.

5) Not only the whales, but the whale-watching industry would be threatened by LFA sonar transmissions. I urge you to stop LFA sonar transmissions in Hawaii and elsewhere, and to recognize that our marine heritage and resource is too valuable to gamble with. 🐾



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Cover: This sleepy wolf pup, whose parents were relocated to the Julian Wolf Preserve from Alaska, lounges in speckled sunlight. The youngster and his family are now safe from hunters and trappers at the California refuge.

cover photo courtesy of the Julian Wolf Preserve

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Netted Cape Fur Seal Finds a Friend

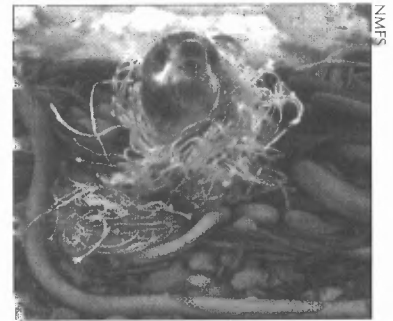
Oupa, a Cape fur seal living off the coast of Namibia, had an unpleasant introduction to the human world. Boat skipper Ottmar Leippert found Oupa with a fishing net embedded in his neck.

Leippert knew the seal would surely die a slow and painful death if he couldn't find a way to extricate the net from his new friend's hide. Oupa had probably been living with the net around him for quite awhile, as it had worked its way deep into his thick layer of protective body fat.

Initially, Leippert thought euthanasia would be the only humane solution to Oupa's suffering. "But then a friend and I decided we were going to remove the net," said Leippert. "How we were going to do this we didn't know, because he was wild and in a great deal of pain."

Over a period of months, Leippert coaxed the injured seal out of the water and got him to balance with his flippers on the gunwale of Leippert's boat. "While I fed him, my friend slowly started cutting the rope. This took many months because we could only cut a little bit at a time before he went back into the water." Leippert's patience paid off. After several months of meticulous cutting, Oupa was net-free.

Oupa and Leippert remain fast friends. The 620-pound Oupa is a frequent visitor to Leippert's boat, dropping in for fish luncheons. 🐾



Marine life, such as this northern fur seal, often falls victim to entanglement in fishing nets.

World Trade Organization Rules Against US in Turtle Case

On July 13, the United States filed a formal notice of appeal concerning a World Trade Organization (WTO) panel report. The report determined that US efforts to protect endangered sea turtles are inconsistent with global trade rules.

The dispute involves a ban imposed by the United States on the sale of shrimp caught without turtle-excluder devices. Shrimp fishermen in the US have long been required to use the turtle-excluder devices on their trawl nets to prevent turtle drownings, the largest cause of sea-turtle deaths.

Thailand, Malaysia, India and Pakistan challenged the US ban in a case before the Geneva-based WTO, the referee for global trade disputes. The four countries claimed that the US ban represents an unfair trade barrier that is not legal under WTO rules.

"This is one more attack by the WTO on environmental law. The WTO favors trade over all other values," says Chris McGinn, deputy director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch. "This puts the United States in the position of changing US law or facing economic sanctions."

Environmentalists have contended that failure to equip shrimp nets with the turtle-excluder devices results in the death of 150,000 turtles a year. 🐾



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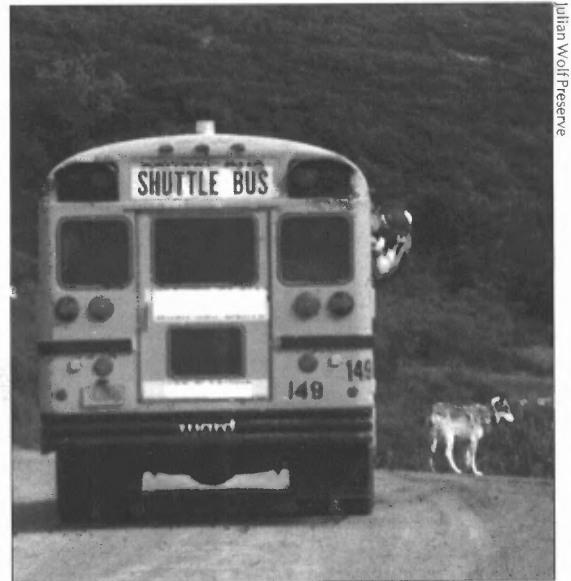
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The torturous rituals of Farra do Boi have been outlawed by the Brazilian Supreme Court after an extended campaign by animal advocates (see story, page 13).



A tourist hangs out a bus window at Denali National Park to photograph this Alaskan wolf (see story, page 6).

Julian Wolf Preserve

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PARADISE ON FIRE—CHIMALAPAS IN CRISIS

by Ben White

Of the 9,000 species of birds that grace this globe, over 1,000 live in North America. Two hundred of the North American species migrate into Mexico in the winter, including ducks, geese, plovers, finches, tanagers, sparrows, flycatchers, sandpipers, and orioles. Where do they go?

If you trace the major flyways across North America, you find that both eastern and western birds converge in one spot: the mountainous jungles of the southern states of Oaxaca and Chiapas. Just below the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, the narrow waist of Mexico before it bulges out into the Yucatan Peninsula, lie the dense green, vine-entangled, mist-shrouded Chimalapas mountains. Even though the mountains are not high, and the area is not especially difficult to reach, there are hidden valleys that have never felt a human step. It is a wellspring of life.

In late May, I received a call from Christine Stevens. Massive fires were burning out of control in the Chimalapas. We were losing this unique wildlife haven minute by minute. I started making calls to the US Forest Service and the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the two US agencies assisting the fighting of the fires. Over \$8 million and dozens of firefighting experts, air cranes and helicopters had been sent to fight dozens of fires breaking out across the mountains. After a year of El Niño drought, the normally drenched cloud and rain forests were tinder-dry.

After a month of intense effort, in which many local folks died battling the flames, the rains finally came in early June. The effort shifted from firefighting to reforestation. The Mexican embassy in Washington asked in what way AWI might be able to assist in the healing. I booked a flight south to see what we might be able to do. Before working for animal protection with AWI, I was a certified arborist and licensed tree expert by profession. This journey brought my two passions together.

My first stop was to meet with Betty and Homero Aridjis in Mexico City, the leaders of the Mexican environmental coalition Grupo de los Cien. They very graciously took me under their wing. We drove up into the hills surrounding the capital to meet with their colleagues who were putting heart and soul into the effort to save the Chimalapas. Principal among these were both the regional and national leaders of Maderas del Pueblo, the grass roots group representing the indigenous communities tucked away in the green folds and ridgetops of the Chimalapas. The Chimalapas region is theirs, owned communally by aboriginal title. Working through my vestigial Spanish, these people opened my eyes about both the splendor of the region and the political minefield any restoration effort must tread.

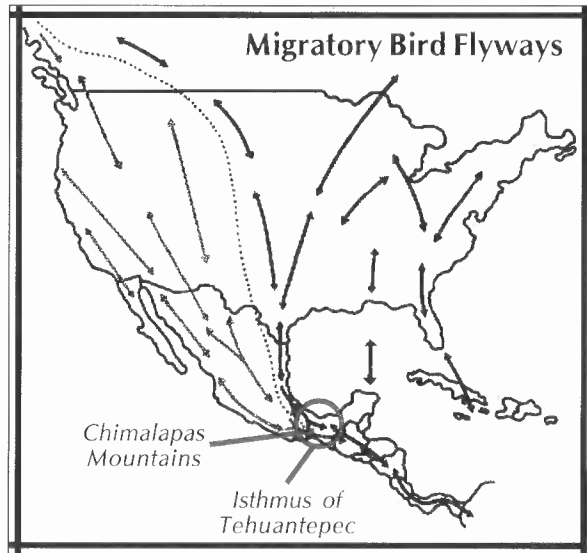
In terms of natural diversity, the Chimalapas are the emerald jewel of Mexico, and one of the most important wildlife sanctuaries on Earth. Many different biota are clustered tightly together: elfin forests on the mountaintops, cloud forests just below, then rain forests, then extensive pine forests, then finally montane forests becoming drier

south of the continental divide as they give way to tropical deciduous forests. There are over 200 species of major canopy trees (compared to maybe ten in Virginia) and a staggering 3600 distinct species of vascular plants. A bird in the Chimalapas can migrate between, and use, many different types of environments in one day. Spider monkeys and kinkajous swing through the trees. Jaguars, northern tapirs, tayras, and agoutis still walk these hills. Despite centuries of decimation, quetzal birds still nest in holes in trees here. Their long green tail plumes drape out the entrance, too long to fit inside. The place is so dense and remote, no complete inventory of species has ever been accomplished. All we know is, it is unique and precious.

In the early summer of this year, about a third of the Chimalapas went up in flames: about 600,000 acres. Unlike the forests of North America, the cloud and rain forests of this area are not acclimated to periodic burning. Graphically illustrating where the region's sweet exhalation of oxygen goes in good times, residents of Houston and Los Angeles breathed in the smoke from the Mexican fires for days.

What caused the fires? At times there were dozens blazing at once. Those on the fringes of the mountains almost certainly were from slash-and-burn plots gone out of control. But many of the fires were in the most remote sections, far away from any roads, villages or people. By studying satellite images, two lines of fires can be seen running directly through the heart of the jungle. From all appearances, it looks as though these were deliberately set, perhaps by dropping incendiary bombs from an airplane. But why? And by whom? Nobody knows, but there is lots of speculation. The government of Mexico suspects narcotic traffickers who want to open up the area for hidden airfields and plantations of marijuana and opium poppies. The native residents suspect an even more frightening possibility: an attempt to drive them from the region and convert its natural treasures to commodities.

As long as the ad-
continued on next page



The jungles of the Chimalapas are critical to the survival of dozens of species of North American birds that migrate south in the winter and return in the spring. The orioles and flycatchers visiting our yards depend on this critical safe haven.



Embassy of Guatemala

The quetzal, the legendary "bird of life," the national symbol of Guatemala, is extinct throughout most of its original range. The Chimalapas are one of the few places remote enough to still harbor this shy and reclusive bird.

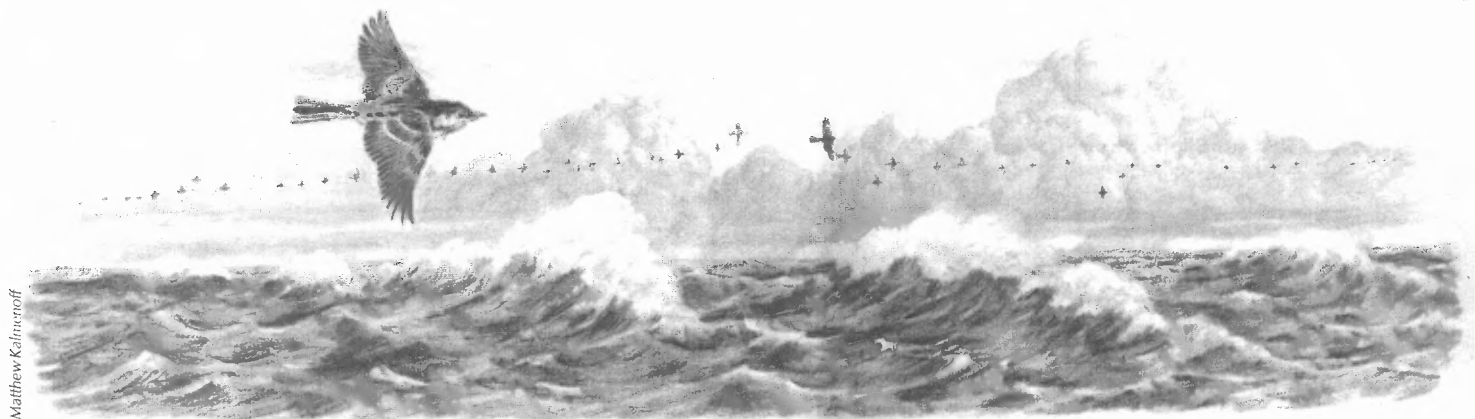
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ministration of Ulysses S. Grant, the United States has eyed the narrow Isthmus of Tehuantepec as a dandy shortcut to the Pacific. It was the original site for the canal that eventually was blasted across Panama. Now rampant rumors have returned of a "Grande Proyecto" to convert the area into an international economic juggernaut: a four-lane highway running north-south to ferry containers from ships in the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific, a big new railroad, five dams stopping every major river, and a big new base for petrochemical manufacturing on the Pacific coast. Plus, some perceive the added

the leaf litter and down into the organic surface of the soil. Some of the bigger trees were still partially leaved but their prognosis is unsure; they have lost most of their roots. Despite the grim destruction, I was heartened by the plants that had already begun to spring through the blackened soil. Two months had passed since the fires. The rains had begun, bringing ferns and other vascular plants hurrying into the sunshine. It would take centuries to bring back the diversity of major tree species, but at least the threat of rapid erosion was lessened by the ground cover.

Finally we reached the top of the ridge so I could film the damage.

The courage of the warblers in flying thousands of miles to reach the green refuge of the Chimalapas emphasizes the region's importance. If the area is lost as a refuge, the entire life cycle of many of our favorite North American birds is threatened.



Matthew Kalmeroff

benefit of opening up the Chimalapas to the "harvest" of the tropical hardwoods and rare birds, and making the land available to subsistence agriculture.

The day after the Mexico City meeting, I returned with Gilberto Hernandez to his home in the Chimalapas. We caught the 9 p.m. bus to Matias Romero, arriving at the crack of dawn. The next day we bounced over about five hours of kidney-punching road in his carryall, picking up any and all that needed rides along the way. Santa Maria de la Chimalapas holds about 700 families living along a ridgetop, just on the edge of the rainforest.

The next day we rattled down off the ridge, past military checkpoints to the tiny pueblo of Escolapa. There we arranged permission with the municipal chief for me to hike back into the jungle and a guide to take me to an area where I could film both the intact and burned forest. We hiked on a well-traveled path, in fact my guide Javier called it a *calletera*—a road. Higher and higher we climbed, past plots that had been brutally slashed-and-burned. Huge trees had been toppled by chainsaw and then burned, followed by a type of corn planted among the charred trunks. The land was apparently good for two plantings a year for about five years before it ran out of nutrients, most of which are locked up in the felled trees.

We passed through the thickest, most tangled forest I have ever seen. Strangler figs reached to 200 feet, their root flares fanning in all directions like a cathedral's flying buttresses. Spiny trunked palms, tree ferns, and dozens of species unknown to me reached skyward, with every available nook and cranny crowded with lush bromeliads, some sending up fruits as red as lipstick. An almost pure-white hawk whistled overhead. Fluorescent birds flitted between the thousand hues of green, teasing the curious hiker.

Soon we came to the burned-over areas. Jagged black trunks stood sentinel. The riot of undercanopy growth was gone. The fires appeared to have rushed for the ridgetops, primarily burning through

In all directions dead and dying trees stood. But islands of green remained, birds still sang, and the land was clearly hastening to cover itself. As we walked back down the mountainside, I thought about what might be done to help out. What began as a germ of idea gained substance on the long rocky road out of the Chimalapas and the next day's bus ride to Oaxaca, the capital of the province.

We are developing a very small intensive pilot project to demonstrate the feasibility of reforesting badly burned areas of tropical rainforest. Working with botanists both in the United States and Mexico, we are just beginning the process of gathering seeds, starting seedlings, picking our site, surveying the surrounding species and spacing, and coordinating with local officials in recruiting help. By enlisting local villagers in the replanting effort, we hope to encourage the concept of assisting the healing of the forest as it was, instead of converting it into either food or tree crops. If permitted, nature will heal the fire scars; we just wish to help her a little. 🐾

BEQUESTS TO AWI

To all who would like to help assure the Animal Welfare Institute's future through a provision in their will, this general form of bequest is suggested:

I give, devise and bequeath to the Animal Welfare Institute, located in Washington, DC, the sum of \$ _____ and/or (specifically described property).

Donations to AWI, a not-for-profit corporation exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), are tax deductible. We welcome any inquiries you may have. In cases where you have specific wishes about the disposition of your bequest, we suggest you discuss such provisions with your attorney.

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Threatening Wolves' Families Threatens Their Survival

"The strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack." —Kipling

by Patrick Nolan

A well-studied, much-loved pack of wolves in Alaska's Denali National Park is in severe danger from reckless hunting and trapping. If they die out, more than their lives will be lost: intricate family bonds, an irreplaceable cultural inheritance, and unmatched historical significance.

Pioneering naturalist Adolph Murie began studying the wolves of Denali in the 1930's. Through meticulous observation, Murie found that wolf packs—formerly viewed as loose confederations of roving killers—were actually highly interdependent extended families. One such family, the Toklat or East Fork group, has been studied and viewed more than any other. Dr. Gordon Haber, who continued where Murie left off, maintains records on the Toklat wolves going back 60 years.

But this legacy is in danger. A swath of non-park land cuts through a key area of the wolves' habitat, and intense hunting, trapping, and harassment have ravaged their population. The Toklat group has gone from 11 or 12 adults to only two since last April. The conditions are similar to those that wiped out other wolf families in the last few years, and several groups other than the Toklat wolves are at risk now.

Wolves have strikingly complex cultures, and a great deal depends on an unbroken family lineage. Dr. Paul Joslin, executive director of the Alaska Wildlife Alliance, writes that "knowledge as to where to den, where, when and what to hunt, what trails to follow, where are the territorial boundaries, etc., are passed down by the parents."

Unfortunately, the park's management views wolf populations

only as raw numbers, failing to take into account specific family groups. Should the Toklat wolves not survive this winter, the loss (both for us and for them) would be immeasurable.

In addition to the crisis in Denali, a plan to control wolf populations in the Fortymile area of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula is also targeting families. Late last year, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) began sterilizing and relocating wolves from 15 different packs. The program was hailed as "non-lethal" population control, but it has potentially disastrous consequences.

ADF&G's plan involves sterilizing the alpha pair from each pack, and leaving them as territorial placeholders (to keep new wolves from colonizing the area). The rest of the pack's members are then redistributed throughout the state.

The non-alpha wolves are dumped with no thought given to how they will interact with resident wolves in the area. Joslin says this is "like dropping black ants into a nest of red ants." Most of the wolves to be relocated are less than one year old; Stephen Wells, also of the Alaska Wildlife Alliance, writes that an estimated 60% will die within a year. Further, when the sterilized alpha wolves die, their accumulated parental knowledge dies with them.

The cruel twist of the Fortymile story is that ADF&G had initiated its wolf control program ostensibly to increase the caribou herd (so as to promote hunting). However, the department's population goal for caribou had *already been met* when the wolf-control plan was implemented. 🐾



Alaska Wildlife Alliance

Family values: a wolf mother and pup.

In Disagreements Over Their Biology and Behavior, Wolves Are Losing

Dr. Gordon Haber, who has devoted years to the study of Alaska's wolves and done much to change how people view and treat them, is angry.

Controversy rages over state and federal wildlife and parks agencies' policies toward wolves, and the wolves themselves are caught in the middle. A disturbing trend toward treating wolf populations as one big pool of interchangeable wolves—rather than complex and vital interdependent family groups, as Haber contends—could endanger their survival. Wolf policymakers persistently ignore the highly social nature of wolves, counting only their raw numbers as though they were grocery-store inventory (see above).

The architect of this dangerous trend appears to be a Minnesota biologist named David Mech, whose approach to wolf management is enjoying some popularity and influence among regulatory bodies, as well as among hunters and trappers. And this could turn out to be tragically unfortunate for Alaska's wolves.

Mech is coauthor of a new book, *The Wolves of Denali*, which Haber has criticized at great length both on scientific grounds and on the grounds of its policy implications for wolves. Roughly, Mech *et al.* argue that wolf populations are unstable and erratic, exhibiting "chaos and turmoil," "vibrant pulsing," and "constant churning." While Haber has shown that it is crucial to preserve family groups

unmolested, in Mech's view they are fluid and temporary affairs at best.

The implications of this split are ominous: Mech claims that since wolf populations are turbulent, then they are naturally adapted to withstand intense hunting and trapping. However, Haber counters, this is "a circular argument": Mech failed to account for the fact that his fluctuations in wolf population and social activity were in fact *caused by* intense hunting and trapping.

It's easy to understand why Mech's ideas are popular among wildlife agencies and with the hunters and trappers who pay their salaries: go ahead, Mech seems to be saying, kill all the wolves you want to. Haber's view, on the other hand, requires sensitivity, care, stewardship, and restraint.

The Wolves of Denali's glossy presentation and attractive photographs belie the insidious nature of its conclusions. And the book doesn't mention that Mech is a supporter of steel jaw leghold traps (even toothed ones!) and of vicious "saturation snaring." Nor is it common knowledge that Mech is reportedly able to dictate policy both for Alaska's fish and game department and for the National Park Service—a federal agency charged with protecting wild lands and wildlife for all of us. 🐾

Consumers Need to Know the Truth About Fur

Salespeople in fur salons routinely reassure customers that the fur they sell was produced humanely. That's understandable; the problem is that they're lying, as an eye-opening new undercover video reveals.

"Foxes are not electrocuted," said one of them blithely, even though anal and genital electrocution are specifically and openly *recommended* by numerous fur industry associations and by manuals for breeders.

Some salespeople, after painting a falsely rosy picture of how animals are treated on fur farms, baldly claimed that furs do not come from trapped wild animals: "They're not trapped anymore," one said. Asked about the use of steel jaw leghold traps, one said, "They voluntarily stopped using those—I think last year."

And those are just two examples of the radical divide between what consumers hear about how fur is produced and what actually happens.

A group called Beverly Hills Consumers for Informed Choices is conducting a campaign to educate the public about this divide. If they can succeed in the world's fourth largest fur market, it's a

promising sign for a sustained effort to separate fact from fiction about how animals are treated in fur production.

The group produced the video mentioned above, which alternates the patently false assurances of glib salespeople with the truth about how animals used for fur are actually trapped and killed. The evidence is hard to discount, because it comes directly from the industry itself—from groups like the European Fur Breeders Association, Fur Commission USA, the Canada Mink Breeders Association, and standard manuals and instructional videos.

Beverly Hills Consumers for Informed Choices is seeking to pass a resolution requiring that furs bear a tag reading, "This product is made with fur from animals that may have been killed

by electrocution, gassing, neck breaking, poisoning, clubbing, stomping or drowning, and may have been trapped in steel jaw leghold traps." The video, "Fur Salons: An Undercover Consumer Fraud Investigation," is available by calling the group at (310) 248-2727. 🐾



Daniel J. Kelly

Don't expect a fur salesman to show you this photograph—a coyote, caught in a steel jaw leghold trap, being stomped to death.

Killer Buyers, Controversy and the Bureau of Land Management

by Jennifer Rinick

The Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act was passed in 1971 to ensure wild mustangs and burros would be protected from capture, branding, harassment, or premature death. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for administering the act.

However, ranchers who want to graze their sheep and cattle on BLM lands have successfully pressured the bureau to round up thousands of innocent horses and burros, claiming that there are too many (at issue is competition for food; the ranchers want the grazing land for the animals that make money: cattle and sheep).

The BLM was quickly faced with many more rounded-up horses and burros than they could properly handle or decently care for, and an adoption program was instituted. Last year, it was revealed that unscrupulous individuals (including some BLM employees) were exploiting loopholes in the adoption process to adopt numerous animals at a time and sell them for slaughter.

The Bureau of Land Management ruled on May 15 that the use of power of attorney be prohibited, thus ending mass adoptions of wild horses and burros by one person. Although horses can no longer be acquired in large quantities, there is still the problem of what may happen to them after they are adopted. The untitled horse remains on the property of the adopter for one year, after which time, if the

BLM believes all stipulations of a one-year probation have been met (however contestable their review process), the title will be granted to the adopter, making the horse privately owned. Now the wild mustang is private property and can be done with as the owner pleases. This is one of many loopholes killer buyers are still able to squeeze through.

Part of the controversy between the BLM and animal protection advocates stems from the problem that no one seems to know exactly how many wild horses are free-roaming. The BLM conducts yearly roundups of the horses to bring an *estimated* population of 44,000 mustangs down to approximately 26,000. As of September 1997, 10,443 mustangs were rounded up by the BLM and 8,692 were adopted out that year, leaving 1,751 wild horses and burros to join 6,285 others already stagnating in BLM corrals. Many animal protection groups believe these roundups or "gatherings" defy every aspect of Congress's "policy" towards wild horses and burros. It is also suspected that the BLM census counts of the mus-

tangs may be misleading. Some animal advocates believe the BLM's estimated population of wild horses and burros is significantly higher than the actual population.

According to the Bureau of Land Management, direct counts and helicopter censuses are only conducted every two to three years in areas that have proven prosperous to the mustangs and every five to six years where conditions are not so favorable. Unfortunately the BLM will continue to conduct the yearly roundups based on the questionable census. 🐾



photos by Betty Kelly

Above: A dazed burro with his head wedged in a gate at a BLM holding pen. Fortunately the photographer spotted him and he was released.

Right: Two wild free-roaming mustangs enjoy the pastures of health and freedom.



Confessions of a Horse Abuser

"I've been sanctioning torture for 30 years" confessed Dr. Pam Reband in an interview published in the May 3, 1998 issue of *The Tennessean*. "How many times do you have to watch a horse suffer before you decide that enough is enough and you're not going to do it anymore?"

It has taken three decades for Reband to see the error of her inhumane ways, but finally the blinders have come off. Faced with the prospect of explaining her cruel actions to her daughters, Reband realized that any rationalization for the mutilation of her beautiful horses rang hollow. An anesthesiologist from North Carolina, Reband has been involved in the showing—and abuse—of Tennessee Walking Horses since she was a child. "I started in this when you worried about your horse bleeding under their [leg] boot. It was horrible the things we did. And I didn't think twice about them as a kid." Reband continued on, "I can sit here and tell you in one breath that this horse was my pet and my friend, and then I stop and think about days when I had to get in the stall and whip him to get him out. He was so sore."

In the early 70's, just after the Horse Protection Act was passed, the USDA cracked down on soring practices. Because of this, Reband's father forbade her from soring her horse for an upcoming national level horse show. Reband shamefully admitted that she cried. "I knew that I did not have a prayer to win" without soring her horse.

Reband, who served in 1997 on one of the Tennessee Walking Horse show industry's top councils, spoke to the expansive degree of soring, believing that more than 90% of walking horses at major shows have been abused. "I never told a trainer to sore a horse. You don't have to tell a trainer to sore a horse. You have to tell a trainer not to sore a horse. And then you have to hope they listen and understand."

Although it was a long time coming, Reband's breaking of the industry-wide code of silence was courageous. Because of her confessions, Reband will probably never have another winner in the Celebration show ring. In the past, others who have come forward to speak about the horrors of the world of competitive Tennessee Walking Horses have faced threats of physical retaliation and financial ruin. 🐾

Celebration? Certainly Not for the Horses

by Kelly Hansen

Up to 90% of the equine participants in the National Tennessee Walking Horse Celebration, and hundreds of other Tennessee Walking Horse events, are subjected to the worst kinds of systematic physical injury, as reported by the Nashville newspaper, *The Tennessean* in their shocking expose of the competitive Tennessee Walking Horse industry. The National Celebration, held every year in Shelbyville, Tennessee, is the largest Tennessee Walking Horse show in the country. The question is, exactly who is this a celebration for or what is it a celebration of? Certainly not the horses.

The Tennessee Walking Horse is well known for its unusual running walk and gentle disposition. Because of their smooth gait and kind manner, the Walkers are a popular choice of family horse owners and trail riders. Unfortunately, some Walker "enthusiasts" have chosen to ridiculously exaggerate the horse's naturally animated gait through cruel and painful methods called soring. Soring is the illegal practice of injuring a horse through chemical, physical or mechanical means.

Chemical soring techniques include rubbing irritants such as diesel fuel, mustard oil and kerosene onto the front and back of the horse's ankles. To maximize the effect of the caustic substances, trainers wrap the horse's feet and lower legs in plastic, leaving them covered for up to four days. A former participant in Tennessee Walking Horse events commented that the trainers want to "cook it (the irritant) in" and "get that chemical in deep."

Driving nails into the sensitive areas of the hoof and cutting the back

part of the hoof down nearly to the quick are physically invasive methods of soring. Pressure shoeing, a method difficult to detect without x-ray or fluoroscope, entails drilling a hole into the bottom of the horse's hoof and inserting heavy springs or ball bearings into the wound. A thick rubber pad and the shoe are then nailed onto the hoof, concealing the injury.

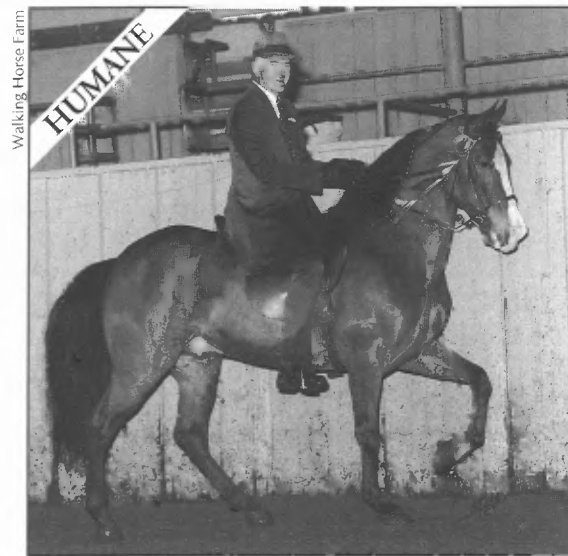
"Training devices" are used in conjunction with chemical and physical soring. Heavy, poorly fitted rubber ankle boots and chains fastened around the horse's legs inflict agony, as they constantly rub against the horse's already injured ankle.

Desperately trying to escape the pain, a sored horse is forced backward, squatting on his back legs, while throwing his front legs far up into the air. To some, this artificial step is deemed a desirable prize winning "action."

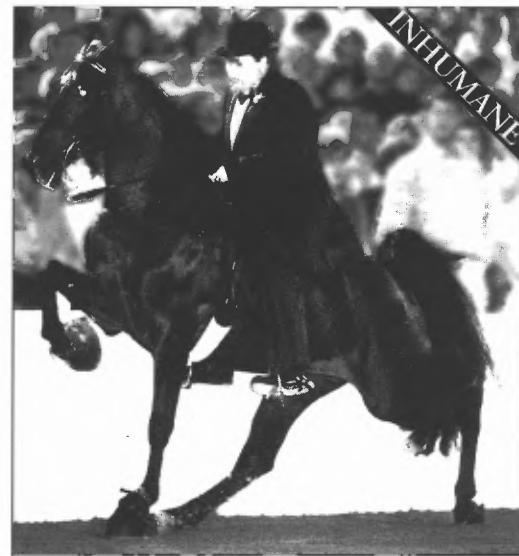
AWI's companion organization, the Society for Animal Protective Legislation, played an instrumental role in the passage of the 1970 Horse Protection Act. Despite the act making soring a criminal offense and 28 years of USDA regulation, the soring of Tennessee Walking Horses is still a prevalent practice. In fact, people who sore their horses have become increasingly proficient at hiding overt signs such as open wounds and bald patches by using freezing agents to numb sored skin, and tattoo ink to camouflage soring-induced redness. To "teach" a horse to stand still on the show inspection line, trainers routinely and brutally beat a horse who flinches in pain when his or her front legs are handled.

According to an April 12 front-page story in *The Tennessean*, USDA veterinarians have found 673 cases of soring since 1987—despite the fact

THE CRUELSORING OF TENNESSEEWALKINGHORSES: A HIGH-STEPPINGSHAME



VS.



Vanity Over Humanity: Symptoms of a Sored Horse

At right: Prominent Tennessee Walking Horse trainer Jackie McConnell (who, according to *The Tennessean*, has been disqualified and fined on multiple occasions for soring) is shown riding Santana at a mainstream show without an anti-soring policy. These horses can be enjoyed without abuse—as evidenced by Robert Pope, at left, who only participates in alternative (anti-soring) horse shows, making sure his horse, Easy Easter, leads a cruelty-free life. A sored horse can be characterized by:

- the horse's knee rising above the level of the shoulder
- elongated, overgrown hooves
- thick, heavy hoof pads that often cover holes drilled into the sole of the horse's foot
- a "set" tail: artificially tampered-with tail that protrudes at an unnatural angle
- a cramped back and crouching hindquarters
- a frantic facial expression
- exaggerated stretching of the back legs

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that the USDA vets attended only 10% of gaited-horse shows. Nine of the last 16 Trainer of the Year award winners have either been suspended from showing, or have cases pending against them for soring. In addition, nine of the past 11 presidents of the Walking Horse Association have been suspended or have cases pending.

Soring, far from being a secret, is readily admitted to by some of the Walking Horse industry's most active participants. On a survey distributed by the committee that organizes the National Celebration Show, the group's chairperson Ron Thomas, wrote "most (trainers) sore to some degree" and estimated that 90% of owners are aware that horses are sored and that few owners even care that soring occurs.

The passage of the 1970 Horse Protection Act was supposed to provide for effective regulation of the competitive Tennessee Walking Horse industry. Congress has failed to provide the funding necessary for the act to be properly enforced. In 1976, the Tennessee Walking Horse industry pushed for, and won, greater self-regulating authority. The industry is now able to appoint its own inspectors, trained by the National Horse Show Commission, to police its own shows. These inspectors, termed Designated Qualified Persons (DQPs), often have strong ties to the Tennessee Walking Horse community and have been unwilling or unable to responsibly enforce the Horse Protection Act.

Despite its recent efforts, the USDA has been unable to provide adequate veterinary oversight of the DQPs due to lack of funds. In 1995, the USDA initiated the Horse Protection Strategic Plan in an attempt to remedy soring abuses in the gaited-horse show industry. The plan seeks

Humane Horse Shows on the Rise

Robert Pope was called over by his trainer for a conference with the show inspector. His beautiful, black Tennessee Walking Horse stallion had been pulled from the show ring. Matching white bands marked both of the horse's lower legs. When a horse is injured, hair regrowing over scar tissue is often white. The actual scar may not be immediately noticeable, but white hair can be an indicator of past soring. The show inspector declared Pope's horse sore. The trainer claimed the white lines were just rubbed there by ankle boots, but the show veterinarian confirmed the inspector's suspicions: the horse had been sored. Horrified at the thought of his horse in pain, Pope fired the trainer and took his horses home.

It was a terrible and eye-opening first show experience. Pope enjoyed the excitement of the show ring, but not at the expense of his beloved walkers. Just by paying his horse's entry fee in a nationally recognized show Pope realized that he was subsidizing soring. A portion of show entry fees goes into a slush fund called B-PAC, which is used to hire lawyers, lobbyists and public relations firms to defend the competitive Tennessee Walking Horse industry from critics and detractors.

Pope longed to see his horses in the show ring again. Since supporting the soring industry was out of the question, Robert organized the Pacific Walking Horse Jubilee, an anti-soring Tennessee Walking Horse show to be held the same weekend as the largest West Coast "mainstream" show—flouting the establishment. The Jubilee's zero-tolerance anti-soring policy is much more stringent than current USDA regulations. Inspectors at the Jubilee not only keep watch over the show rings, but patrol the barns and warm-up areas. Tennessee now also has a large anti-soring show, the Steppin' Out Classic. Organized by the Friends of the Sound Horse Society and sponsored by the outspoken anti-soring magazine, *Steppin' Out*, the show is now a well-attended yearly event.

The rapidly expanding and increasingly vocal "sound horse" movement is flourishing on-line. Over 500 anti-soring walking horse owners, trainers, and breeders from all over the country have organized into a far-reaching network of activists via email, chat rooms and web sites. Supporting them are thousands who attend the alternative horse shows all over the country. With more people speaking out against the shame of soring, the systematic abuse of Tennessee Walking Horses may soon be a thing of the past. 🐾

to institute consistent inspection practices, better soring detection and more effective enforcement mechanisms. Uniform penalties will be levied on those trainers and owners who are found to continue soring. Probably the most important aspect of the plan is to require participating horse industry organizations to comply with the law. If the DQPs from the industry organizations fail to find sored horses, the USDA could pull the organization's certification, which would prevent the organization from holding recognized shows.

Torturing Tennessee Walking Horses makes big money. The National Celebration, one single show, pumps \$25 million dollars a year into Shelbyville, Tennessee's economy. Training, board and show fees amount to millions a year. A horse who places in one of the National level classes stands to bring in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of dollars in stud or sales money for its owner. Charities have come to depend on sponsorship from the Tennessee Walking Horse competitive community. Restaurants, hotels, and shops located in towns that host shows generate most of their income from participants and spectators at Walking Horse events.

A vocal and influential segment of the Walking Horse industry is actively seeking to undermine the USDA Strategic Plan. At the behest of the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, two letters, one from the Senate and one from the House of Representatives were circulated, each seeking to reduce funding for this plan to stop soring and punish violators. The Society for Animal Protective Legislation, along with many other horse defenders, are striving to preserve USDA funding for the strategic plan, so as to protect these gentle animals. 🐾

Bear Protection Act on the Move

Hearings were held in the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, chaired by Senator John Chafee (R, RI), July 7, 1998, on eight bills which would be administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The bills, focused on endangerment of species used in Traditional Asian Medicine, included the Bear Protection Act and the Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act. The Bear Protection Act would solve the differences in state legislation relating to bears. Some states, such as Idaho, permit sale of bear galls which bring fantastic prices on the traditional medicine market.

Senator Mitch McConnell (R, KY), the bill's chief sponsor, submitted testimony stating: "The poaching of bears is a national problem that is destined to become worse. Currently, there are enforcement and jurisdictional loopholes, which exist as a result of a patchwork of state laws, that allow this illegal trade to flourish. I believe we have a real opportunity, if we act now, to protect the bear populations in this country from individuals seeking to profit from the slaughter and sale of the organs of these magnificent animals.... The outright ban on the trade, sale, or barter of bear viscera, including items that claim to contain bear parts, will close the existing loopholes and will allow state and federal wildlife officials to focus their limited resources on much needed conservation efforts." Senator McConnell is joined in co-sponsoring the Bear Protection Act with a bipartisan group of 54 members of the Senate, including over two thirds of the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

A record number of groups, comprised of both animal protective and hunting organizations, joined together in support of the Bear Protection Act. Testimony submitted on behalf of these groups reported that the Earthcare Society and Association of Chinese Medicine and Philosophy, two prominent Hong Kong organizations, recognize 54 herbal substitutes for bear bile in traditional medicine remedies.

With such overwhelming support for enactment of the Bear Protection Act, opponents opted for the time-honored, low-profile method of bill-killing: delay by demanding further "study" and "funding." The World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the American Zoological and Aquarium Association (AZA), and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) all called for more study and funding, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service supported them. This organized foot-dragging contradicts WWF's own previous messages to its members. In 1995 WWF stated: "American black bear populations are targets of illegal traders in bear parts. The booming

medicinal market for these parts, where a single gall bladder can fetch up to \$11,000 in some Far Eastern Markets, has already sent Asian bear populations into decline and is causing traders to turn increasingly to American black bears. A complex patchwork of state laws in the United States makes it almost impossible to regulate the trade." And "information provided by federal, state, provincial and territorial wildlife agencies in the United States and Canada indicates that there also exists a well-developed market for parts from the American black bear."

Towards the end of the hearing, Senator Chafee, renowned for his mild manner in asking searching questions, inquired of Gary J. Taylor, legislative director of IAFWA who had strongly opposed passage of the Bear Protection Act, "What's the harm in doing it?" Mr. Taylor, caught off guard, was reduced to babbling about America's "unique relation of state and federal governments," which he characterized as "the envy of the rest of the world." He said that IAFWA would support the bill "if there was any substantiation at all" of need for it. The IAFWA (usually referred to as "the International" because wildlife managers in Canada and Mexico are also included in its powerful embrace) allegedly speaks for and represents the state wildlife agencies, but state agency directors and wildlife law enforcement personnel have made abundantly clear the great need for this valuable bill. A sampling of their statements follows.*

- **Alaska:** "Anything would help, any federal legislation in any form would help us... If they could get this bill [BPA] through and actually make it a federal law, it would be great." —Sergeant Joe Campbell, former Commander, Statewide Investigations, now Post Supervisor, Department of Public Safety, Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection

- **California:** "We believe that California bear are taken to other states and sold. ...this is a loophole which endangers bear populations. California would be supportive of a uniform prohibition on the sale of gallbladders. —Boyd Gibbons, Director, California Department of Fish and Game

"Anytime you have any regulation that assists in the control of the illegal sale of bear parts, that's going to help. If all states were aligned, including Canada and their provinces, along with all of our states, in not allowing [trade in bear galls] it would be a tremendous benefit to enforcement. The problem comes where it is legal to [trade]." —Lieutenant Watkins, head of California's Department of Fish and Game Special Operations Unit

- **Colorado:** "The Division would be very supportive of any efforts at better protecting bears and dealing with the illegal trade, to include an interstate prohibition on the sale of bear galls." —Fran Marcoux, Chief of Wildlife Law Enforcement, Division of Wildlife

- **Georgia:** "I would love to see some kind of interstate prohibition on the sale of bear gall and bear parts." —Sergeant Jim Wallen, Georgia Wildlife Resources Division, Investigative Unit

- **Idaho:** "Bears are being poached just for their gallbladders.... We even have intelligence of people poaching bears in other states and laundering them in Idaho." —Paul Weyland, Special Agent, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Boise

- **Louisiana:** "Any extra Legislation or laws put on the books gives us more teeth to do our job... [an interstate ban] would help us a lot." —Sergeant Mayne, Special Investigations Division, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

- **North Carolina:** "[An interstate ban] would be great because we

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UPDATE

SENATE COMMITTEE PASSES BEAR BILL

On July 22, 1998, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approved an amended version of the Bear Protection Act (BPA). Dirk Kempthorne (R, ID), the only Senator outspokenly opposed to the bill, succeeded in removing the prohibition on interstate commerce in bear viscera. The amended BPA that will be sent to the full Senate bans the import and export of the internal organs and body fluids of all bears, and instructs the Department of Interior to conduct a one year study to determine the levels of bear poaching and trade in bear parts within the US. Upon completion of Interior's study, Congress may revisit the issue of an interstate trade ban in bear parts and products. If signed into law this year, the Bear Protection Act (although weakened) will make a significant contribution to global bear conservation and establish the framework for further action within the United States. AWI will continue to monitor this gruesome global and domestic wildlife trade. 🐾

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constantly run into people that say that they got them (galls) in Michigan, Maine, everywhere in the world, and bring them here... it would benefit enforcement. We work closely with the Fish and Wildlife Service but still, the Lacey Act is cumbersome at best.... I would like to see an interstate law.” —Roger Lequire, Enforcement Division, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

• **Pennsylvania:** “We do not subscribe to the commercialization of wildlife because it eventually leads to an unlawful activity. The drain on wildlife resources because of all the various markets and demands for either wildlife or parts is tremendous. We would support a law banning the commercialization of black bear parts and any other law that addresses unlawful traffic in wildlife.” —J.R. Fagan, Director, Bureau of Law Enforcement (for the Director), Pennsylvania Game Commission

• **Utah:** “When you have got such disparity in laws in the states, it’s so hard to enforce when you are working on trade in bear parts.... A federal prohibition on bear gall commerce is going to help us immensely.” —William Woody, Enforcement Investigator, Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Resources

• **Washington:** “It has been disturbing to note the increased efforts of those individuals who deal in bear and bear parts. I support the consistency of laws, both between states and nationally, to further the protection of all our fragile wildlife resources. Consistency between states and federal agencies, by the enactment of laws prohibiting the sale and export of bear and other wildlife parts, would help in closing the doors and loopholes that currently exist.” —Dayna Matthews, Assistant Director, Enforcement Program, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife 🐾

* SOURCE OF STATEMENTS: THE AMERICAN BEAR PARTS TRADE: A STATE-BY STATE ANALYSIS, BY KEITH HIGHLEY FOR THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES, APRIL, 1996 AND LETTERS TO CLIFFORD J. WOOD, ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY, 1995.

CAPTURED BELUGAS DESTINED FOR A LIFE OF MISERY IN MEXICO

(Translated excerpts from an article published in the Mexico City newspaper Reforma)

by Homero Aridjis

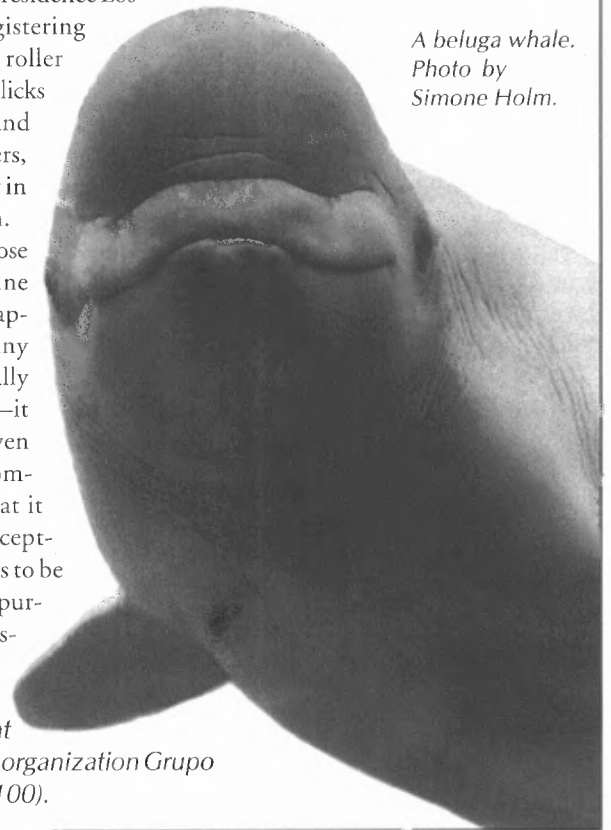
Two beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*), without a doubt captured in their native habitat, the Arctic Ocean, were delivered on May 31st to their new owners, Promotora de Centros de Esparcimiento. Before then, they belonged to no one but themselves.

The beluga is a social animal which often lives in pods of ten individuals, led by a large male. Undoubtedly, our two belugas were torn away from their families. Males reach their sexual maturity at 8 to 9 years and may live to be 25 to 30 years old. The two captured whales are 4 to 5 years old, so unless something happens to them they could spend the next 20 years imprisoned in a tank beneath the roller coaster known as “the Russian Mountain” with no chance of ever satisfying their natural mating and socializing instincts, or of swimming at 22 kilometers per hour in the open sea, because the owners of the Chapultepec Fair amusement park have announced that the belugas will stay here until they die.

The belugas will spend their lives in show business, next to an expressway, a short distance from the presidential residence Los Piños, their delicate ears registering each climb and plunge of the roller coaster cars, their whistles and clicks mingling with the screams and howls of hysterical thrill-seekers, while the belugas’ captors try in vain to train them to perform.

Marine biologist Naomi Rose has written that “to the marine mammal, the experience of captivity is inescapable life in a tiny enclosure, deprived of virtually any semblance of naturalness—it is so sterile and contrary to even the most basic elements of compassion and humaneness, that it should be rejected. It is unacceptable for wild marine mammals to be brought into captivity for the purpose of commercial public display.” 🐾

Homero Aridjis is president of the Mexican conservation organization Grupo de los Cien (the Group of 100).



A beluga whale.
Photo by
Simone Holm.

Newspaper Voices Strong Support for Bear Protection Act

The Providence (R.I.) Journal ran the following editorial on July 9.

Bears, it might surprise some to learn, are seen as an important medical resource, as are tigers and rhinoceroses and a number of other animals. Traditional healing arts in Asia look to bear gall bladders and paws, dried and ground up into powder, to provide cures for a number of ailments. We cannot judge the efficacy of such treatments, but one evident result is the virtual extinction of these creatures in much of Asia.

Bears in this country are relatively plentiful. Their numbers have increased in recent decades and they have returned to many habitats—

particularly in New England—whence they had long ago vanished, mainly because of the reforestation of land once used for agriculture.

Now, bears in the United States are being hunted to supply this Asian medicine market. Bear bile can fetch a fair penny in foreign parts. Hence, the proposed Bear Protection Act, which would make illegal any trade in bear viscera. The bill is in the Senate’s Environment and Public Works Committee, chaired by Sen. John Chafee. It would be most unfortunate if this new threat were to ravage our native bear population. Thus, we strongly support the Bear Protection Act. 🐾

965

Keiko—the First Real Whale Ambassador

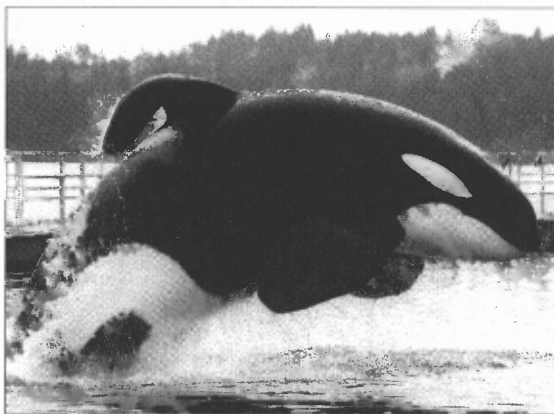
by Ben White

When I first saw Keiko, he was slowly dying. He had been violently taken from his family in Iceland and flown to Ontario Marineland, where he languished in a cinderblock warehouse with Junior, perhaps his brother. Junior never again saw the light of day, but Keiko was sold to the Mexico City amusement park Reino Aventura. If there were ever a place unsuited for a wide-ranging Icelandic whale accustomed to chilly water and lots of orca company, it was the tepid isolation of his new home. He stayed alive in the 70 degree water by starving himself, shrinking his blubber so as to regulate the unnatural heat. He ground his teeth down to bloody nubbins by chewing on the concrete rim of his shallow pool. Papilloma virus spread under and onto his pectoral fins. Exposed to the hot sun and the gravity of long stays on the surface, his dorsal fin took on the trademark droop of captive male orcas.

I was visiting Keiko as part of a small group determined to get Keiko out of Mexico City. Even the management of Reino Aventura knew that his days were numbered. To our amazement, we struck a deal with the board, giving us the whale and them the merchandizing rights. Three days later, after a conversation with Sea World, the park renigged and our plans for a rapid rescue disintegrated.

Two years later, fueled by a two million dollar grant from Warner Brothers (at the urging of Free Willy producers Richard and Lauren Schuler-Donner), Dave Phillips of Earth Island Institute made another deal with the park board. This one stuck, and Keiko was airlifted amid much fanfare to a new tank in the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

Many of us worried that Keiko would stay there, his release stymied by the same market forces that keep Sea World's doors open after countless protests against the cruelty of captivity. He was a boon for the local economy of Newport. The aquarium predictably launched



Keiko will soon be on his way home—perhaps to the family he was separated from 17 years ago.

Free Willy/Keiko Foundation

a campaign to discredit the Free Willy/Keiko Foundation and their plans to make good on their promise of freedom.

Driven by the resources of telecommunications billionaire Craig McCaw and the determination of Earth Island, Keiko healed, gained weight and began to pursue live fish. The best news came last week: Iceland has given the green light for Keiko to be relocated into a sea pen in the Westmann Islands. When he is ready, the fences will drop and Keiko will be the first orca in history deliberately rehabilitated and released back to the wild.

For years, the public display industry has said that captive whales and dolphins were “ambassadors of their kind”; sacrifices brought into tanks so as to introduce human beings to the wonders of their species. I often thought that if we were to obtain human ambassadors in a comparable way, we would grab some unfortunate off the sidewalk, lock him in the trunk of a car and drive away.

Iceland's decision to allow Keiko to come back home makes him truly an ambassador of his kind, bringing a measure of peace between species. His repatriation appears to have happily resolved a long-

standing debate within the Icelandic government about whether to resume whaling. Since whaling stopped in Iceland almost a decade ago, whale watching has caught on and now brings in far more money than whaling ever did. But strong forces in Iceland didn't want Keiko back for fear he would convince people to cherish whales instead of exploiting them. Opposition to the move also came from Sea World's Brad Andrews, who warned that Iceland is dark and cold.

Three cheers for Keiko, who dramatized opposition to whaling in Iceland. Congratulations to Earth Island, on the verge of doing what many said couldn't be done. May the giving back of a life to the most famous whale in the world serve to unravel the arrogant rationale of captivity, and eventually lead to the return the rest of our captive entertainers to their homes and families. 🐾

IWC Report: Amid Deadlock, the Chance for a New Role

by Ben White

The 50th meeting of the International Whaling Commission was held from May 16-21 near Muscat, Oman. Although this country of serene desert peaks and isolated oases may seem like a strange venue, the Arabian Sea that laps its shores is rich in sea life, including many species of whales and dolphins. Commissioners from 35 countries met in plenary session, along with representatives of all persuasions of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and media from around the world. Dozens of resolutions spelling life or death for whales were presented, debated, and voted upon. Surprisingly, many delegates come to the meeting either without firm instructions or with malleable points of view, giving opportunity to those that wish to persuade. As AWI's official observer, my job is to convince delegates that the best course is always one of increased protection.

Overshadowing the meeting was the continued push for the slippery “Irish Proposal,” the brainchild of new IWC chair Michael Canny. On the presumption that the IWC is hopelessly deadlocked between nations wanting whales left alone and those wanting to kill them, the proposal offers an ominous compromise: ban Japan's bogus “scientific” whaling in the Antarctic plus all deep-water pelagic

whaling and the international sale of whalemeat, in exchange for opening up whaling in all coastal waters up to 200 miles from land. Mr. Canny was so eager to promote his “compromise” that he specifically asked that no resolutions be introduced that criticized Japan and Norway, the only countries that consistently thumb their noses at IWC rulings.

Despite Mr. Canny's efforts at turning the meeting into a love-fest of reconciliation, the plenary quickly split along well-established faultlines. Japan was unwilling to give an inch and immediately caused a ruckus by pushing a vote on instituting the secret ballot. This method of allowing governments to hide their votes has already caused great damage at CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) by facilitating the buying of votes without public repercussions. The Japanese attempt to protect the five Caribbean countries that support their whaling from facing criticism failed badly after vigorous lobbying. The IWC chose to keep their deliberations transparent and open to review.

The Omani meeting saw the return of the United States delegation to their traditional role as whale champions. Under American

continued on next page

965A

DNA ANALYSIS HELPS SNARE TURTLE KILLER

Robelio Rodriguez of Homestead, Florida pled guilty in June to the killing of a hawksbill sea turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, an endangered species. In April of 1997, Rodriguez speared the turtle and then butchered it while the turtle was still alive.

Upon seeing a Florida Marine Patrol vessel approach him, Rodriguez threw the plastic bag containing the turtle meat overboard. The Patrol officers quickly retrieved the bag and seized the spear gun and bloody knife used to dismember the turtle from Rodriguez's boat. Through DNA analysis conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service, the tissue and blood found in the plastic bag and on the knife and spear gun were determined to be from the same Hawksbill sea turtle.

This case yielded the first wildlife conviction based on DNA evidence. DNA analysis is a powerful tool for fighting wildlife crime; it eliminates guesswork as to species identification, catching criminals red-handed.

"[The turtle was] speared and hacked to death in order to retrieve a few measly ounces of meat for the defendant's lunch. Although this case involves just one turtle, it provides an opportunity to educate the public about the seriousness of violating the Endangered Species Act," commented Assistant United States Attorney Diane Patrick.

Not only does Patrick hope that her aggressive enforcement of the Endangered Species Act will discourage others from poaching turtles, but that it will spark within the people of South Florida "an interest in helping to protect their environment and earth's creatures." Rodriguez has been incarcerated since his arrest in April of 1998. His sentencing is planned for August.

HARPOONED WHALE FIGHTS BACK!

The typically mild-mannered minke whale had enough. After being fired upon and harpooned by a Norwegian whaling boat, the small whale turned on his attackers, ramming their vessel. The whale succeeded in breaking the ship's mast and hurling two crew members into the icy waters. The whale escaped, but none of the rescued crew members could tell if he survived. Norway continues to ignore a worldwide ban on commercial whaling established in 1985, and plans to allow its fleet to "harvest" hundreds of minke whales this summer.

continued from previous page

leadership, a proposal was passed to actually allocate funding for a study of environmental threats facing whales. Combining an analysis of the threats from toxic proliferation, climate change and noise pollution, the study represents a dramatic step forward in changing the IWC from a whaler's club into a conservation body.

The IWC was established in 1946 with the dual mandate of encouraging the "orderly development of whaling" and the conservation of whale "stocks." With whale-watching now far surpassing whale killing in generating income, some argue that the definition of "whaling" includes this benign use, just as birding means bird-watching. Therefore, the IWC could stay true to its mandate, transform itself into a conservation body that actually follows the will of the people of the world, and work to protect whales from all threats, including dumped poisons, loud sounds, habitat destruction and, yes, even harpoons. 🐾

OPERATION JUNGLE TRADE A SUCCESS

Operation Jungle Trade, a three-year, worldwide undercover operation, led to 40 indictments for traffic in exotic wildlife and rescued over 660 endangered and protected animals.

The sting operation uncovered an elaborate smuggling network operating across the US/Mexico border. The mammals and birds were smuggled into nine states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and ten other countries including Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Brazil, Ghana, Egypt, Panama, Honduras, Belize, and Costa Rica.

Agents had to work around the clock to ensure the seized animals remained healthy while in government custody. "Our agents never let up in this case. Everyone took great pains to make sure the animals were well taken care of. It became a real cause for us," said Customs Agent Al Pena.

Many of the 600 endangered or threatened psittacine birds seized are considered priceless due to their rarity in the wild. Also rescued were 20 monkeys, a Mexican lynx, a mountain lion, and a kinkajou, a small tree-dwelling mammal. Earlier in the operation, customs agents also intercepted two loads of diseased birds destined for the US market. The diseased birds had to be destroyed.



A kinkajou, one of the animals rescued in Operation Jungle Trade

The smuggling of endangered parrot species along the Texas-Mexico border is an issue of serious conservation concern. Smuggling operations typically steal young birds that frequently die before reaching markets. Bird smugglers also destroy habitat, hacking down trees to catch nestlings.

Those arrested have been charged with conspiracy, smuggling, illegal possession of an endangered animal, and money laundering. Fines and jail time for these charges range from \$100,000 to \$500,000 and 1 to 20 years per conviction.

AT LONG LAST, BRAZILIAN SUPREME COURT RULES TO BAN CRUEL TRADITION

Animal rights activists literally threw themselves into each other's arms upon news of their success at banning a vile form of institutionalized cruelty: Farra do Boi, or "Ox Fun Days." For many years, these so-called festivals inflicted intense cruelty upon scores of oxen. In a landmark decision, the Brazilian Supreme Court voted to outlaw the horrific torment and killing of oxen. More than 30 Brazilian communities had been featuring this torture during Easter and New Year's celebrations. Participants in the festivals believe that the ox represents Satan and torturing the Devil washes away their sins.

Before a festival, an ox was typically confined and starved for days. To increase the ox's frenzy, food was placed within sight but out of reach. The Farra began when the ox was driven from his pen and chased through the streets by crowds of villagers with sticks, knives, whips, stones, bamboo lances, and ropes. The attackers (men, women and children) pursued the fleeing ox into the ocean. Some oxen were doused with gasoline and set on fire. Pepper was thrown into their eyes, which were often gouged out. The animals had their horns and legs broken and tails cut off. This torture continued for three days or longer until the animal was finally killed.

AWI followed the lead of the World Society for the Protection of Animals and its Brazilian affiliate, Sociedade Zoofila Educativa during the long struggle to end Farra do Boi in Brazil.

ACTION: Send letters congratulating the Ministers of the Supreme Federal Tribunal on their humane decision. Please write: Ministers Supremo Tribunal Federal, Praca dos Tres Poderes 70175-900, Brasilia, DF BRASIL. 🐾

965B

MAI and the Threat to American Freedom

by Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke

113 pages. New York: Stoddart Publishing Co. \$9.95

MAI and The Threat to American Freedom, by Canadian activists Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke, is a thin volume, written and published in an eight-week period. But the message it contains is little short of apocalyptic, for it provides the first glimpse available to the American public of a draft international treaty, written in absolute secrecy within the 29-nation Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva. The proposed treaty, 90% completed before a copy leaked from the closed circle of bankers, corporate CEO's and international bureaucrats who fashioned it, is entitled the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, or MAI.

The document clothed in this forgettable acronym, as Clark and Barlow's analysis of the text confirms, is staggering in its implications. It has been dubbed "a bill of rights for global corporations and global banks" and "NAFTA on steroids." The Director General of WTO himself, Renato Ruggiero, calls it "the Constitution for a single global economy." The means MAI adopts to secure the rights of currency speculators and transnational banks and corporations is breathtakingly simple: it would eliminate existing rights of national, state and local government to regulate them. Mr. Ruggiero's proposed global constitution—adopted in the form of the present draft—would supersede existing national and state or provincial constitutions and abridge, or entirely eliminate, the ability of the people, through their elective processes, to make political decisions that impact international investment.

If this seems hard to swallow, it is. But an antidote to disbelief is readily at hand; if the Barlow-Clarke analysis is not enough one can read the plain language of the draft, available on the World Wide Web (<http://www.oecd.org/daf/cmism/mai/maimtext.pdf>).

• The "national treatment and most favored nation treatment" provision requires that foreign investors receive treatment "...no less favorable than [a party] accords [in like circumstances] its own nationals." If there are several ways of treating investors within a contracting party, it must "...accord to investors of another contracting party...the better of the treatment." Since MAI does not recognize subnational government, this wipes out at a stroke all state and local government measures designed to favor local and state residents over outside corporations. States, cities and counties could no longer favor local or state based businesses in granting contracts. All subsidies, such as low interest investment loans to state residents, would be out; so would restrictions on foreign or corporate ownership, or exploitation, of a state's resources, such as Nebraska's law against corporate farming, Oregon's law against exporting unprocessed timber or state laws denying lobstering rights in state waters to nonresidents. A host of state and local environmental constraints on investment, such as Wyoming's law restricting industrial hog farms, would be thrown out because they are more restrictive ("less favorable") than federal, or other state, regulations; environmental regulation would be reduced, across the country, to the "lowest common denominator."

• Environmental and socioeconomic regulations that survive "national treatment" are by no means through the MAI gamut. "Performance requirements" on investments are prohibited. National and subnational governments alike are constrained from applying domestic content requirements and from "accord[ing] preferences" (in contracting or purchasing) to locally owned firms, to firms using local labor, firms meeting

pollution or other environmental standards. Any effort by government to enhance environmental protection by tax credits or other incentives, or by penalty taxes, such as pollution taxes or carbon taxes, could be challenged.

The ban on "performance requirements" would be fatal to efforts to keep profits from exiting a community, state or nation. Laws like the Community Redevelopment Act which requires banks to reinvest in the communities in which they are located, and state severance taxes on raw materials would become illegal. Under MAI, nations would—in fact—lose all ability to regulate entry or exit of capital or place conditions on stock investments; currency speculation, which has destabilized the world economy and largely created the Mexican and Asian financial "crises," could proceed entirely unchecked.

• MAI's proposed ban on uncompensated expropriation of corporate assets extends far beyond simple taking, to include measures having "equivalent effect" or "tantamount to expropriation." This means that if government were forced to shut down a transnational operation because of environmental contamination, or unsafe working conditions, it would have to provide "prompt, adequate and effective compensation." In other words, the taxpayers would have to pay off the corporation for not polluting or for not maintaining an unsafe workplace. MAI's definition

of expropriation even includes "a lost opportunity to profit from a planned investment" such as denial of a mining or timber permit or an adverse zoning decision.

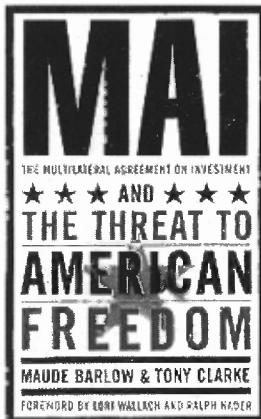
• The "standstill" provision in the draft obliges parties to MAI to list all of the "non-conforming" measures and to refrain from passing any new laws that violate MAI rules. This would mean that national environmental regulations would be frozen; a nation could not strengthen, or upgrade, its environmental laws once it had become a party to the treaty. MAI's "rollback" provision goes even further: once "non-conforming" laws and regulations have been identified, they are to be subject to a "liberalizing" process leading to their "eventual elimination."

• Instead of being allowed to extricate itself with a six month notice of withdrawal, as in NAFTA, a party to MAI would be bound for twenty years. Nor could our courts protect us from the treaty's worst excesses. MAI not only gives corporations standing to sue governments for monetary compensation, it allows them to bring their complaint before an international tribunal rather than before the nation's own courts.

That political and economic rights we have held and practiced in our communities for generations could be stripped away by an international treaty seems unimaginable. But the threat is real; under the Supremacy Clause of the US Constitution, the federal government's obligation to carry out the provisions of a treaty to which we are party overrides domestic law. If MAI were to receive a two thirds vote in the US Senate, the US government—absent a successful Supreme Court challenge—would have no choice but to enforce it.

Some say that MAI, like Dracula, cannot survive the light of day. Indeed, as the text has become known (New Zealand's parliament—for example—is said to have "erupted in fury") the treaty's backers have hastened to assure critics that existing rights will be "grandfathered in" and promised to take various "reservations" and "exceptions." The very fact that the transnational establishment would dare to bring forth such a document speaks of the immense power it has already amassed and the control that has already passed from the people to the corporate boardroom. The MAI draft can be greatly softened and still utterly overthrow the rules by which most of us live, and tip the competitive balance hopelessly against local owners and investors.

continued on next page



Book Review: One in a Million**Nicholas Read**

146 pages. Vancouver, B.C.: Polestar Book Publishers, 1996 \$6.95
Available through ORCA 1-800-210-5277



The appealing central figure in this true life adventure story is an unwanted puppy—one of the millions brought to shelters in Canada and the United States. The author gained his empathetic understanding as a volunteer at the local shelter. An accomplished writer whose columns appear regularly in *The Vancouver Sun*, Nicholas Read discusses a wide spectrum of serious animal issues on his regular radio spot.

In his book, Read immerses himself in the character of Joey, the increasingly big black puppy whose very size militated against his finding a good home. I'm told this book is intended for young people seven to 12 years old, but I greatly enjoyed reading it, recognizing my own early experience, in the inevitable sorrows and triumphs that accompany efforts to help homeless animals.

The book has been characterized as "a *Beautiful Joe* for the 90's." Nicholas Read has captured the spirit of a wayward but noble dog who finally wins out against calumny and fear among some of the story's human protagonists. Readers both young and old will appreciate the happy ending that crowns Joey's many trials and tribulations. 🐾

—Christine Stevens

continued from previous page

The purest paradigm, say Barlow and Clark of what may be expecting if MAI, as drafted, becomes international law may be seen in the world's free trade zones. The notorious "maquiladora" zone on the Mexican side of the border has been described as a "thousand mile long Love Canal." In this industrial zone, the level of pollution exceeds the worst found in eastern Europe. There is no thought of worker safety or health; perfectly healthy young women are discarded in five to ten years as too ill to do their jobs; the incidence of birth defects and immune deficiency diseases such as lupus is astronomical; wages are abysmal; housing is minimal; corporate thugs help to "maintain order."

It is in such zones that corporations enjoy the rights and freedoms they seek through MAI on a global scale: the freedom to exploit without restriction, to clear-cut forests and pollute rivers; the right to expose workers to poisoned workplaces and treat them as consumables; the freedom to raise animals in factory farms without the slightest pretense of humaneness; and to drive small farmers from the land; the right to corrupt, bully, dominate and, eventually, to tyrannize. When such rights and freedoms are granted—despite the existence of many solid, ethical, well meaning multinational companies, they will assuredly be exercised.

What is at stake, as Clark and Barlow eloquently argue, is not free trade or protection of legitimate investments; but domination; whether or not government will exist to serve the people or to enforce the will of a corporate elite; whether or not, the great transnationals; stateless; soulless; conscienceless will control our lives.

MAI and the Threat to American Freedom is not easy reading. But it is necessary reading. 🐾

—Tom Garrett

Tom Garrett is a longtime conservationist, wildlife expert, and author. A revised edition of his monograph Alternative Traps will be published by AWI in fall 1998.

CAMPAIGN FOR CHIMPANZEE RETIREMENT CONTINUES

by Carole Noon

The Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care at the University of Florida has petitioned the US Air Force on June 17 for the retirement of the current lease of 111 chimpanzees to Dr. Robert Coulston at the Air Force Research Laboratory, Brooks AFB, Texas. The impact of the contract is to live as if they are wild.

It is necessary for the chimpanzees to be retired to a more natural environment. Dr. Coulston is optimistic that they will be able to live in a more natural environment. The Air Force is currently de-

"Dateline NBC" did a segment on the Air Force chimpanzees on June 19, featuring Jane Goodall and Roger Fouts. After the segment, viewers were able to vote for retirement or continued research. Ninety seven percent of the viewers voted for retirement.

For more information, please write to the Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care at PO Box 3746, Boynton Beach, FL 33424, or visit the center's website at www.savethechimps.org. 🐾

Huge Transnationals Divide and Conquer

One need not stray far from home to gain a foretaste of what MAI holds for us. In 1937, management of Canada's natural resources passed from the Crown to the individual provinces; over the past decade real control—especially in the west—has been surrendered to giant transnational corporations. In Alberta, for example, the majority of the province's remaining boreal forest has been handed over to Japanese and American companies. Mitsubishi, the world's largest corporation, with a gross product over seven times Alberta's and 168 known subsidiaries, controls about 40% of the remaining forest—almost 30 million acres—through forest management agreements. Mitsubishi's "management" has consisted of clearcutting vast tracts and feeding the forest into huge, grossly polluting pulp mills. The impact, not only on Alberta's environment, but on its social fabric, has been devastating. Diane Keith, of Athabaska County (site of Mitsubishi's giant ALPAC pulp mill) writes that what has happened "transcends the poisoning of a river. It...entails an assault on the very soul of our communities. Athabasca is occupied territory. It has been divided and conquered by a well-organized, government-subsidized corporate army.

"We in ALPAC country," Mrs. Keith concludes, "have been shaken from our innocence. Firsthand, we've seen that the will of the people is no match for the wealth of transnational corporations.... We watch as the line between government and big business blurs. And we ask: Is democracy just another commodity to be sold to the highest bidder?"

Mrs. Keith's plaint could be repeated in scores of communities across the western provinces. What is happening—and it has come on with stupefying speed—is reminiscent of the robber baron era of 100 years ago: unchecked ecological devastation, political corruption, a proliferation of private security operatives, increasingly harsh tactics against those who resist, particularly—just as we are seeing in the Amazon, in Southeast Asia and elsewhere—against native peoples. 🐾



Carole Noon

STOP PRESS
August 7: The US Air Force awarded 111 chimpanzees to Dr. Coulston despite his appalling record, including the deaths of chimpanzees and an ongoing investigation by the USDA for violations of the Federal Animal Welfare Act.

967

Ethics Into Action, Henry Spira and the Animal Rights Movement

by Peter Singer

192 pages. New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. \$22.95

Henry Spira is perhaps the only genius to have adopted the cause of persecuted animals. His biographer, Peter Singer, the author of *Animal Liberation*, which brought the rights of animals into philosophy classrooms throughout the English-speaking world, exerts a powerful influence in his own right. Singer's admiration for Henry grows throughout the book as the subjects being tackled by an essentially one man operation increase in size and difficulty.

Henry was born in Belgium and lived a comfortable, bourgeois existence as a small child. The book's first picture shows an adorable little boy in neat, white playsuit on the beach with his mother and father. With his mother and sister, Henry left Nazi Germany late in 1938 and joined his father (whom Henry described as an autocratic patriarch of the Old World) in Panama. By the time he was 17, he started working on ships, sailing around the Americas or to Europe and Africa. In the Merchant Marine, Henry saw the world. After a two-year stint with the Army, he went on to the General Motors assembly line, then decided to finish the Brooklyn College degree he had begun. Throughout, he kept writing for the Socialist Party's weekly newspaper, *The Militant*.

Henry's struggle for animal protection was preceded by his work for the National Maritime Union, where he fought the notorious labor leader, Joseph Curran. Henry joined a reform group called "Committee for NMU Democracy." Singer writes, "Henry edited, and largely wrote, the group's newspaper, *The Call for Union Democracy*." Eventually, Curran quit, and Henry decided to go into teaching. Soon he was coordinating an award-winning school newspaper.

A cat named Nina exerted and still exerts a strong influence on Henry's life. She arrived when he was 45. "Somebody going to Europe had dumped a cat on me," Henry wrote. "I wasn't even the first choice for this cat, just the backup or emergency."

At about the same time, the New York Review of Books published Peter Singer's "manifesto for an Animal Liberation movement." Henry enrolled in a course given by Singer, who writes: "The way he put things was so blunt and earthy that at times I thought I was listening to a character from a gangster movie. His clothes were crumpled, his hair tousled. In general, he struck me as an unlikely type of person to enroll in an adult education course about animal liberation." But not long afterwards, the first Spira campaign to protect animals was underway.

Singer details the many successes Henry's careful planning and remarkable patience achieved. First, the demonstrations on the steps of the American Museum of Natural History, which involved a grant from the National Institutes of Health for obscure and unnecessary surgical experiments on cats which had gone on for years at taxpayer expense. This signal

victory involved a major article in *Science*, the organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, another bastion of the scientific establishment.

The next target, a far more widespread application of animal testing, was directed at Revlon. "How many rabbits does Revlon blind for beauty's sake?" asked a full-page ad in the *New York Times*. Again, demonstrations played an important role in the outcome of the campaign against the Draize test. Revlon gave funds to establish the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing. In due course, Avon joined in with a matching \$750,000 donation for research into alternatives for the Draize test. Further, Avon began using local anesthetics, preventing painful reactions of the rabbits' eyes to irritating cosmetics. Both Revlon and Avon reduced the numbers of animals subjected to the Draize test.

Another major campaign targeted the LD₅₀, which required that half of the test animals must die in order to establish the "Lethal Dose," Henry enlisted humane scientists to dramatically reduce the number of animals used. Dr. Gerard Zbinden was a leader who spoke compellingly at important European conferences, while Henry worked closely here at home with Dr. Leonard Rack, who guided the biomedical aspects of the campaigns. Eventually, the "Limit Test," was approved, and Henry wrote:

If the whole science community and the regulators and those involved with product liability move in harmony, then instead of having 20 to 60 million lab animals, we can keep chopping off some of the zeros from the end and wind up with a very minimal number of animals that are being used as a last resort in matters of life and death, and put all the resources into alleviating the pain and suffering of those animals that are being used.

A measure of the success of these campaigns are the figures cited by Singer. "In 1985," he writes, "the *United States Pharmacopeia* and the *National Formulary*, the compendia of standards and methods of analysis for drugs and related items, required use of animals in 11 percent of their tests. By 1993, this figure had dropped to 2 percent."

Peter Singer provides an annotated list for humanitarians who aspire to achievements such as Henry has brought about. To quote excerpts:


Select a target on the basis of vulnerabilities to public opinion, the intensity of suffering, and the opportunities for change.

Bring about meaningful change one step at a time. Raising awareness is not enough.

Maintain credibility, don't exaggerate or hype the issue.

Be ready for confrontation if your target remains unresponsive ... prepare an escalating public awareness campaign to place your adversary on the defensive.

Avoid bureaucracy.

Henry started out as a teacher. His biographer has provided a valuable text for would-be reformers to emulate. 

—Christine Stevens



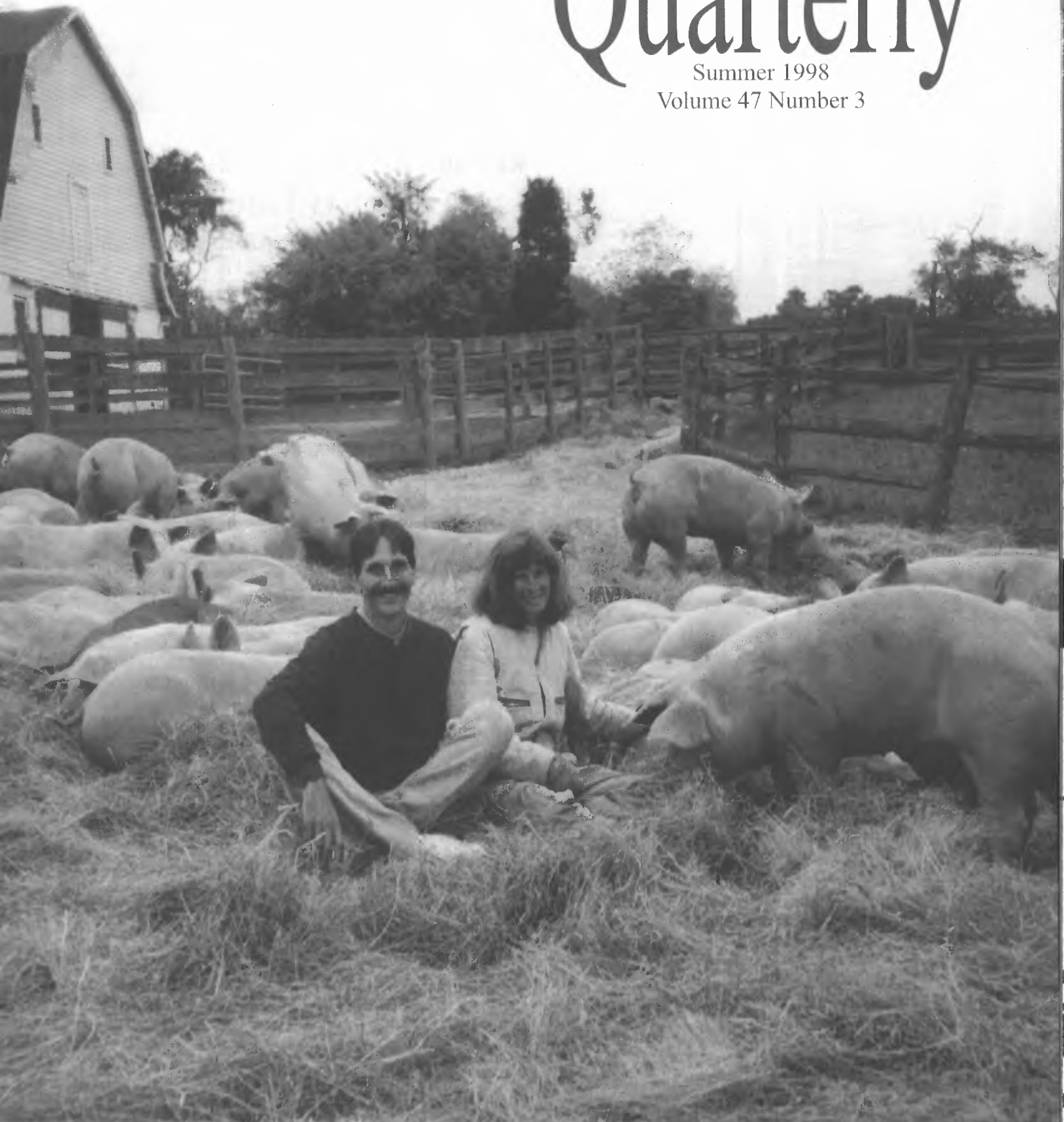
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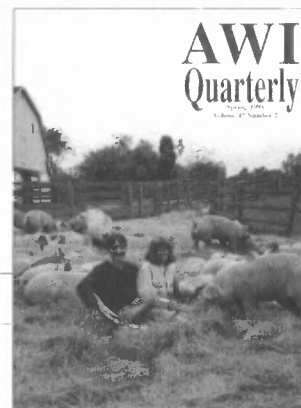
Summer 1998

Volume 47 Number 3



Cover: Terry Cummings and Dave Hoerauf, co-founders of the Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary sit among the weary, abandoned pigs who had never before experienced the joys of soft bedding to rest on, fresh air to breathe, freedom to walk on the ground, or the feel of sun on their backs.

cover photo by Ann Cottrell Free



Directors
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Rescue of 171 Pigs Raised in a Factory Farm

What was to be a one way journey to the slaughterhouse turned into a trip to porcine paradise for 167 pigs abandoned in a Washington, DC neighborhood. Tightly packed into a huge, three-tiered, eighteen-wheeled truck trailer, the pigs were being transported from a Rocky Mountain, North Carolina factory farm to Hatfield Quality Meats, a Pennsylvania slaughterhouse. The DC Metropolitan police who found the terrified pigs contacted the Washington Humane Society, who had the truck towed to Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary in Poolesville, Maryland.

The hogs had been on the truck for at least 14 hours before they were finally unloaded. Four of the pigs died of stress while on the truck or shortly after being unloaded. Only 5 to 6 months old, the pigs already averaged a whopping 200 to 250 pounds. Some had unsightly growths and hematomas, most had difficulty walking and all had their tails cut off and large sores on their bruised and swollen legs. It was clear that their short lives on concrete slats had taken a permanent toll.

When the operations manager of Hanor Corporation, Inc. (the company that owned the pigs) arrived at the sanctuary to retrieve the pigs, he was escorted by a Washington lawyer and a bevy of Montgomery County, Maryland police officers. Poplar Spring presented the manager from the Hanor factory farm with a bill of \$11,630 for expenses incurred for the pigs' transport, care and feeding. The bill constituted a legal lien in the state of Maryland. After intense negotiation, the manager agreed to write a check to cover the amount. The pigs' lawyer, Laura Nelson of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, called his bluff and demanded the sum be either in cash or a certified check. Unwilling or unable to produce a secured payment for the pigs, the manager ceded the pigs to Poplar Spring.

An interesting footnote: According to police sources, the driver was picked up the next day by Washington, DC police for driving under the influence of alcohol. It was also discovered that this had not been the first time the driver had deserted a trailer full of animals.

The hogs will now live out their natural lives as true pigs, in grassy fields with their friends. If you are interested in adopting or sponsoring one of the Poplar Spring pigs, please contact Terry Cummings at Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary, PO Box 507, Poolesville, MD 20837, (301) 428-8128. 🐾



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NEW FILM ON PIG FACTORY FARMING NOW AVAILABLE

Our just released 27 minute video *And On This Farm* by Diane Halverson is now available. For ordering information, please write, telephone, or email us (see addresses at top of page). This important film documents cruel factory farming practices, consequent environmental degradation and the ruination of family farms.



This poor factory farm victim could take no more. Despite efforts from volunteers at the Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary, she died after she was lifted from the truck taking her to the slaughterhouse. Three other pigs were dead on arrival (see page 2).



Tom Garrett (see his article on page 4) helps one of the rescued pigs down a steep ramp from the truck's third tier.

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The Cruel Corporate Assault on Family Farmers and Their Pigs

"Above gold and silver... more precious than rubies; a race of virtuous and independent farmers; loyal supporters of their country"

—Senator Thomas Hart Benton, 1823

by Tom Garrett

Today, America's system of family farms is *in extremis*. A succession of economic shocks, beginning in the Eisenhower administration, has so thinned the ranks of family farmers and ranchers that only a beleaguered remnant, aggregating less than 2% of the population, remain on the land. Thomas Hart Benton's "race of virtuous and independent farmers" is being replaced by a new feudalism, governed from corporate boardrooms, in which "contract growers" fulfill the role of serfs, and migrant workers the role of slaves.

The corporate takeover of agriculture relies on control and manipulation of markets, and a degree of vertical integration unthought of in manufacturing industries. Its way is being greased by one of the most powerful and unscrupulous lobbies in the nation with corruptive tentacles enmeshing the Congress and federal agencies and penetrating into state governments and legislatures across the country.

Gross abuse of farm animals, on a scale and to a degree unimaginable a generation ago, is the distinguishing feature of industrial agriculture. Its *dernier cri* is found in the hog factories mestastizing across the farm belt and into the intermountain west where pigs live their brief lives in huge, densely packed buildings suffused with the overpowering stench of liquefied hog manure. Gestating sows stand on naked concrete slats in a space so tiny that they are unable to turn around. During farrowing, the space allotted them is so narrow that they must lie on one side, segregated from their piglets by bars spaced widely enough apart that the latter can suckle. The piglets themselves, under "segregated early weaning" are taken from their mothers at only 10-14 days of age so that the sows can be re-inseminated without loss of time.

Death losses under such conditions and in an atmosphere laden with hydrogen sulfide and ammonia, are understandably high. Twenty million pounds of antibiotics are fed to farm animals each year. Even with daily, subtherapeutic doses of antibiotics, without which raising animals in factories would be impossible, vast numbers of piglets fail to survive weaning or fall behind and are



Sow and piglets imprisoned in a farrowing crate.

"Forget the pig as an animal. Treat him just like any other machine in a factory. Schedule treatments like you would lubrication. Breeding season is the first step in an assembly line."

—*Hog Farm Management Magazine*

"culled." The annual death rate among sows is reported to average 20%. Those who survive are "used up" and culled after three or four farrowings. Some of these young sows are unable to even walk to their own deaths. The natural life expectancy of a pig is ten years; sows in factory farms rarely exceed the age of two and one half.

At Seaboard's huge, vertically integrated hog complex near Guyman, Oklahoma, the death loss—by the company's own admission—has reached 35,000 animals in a single month. Company officials seem unconcerned. This is not really "wastage" they argue; the animals are taken to the company's rendering plant, ground up and fed to the surviving hogs. This is what "closed cycle" evidently means.

Why can't traditional farms, where there is little death loss and sows remain productive for years, compete with this grotesque system? Given a "level playing field" they can. But the field is anything but level. The profit or loss of independent farmers depends on the producer price; the price of animals "on the hoof." But for corporations like Seaboard who maintain their own packing plants, and—increasingly—sell at retail under their own label, producer prices are irrelevant; the determinants are wholesale and retail prices. The producer price of hogs plummeted 40%, from 59.3 cents a pound in July 1996 to

36.3 cents a pound in July 1998. But the wholesale price dropped only 23% during the same period, from \$1.22 to 95 cents and the crash affected retail prices not at all: pork averaged \$2.26 per pound in July 1996; \$2.31 per pound in July 1998.

Another way vertical integration allows corporations to muscle aside family farms is to deny them markets altogether. In recent years, most of the sale barns and

central markets to which farmers traditionally shipped their hogs have closed down and most independent packing plants—those operating without a "captive supply"—have been forced out of business. Tens of thousands of small farmers have quit raising hogs simply because they cannot sell them.

In the meantime, despite the collapse of Asian markets and consequent glut of hogs, hog factory expansion continues

apace. Huge new complexes are planned for points as diverse as southeastern Idaho, northern Texas, the San Luis valley of Colorado, the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, Fulton County, Illinois and Platte County, Wyoming, as the corporations with the deepest pockets take advantage of the price crash to seize additional market share.

But for all their money and political influence, factory farmers are vulnerable. Factory farming does not work economically unless many of its real costs are imposed on others; to sustain such a system requires a high degree of political control. At the federal level, where honest enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act and various environmental laws would unravel the entire system, corporate dominance is hardly challenged. But a citizen's revolt against hog factories is gaining strength in communities across the country as normally diverse—even antagonistic—constituencies unite against the common enemy.

● In Colorado, where absence of regulation has attracted over twenty large hog factories, a coalition of farmers, environmentalists and humane activists are bringing the issue before the voters in the November election. Initiative 14 would force hog factories to combat stench by enclosing sewage lagoons, require persistent environmental monitoring by both state and county authorities, make the owners fully liable for "remediating" damages and give affected citizens standing to go to court, when necessary, to bring about enforcement. Agribusiness corporations have raised millions of dollars—reportedly including one million dollars from the pharmaceutical giant, Pfizer, to stop the initiative. Industry groups such as the Farm Bureau Federation and the National Pork Producers Council, are in full hue and cry.

● South Dakota farmers, led by Dakota Rural Action, have placed an initiative on the ballot aimed at forcing agribusiness corporations altogether out of the state. Amendment E, modeled on Nebraska's anti-corporate law, would ban corporate owned farming operations in South Dakota, including feeding contracts involving corporate-owned animals. This would not prevent privately owned hog factories from operating in South Dakota, but Nebraska's experience

suggests that without pressure from outside investors very few will. The South Dakotans are, once again, facing a flood of corporate money and the Republican Governor Janklow is inveighing against the initiative.

● Western Kansas has become a veritable battleground between corporate investors and citizens. Fortunately, it is possible, under the Kansas constitution, for counties to decide for themselves whether such development is to be allowed. Public initiatives have been held on the question of hog factories in 20 Kansas counties. Only one county, Edwards, voted by 590 to 585 to admit hog factories. 71.6% of all the voters participating in the elections voted "No." In three of the fourteen counties where commissioners granted permission for hog factories to come in, outraged citizens forced them to rescind the decision.

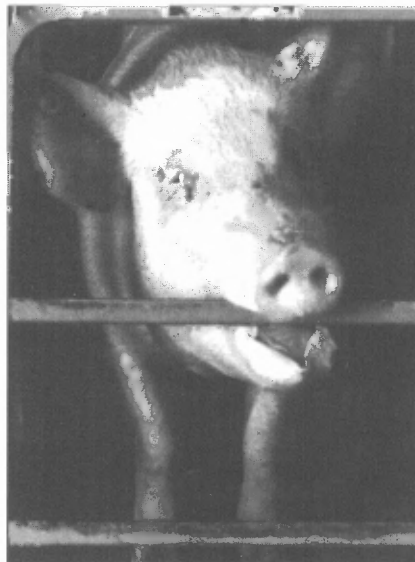
● Iowa has traditionally been a bastion of family farming as well as the largest hog producing state in the United States. It is still first in hogs, but the number of independent hog farmers has plunged from 41,000 to 18,000 in a decade and most of Iowa's hog production is now in the hands of corporations. The corporate takeover has degraded

Iowa's environment, created social turmoil, battered the already depressed rural economy. However, the 1995 passage of File 519, eliminating the right of counties to regulate hog factories, and the right of citizens to file suit against hog factories, created an intense backlash. Nine Republican legislators who voted for file 519 were tossed out by the voters in 1996, and Democrats are counting on the issue to regain control of the Iowa legislature this year. In the meantime, the Iowa Supreme Court recently ruled the provision denying citizens the right to file nuisance suits against hog factories to be "blatantly unconstitutional."

● In Oklahoma, where waste from chicken factories in the eastern part of the state contaminated the Tulsa water supply, citizens finally forced a moderately strong regulatory bill—applying to the state's hog factories—through the state legislature. Moratoriums on new construction remain in effect in Mississippi and North Carolina. South Carolina, with North Carolina's ghastly example to guide it, passed a sufficiently severe law to deter development. 🐾



Feeder pigs being fattened for slaughter peer out from behind metal bars.



In gestation crates, sows neurotically bite the bars of their cage.



Diane Halverson



Janeen Jackson



Tom Frantzen

Above: This hoophouse sow carries straw into her farrowing hutch, building a nest for her piglets. Above right: Sow and piglet snuggle in deep straw. Right: Hogs at the Frantzen farm in their straw-bedded hoophouse. The pigs root through the straw bales, creating their own nests.

A Better Way—Hog Farming that Meets the Animal's Social Instincts

by Tom Frantzen

Farrowing and finishing hogs have been core activities on the Frantzen farm for over 55 years, spanning my and my father's farming careers.

In 1978, I changed the way hogs were housed and raised at our farm. A room in our barn was remodeled to hold 14 steel farrowing crates with slat floors. A small underground pit was dug to catch the pig's waste. I distinctly remember how those "modern improvements" changed the very nature of our farm. Slat floors and the stagnant watery manure beneath it created a repulsive odor. Any activity that stirred this fecal soup greatly increased the smell. At that time, I thought that this was just a part of being modern. Noxious odors were not the only bad features of the slat floors and crates. For the next 13 years, I would struggle with countless animal health problems associated with slat floors.

Sows in the crates would slip on the (very expensive) slat flooring, causing various injuries. Little pigs suffered knee abrasions from sleeping on the hard floors. Pneumonia and

injury-related health problems were common. The finishing pigs that were closely confined in a slat floored pen, as recommended by modern textbooks on pork production, did gain weight quickly, but they exhibited cannibalistic behavior. Tail biting became a serious problem.

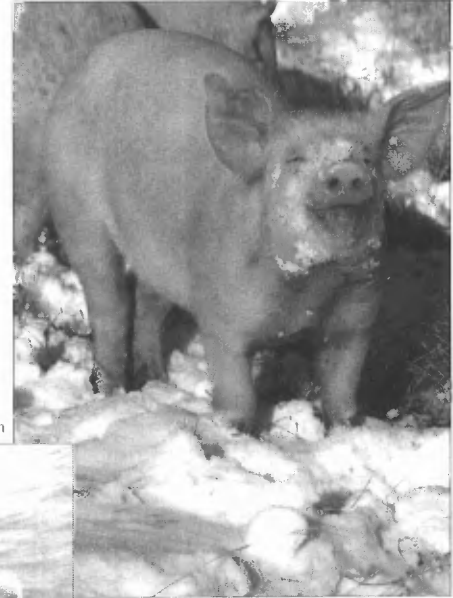
In 1994, my wife, Irene, and I spent two weeks touring Sweden with a small group from Iowa and Minnesota. The trip was organized and hosted by Marlene Halverson of the Animal Welfare Institute and Mark Honeyman of Iowa State University. The farms we visited were employing deep bedded facilities to provide low stress, humane conditions for their livestock. I was awed by the healthy and content disposition of the stock, and the farm families too!

Every time I observed my old, crowded, slat floor hog barn and the stressed pigs living in it, I too became stressed. Their social brutality (tail biting, bar chewing) was caused by failing to meet their basic social instincts. On a hoopbuilding tour, I was told that pigs have three desires: they want to run

continued on next page



Diane Halverson



Janeen Jackson

Janeen Jackson



Above left: A family farm sow and her piglets. Left: Family games: piglets climb over their mother's head. Above: Pigs are all-weather animals, and enjoy snow as well as sunshine.

continued from previous page

around, build a nest, and chew on something. This behavior is impossible in a metal pen on a slat floor. Early one September morning, I opened the door of my grower barn to check on the pigs. One of the pens was covered with fresh blood. Their level of stress was so high they became violently aggressive toward each other. I could take no more! I announced with a bit of profanity that my slat floor days were going to end.

Deep-bedded hoopstructure facilities appeared in the Midwest in the mid 1990s. It was exciting to observe this development. Not since being on the Swedish farms had I observed a humane shelter! More exciting yet, was the promise of an economical and ecologically sound building. In a hoopstructure or structure, straw-bedded pens replace metal crates and slatted floors. The straw bedding mixes with the hog waste which is self composting, creates very little odor and no ecological hazards.

Plans were set to build three hoopstructures on the farm. By September of 1997 one of the houses was ready for the pigs. I was very anxious to use the new facilities. On moving day we bedded the new hoopstructure with fresh straw, and lots of it.

One hundred and sixty pigs from the old grower were released into their new home. Boy, did those pigs have fun! In the new hoopstructure they have lots of room to run, straw to chew and heaps of bedding to nest in. They ran around all day—and even in to the night. The next morning when I went into check on them, I will never forget what I found. As I walked up to the door, it was quiet, very quiet. I peeked into the hoopstructure to see 160 pigs in one massive straw nest, snoring with great content! I laughed until I cried. Their stress was gone and so was mine.

Our deep bedded buildings are now a year old. We are selling the second group of pigs this fall. We have not observed any social behavior problems. Even when the bedding pack is four foot deep, the odor level is very low. Nutrient losses from rain and snow runoff is nearly nonexistent. Hoopstructure housing is the most significant development I have observed in moving agriculture towards practices that really make sense. It took a long time but our pigs finally have a happy home. 🐾

Tom Frantzen is a fourth generation farmer from Alta Vista, Iowa.

K E I K O R E T U R N S H O M E

by Craig Van Note

A dramatic step forward for the freedom of captive wildlife occurred on September 10th when Keiko, the orca who starred in the movie "Free Willy," was returned to his home waters in Iceland.

Carrying Keiko in a special, water-filled container, a giant US Air Force C-17 transport plane swooped into the Westmann Islands. The overnight flight included a mid-air refueling, after departing from Newport, Oregon, Keiko's home for the past two and a half years.

The move is the second-to-the-last step in Keiko's rehabilitation and release by the Free Willy Keiko Foundation. The 20 year-old whale is now living in a huge floating seapen anchored in a protected cove off the southern coast of Iceland. If all goes well with his readaptation to the icy waters of the North Atlantic, Keiko could be released to the wild—and even be reunited with his own family—sometime in 1999 or 2000. He was captured in the area by Icelandic fishermen 17 years ago and sold into the marine circus trade.

The rehabilitation and release plan for Keiko has been fiercely attacked by the marine circus industry, which feels threatened by the success of the Free Willy Keiko Foundation. Critics claim that the program is endangering the orca's life,



ignoring the fact that Keiko was extremely sick when he was rescued from an amusement park in Mexico City in early 1996. The foundation flew him to a huge, specially-built tank at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, where superb veterinary care,

good food, clean water and a vigorous training program brought back Keiko's health and ability to catch live fish.

Other critics claim that the \$10 million cost of rehabilitating and returning Keiko has been misspent on a single animal. They ignore the fact that Keiko has *earned* his special treatment. Warner Brothers, the company who produced the "Free Willy" movies, contributed \$2 million from huge profits generated by the films. More than \$4 million came from the increased gate receipts at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. The Humane Society of the United States, whose business is rescuing animals, contributed \$1 million. Much of the expenditure has been for the construction of the two tanks, which will be useful for future rehabilitation, research and education projects. Keiko's adventure will inspire other similar projects around the world.

Within a week of Keiko's arrival back home, he was visited by a pilot whale, a minke whale and two porpoises. It is expected that orcas who live in the region will soon discover Keiko. The herring runs, a primary food source for wild killer whales, begin soon in the Westmann Islands. It will be a dramatic scene when a pod of orcas arrives outside Keiko's pen. The public can follow up-to-the-minute developments in Keiko's life by logging onto the Free Willy Keiko Foundation Web page at <http://www.keiko.org>. 🐾

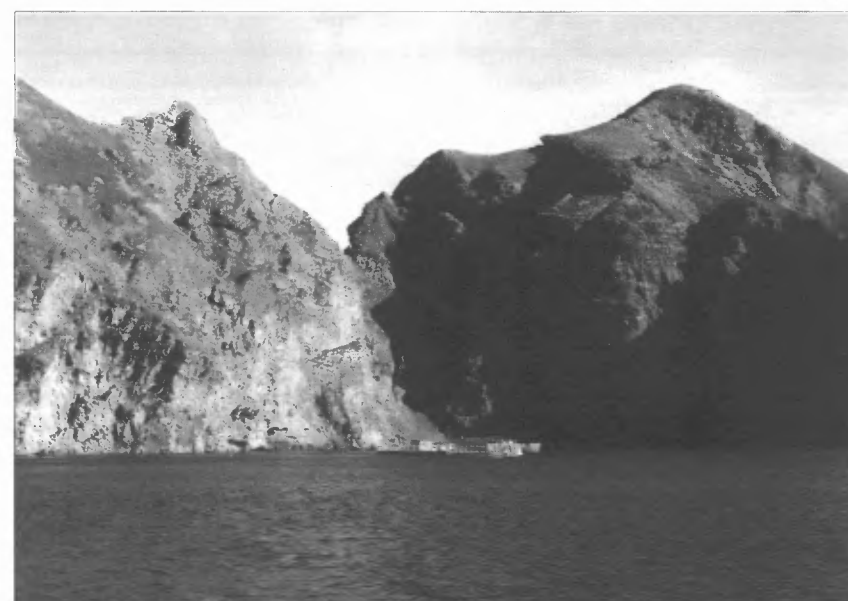
All photos by Mark Berman



Icelanders welcoming Keiko home. For the first time since he was two, Keiko swam in his native waters and immediately slapped the surface with his tail fluke. Keiko then dove and did several laps around the pen, revelling in his new-found freedom.

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The Gudrun, now a fishing boat, was used in the '70s and '80s to capture orcas for the global aquarium trade in the waters surrounding Iceland.



These soaring cliffs dwarf Keiko's 3.2 million-gallon sea pen.

Three commercial whaling vessels with empty crow's nests have been rocking at anchor for years because of the moratorium voted by the International Whaling Commission.

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Makah Whaling Confrontation

by Ben White

After years of international debate, the Makah Indian tribe of northwest Washington state is preparing to kill a California gray whale in the month of November. If executed as planned, a harpoon will be thrown from a traditional whaling canoe at the same instant a gunman opens fire with a fifty caliber (armor piercing) rifle. It would be the first whale deliberately killed from the mainland US in over forty years and institute a deadly precedent of whaling based on cultural desire instead of nutritional need.

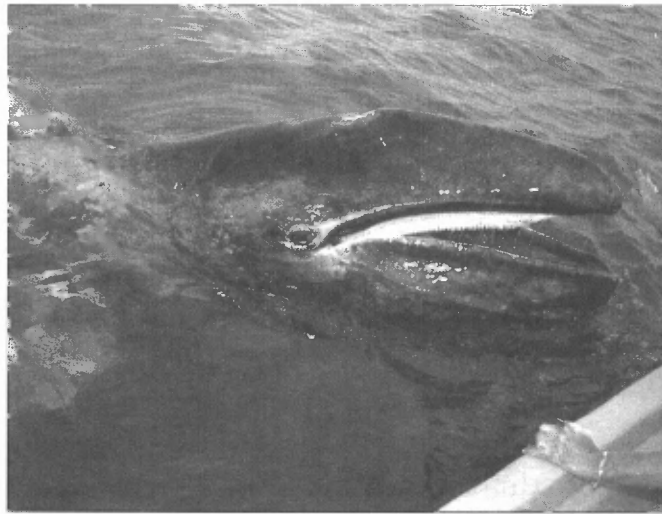
The hunt is fully backed by the armed might of the American government. The Coast Guard has declared a 1500 foot "exclusion zone" around the whalers and will have at least three ships on hand to keep protesters away. The issue has become white-hot in the misty northwest, so much so that the Washington governor called up the National Guard to defend the recent Makah Days annual celebration just on the rumor that anti-whaling protesters might show up. None did, but dozens of groups have vowed to try to stop the upcoming whaling with every tool available including an ultralight aircraft, a submarine, armored boats, orca sounds played underwater, and lawsuits.

For two years running, the most controversial proposal considered by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) was the US-backed Makah whaling plan. Many delegations said that the plan failed three historical prerequisites of the category of aboriginal subsistence whaling: that there be an unbroken tradition of whaling, that there be a demonstrable nutritional need, and that there be no commercial component. The Makah have not whaled in seventy years, do not claim a nutritional need, and have argued from their first letter of intent the right to commercially trade in whale products as they once did. When the IWC finally voted on the issue in Monaco in 1997, language was inserted into the North Pacific gray whale quota reserving the whales for aboriginal people "whose cultural and *nutritional* needs have been recognized (emphasis added)." Even though this wording was intended specifically to disqualify the Makah, the US delegation immediately claimed victory. The Makah are proceeding under the assumption that they won the permission of the IWC to kill up to four gray whales a year. They also insist they are a sovereign nation and need permission from neither the US government nor the IWC to whale and sell whale parts as they wish.

The Makah have declared that they will eat all of any whale

caught, but when a gray whale was caught in fishing nets about four years ago and parceled out to the tribe, most of it wound up in the dump. It turns out that very few people on earth eat gray whale meat. Inuits who kill bowhead whales avoid the much more numerous grays on the grounds that they are inedible from their habit of bottom-feeding all along the California Coast. The Russian natives who kill 140 gray whales yearly feed the meat almost entirely to foxes in Siberian fur farms.

There is strong evidence that the original idea for the Makah resumption of whaling came from Japanese trading partners who buy logs and sea urchin roe from the tribe. The idea of encouraging aboriginal people to resume long-dormant whaling traditions was laid out about ten years ago as a way to instigate international sympathy for native people to the unpopular practice of whaling. It appears that the first Makahs contacted were convinced that Makah-caught gray whales could be sold on the Tokyo market for a million dollars each. They in turn sold the idea to other Makahs as a way to reinvigorate their culture. Once the IWC ruling was finished, arguably relaxing the aboriginal whaling category and facilitating the resumption of Japanese shore-



Friendly gray whale approaches whale-watching boat.

based (cultural) whaling, the Makah discovered that there is no market for gray whale meat.

It is a sad irony that one of the tribes that barely escaped extermination by European newcomers now intends to kill a representative of another tribe (gray whales) with a similar history. In an odd inversion of values, many native leaders now regard whales (and sea lions, and salmon) as "resources" while many non-natives like myself see these creatures as many traditional elders taught: as independent and self-aware tribes with their own purpose separate from any perceived human use.

BEQUESTS TO AWI

To all who would like to help assure the Animal Welfare Institute's future through a provision in their will, this general form of bequest is suggested:

I give, devise and bequeath to the Animal Welfare Institute, located in Washington, DC, the sum of \$ _____ and/or (specifically described property).

Donations to AWI, a not-for-profit corporation exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), are tax deductible. We welcome any inquiries you may have. In cases where you have specific wishes about the disposition of your bequest, we suggest you discuss such provisions with your attorney.

AWI Opposes Invasive Research on Dolphins—Offers Alternative

by Ben White

Over seven million dolphins have died in the tuna fishery of the Eastern Tropical Pacific. The US National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is planning on intentionally stressing these same populations to determine if the practice of chasing and surrounding dolphins with nets to catch the tuna beneath causes "significant adverse impact." NMFS is planning on hiring a "dedicated vessel" to simulate tuna fishing by chasing down pods of spinner and spotted dolphins with helicopters and speedboats. Once surrounded by the fishing nets, the dolphins would be restrained, plugs of flesh punched from their dorsal fins, a transmitter attached, blood taken, and released. Then they would be chased, captured and sampled again and again.

To add insult to injury, there is no conceivable benefit from all of this cruelty. The NMFS stress study is not even planned to begin until the year 2000. In March of 1999, the Secretary of Commerce is directed to make an initial finding whether or not the setting of nets on dolphins causes "significant adverse impact on depleted populations." Without proof of such impact, the Secretary is directed to change the definition of the "dolphin-safe" label on a can of tuna to include tuna caught "on dolphin" in those net sets where no dolphin are *actually observed* to be killed. This amazing consumer fraud is a result of the overturning of the Dolphin Protection Act in favor of the misleadingly labeled International Dolphin Conservation Program Act in 1997. The change in law also raises the number of dolphins that can be killed yearly from the 1997 level of 3,005 to a static level of 5,000 in perpetuity.

In response to the highly invasive stress studies proposed by NMFS, AWI has consulted with some of the foremost authorities of stress in the world to offer an alternative study. At this moment we are asking other groups to endorse our alternative and are presenting it to members of Congress and the Marine Mammal Commission for consideration.

We believe that a properly conducted study will demonstrate that the depleted populations of spinner and spotted dolphins involved in the tuna fishery are indeed suffering extreme adverse impact. A "significant impact" finding would foreclose the flood of new vessels expected to begin setting upon dolphins again if their product can be sold as "dolphin-safe" on the US market. Millions of dolphins' lives hang in the balance of this decision.

In the AWI alternative stress study we suggest that three research teams, comprised of a diver, a behaviorist, and a

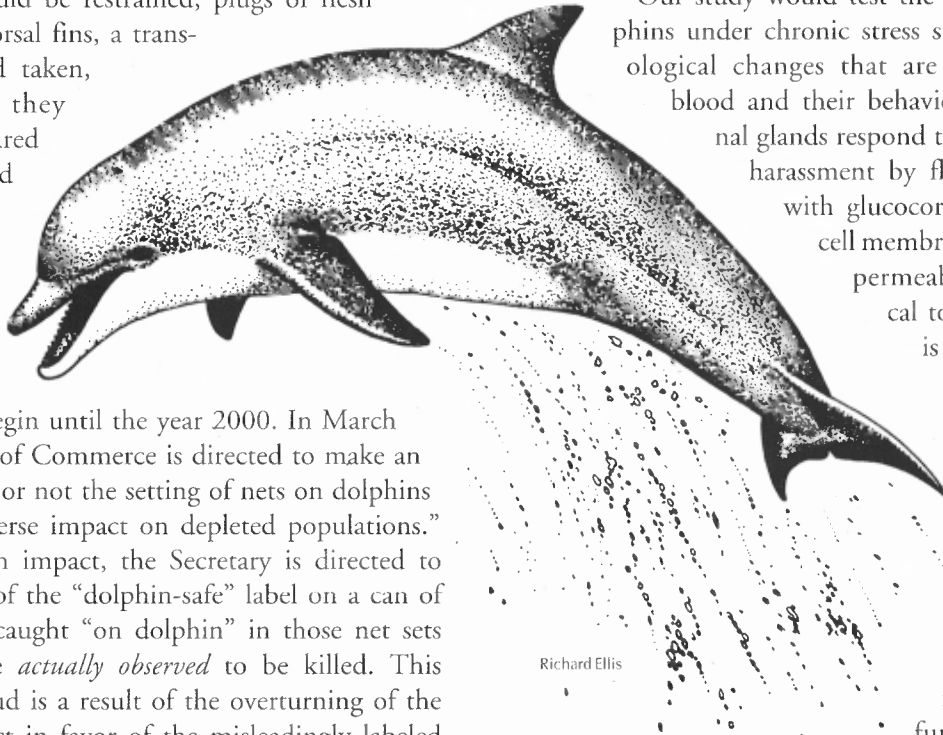
physiologist, board three tuna purse-seiners engaged in their regular fishing practices. Every facet of the chase and encirclement would be filmed for later study. Once the dolphins and tuna are caught in the huge purse seine nets, the behaviorist would select those animals "rafting," "sleeping," or sinking to the bottom of the net. Observers have long noted these unusual behaviors, along with evidence that the majority of dolphins killed in tuna nets die not from entanglement or drowning, but by suffocation.

Our study would test the hypothesis that dolphins under chronic stress suffer extreme physiological changes that are indicated by their blood and their behaviors. Dolphins' adrenal glands respond to repeated chase and harassment by flooding their bodies with glucocorticoids. These cause cell membranes to become more permeable. Calcium, critical to muscle movement, is lost. In a situation similar to "downed cow syndrome" where some cows lose so much calcium that they cannot stand, the dolphin's heart, diaphragm, and alveoli sphincter muscles cease to function. The animal

becomes semicomatose. Another response aggravated by the flood of glucocorticoids is the release of natural opiate painkillers. Preparing for a painful death, these function as a general anesthetic. Dolphins and whales are unique in the animal world in that they are obligate conscious breathers. Under general anesthesia, they stop breathing and suffocate.

We recommend that blood samples be taken from one hundred and fifty semicomatose dolphins caught in the tuna nets. This blood would be centrifuged and frozen on board for later analysis of those hormones, gasses and chemicals that are known to indicate stress. The Secretary of Commerce is required by March of 1999 to decide which tuna meet the dolphin-safe requirement. To enable him to make an informed decision, it is urgent that the stress study begin immediately.

If, in spite of our efforts, the Secretary decides to go ahead with changing the definition of the "dolphin-safe" label to include tuna caught by setting nets around dolphins, we see no alternative to cranking up the full-scale canned tuna boycott once again. 🐾



Richard Ellis

US Should Follow EU Lead Recognizing Animals as Sentient Beings

Last year the 15 Heads of Government of the European Union (EU) agreed to a legally binding protocol that commits the EU and its member states to "pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals." When formulating and implementing community policies on agriculture, transport, research and internal trade, the EU is now formally committed to recognize that animals are living creatures capable of feeling pain and fear. They are fully capable, too, of enjoying themselves when well treated. Their well-being, therefore, is covered under the EU's sentient beings rubric.

This important protocol was not easily achieved. In 1991, the organization, Compassion in World Farming, presented a petition signed by a million people to the European Parlia-



Demonstration in Brussels for recognition of animals as "sentient beings." As he drove by, Prime Minister Tony Blair gave them the thumbs-up sign.

ment. The signatures were gathered from all the member states. It called for animals to be given a new status in the Treaty of Rome as sentient beings. At that time, the Treaty, which forms the cornerstone of EU law, classified animals as goods or agricultural products. In 1994, the Parliament endorsed the petition, and in 1995 it called for the Treaty to be strengthened to make concern for animal welfare one of the fundamental principles of the EU.

The Government of the United Kingdom led the EU in securing this important victory for sentient beings. The United States ought to be next to adopt this wise, humane foundation for the welfare of animals in agriculture, transport, research and interstate commerce. 🐾

Logging Protester Killed while trying to Protect Ancient Redwoods

On September 17, environmental activist David "Gypsy" Chain was killed while documenting illegal logging on Maxxam/Pacific Lumber Company land near Grizzly Creek State Park in California. David, 24, was crushed by a redwood tree that was cut down despite the presence of the nonviolent protestors.

Pacific Lumber President John Campbell insists the death was accidental, and claims that loggers did not know that activists were in the area. Charles Hurwitz (see page 14), the president of Pacific Lumber's parent company, Maxxam, did not return AWI's phone calls requesting comment about David's death.

Video footage, directly contradicting Campbell's statement, captured the hostile atmosphere at Grizzly Creek less than an hour before David's death. The irate voice of a Pacific Lumber employee can be heard on the videotape furiously shouting obscenities and threats. Several other activists were just six feet away from David when the fatal tree came crashing down.

It appears that this sad event is yet another incident in the deliberate and escalating campaign of violence by the logging company against nonviolent environmental activists. Reportedly, protesters have been hog-tied and lowered from tree top perches and had their safety lines cut by Pacific Lumber climbers. Loggers have cut trees in the direction of the treesitters, and have threatened lives by cutting trees with activists in them. Logging helicopters have been used to harass treesitters such as Julia Butterfly, swooping within feet of her tree platform. At Mattole watershed, local community members and activists encountered an axe-wielding posse of Pacific Lumber employees who chased, threatened, and assaulted community members who were trying to stop illegal logging in their watershed.

Activists are asking that an impartial party be appointed to investigate David's death in place of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department which is currently being sued in Federal Court for their policy of using pepperspray during nonviolent protests.

Two weeks after the tragedy, the California Department of Forestry issued a citation to the Pacific Lumber Company for violating state forest practice rules during the logging operation at Grizzly Creek where David was killed. 🐾



David "Gypsy" Chain and his niece, Haleigh

How Free Trade Ideology Is Degrading Our Food Supply

by Craig Volland

Every month or so we hear about another outbreak of disease caused by bad food. If it's not *E. coli* in beef or salmonella and campylobacter in chicken, then it's contaminated raspberries from Guatemala. People watch, aghast, as thousands of hapless farm animals are crowded into tiny pens and cages never to see the light of day their entire lives.

How did our food supply get into such a condition that millions of people are walking out of supermarkets and dealing directly with farmers, if not because of food safety, then because of freshness and taste? While hardly intentional, the problem is not an accident either... it derives from the mindless pursuit of free trade and exports.

It all started some 40 years ago when the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Big Agribusiness Complex and Washington politicians decided that, in post war international trade competition, the US had a distinct "comparative advantage" in agriculture. They figured we could tote up more export revenue and "add value" to raw crops like corn, sorghum, and soybeans by running them through animals to make meat that sells at a higher price. They also figured we could export more if we lowered the price of these commodities. Thus the USDA, on the orders of successive administrations, blindly pursued a "cheap food" policy complete with export and production subsidies. Meanwhile Big Ag crowed about feeding the world and raked in the cash.

Conventional economists like to say that we now have the most efficient agricultural system in the world that produces, well, cheap food ... that fewer and fewer people in this country want to eat. The value added to the revenues of Big Ag corporations like Con Agra and Cargill is, of course, subtracted from the hides of consumers and rural residents. While consumers struggle with questionable food choices, rural people are watching their quality of life decline from the influx of factory farms. Their third and fourth generation farms are going broke (or they are forced into contract farming as modern day sharecroppers), their water supply is polluted and depleted, and their county commissioners are grovelling at the feet of Big Ag. We now have a vast "dead zone" at the mouth of the Mississippi River and toxic microbes in east coast estuaries.

The tentacles of the free trade ideologues reach further into our lives than most people realize. Big Ag wanted to eliminate Europe's ban on US meat produced with growth hormones and to forestall certain threats to the use of toxic pesticides. So, our government instigated the World Trade Organization's secret dispute resolution panels whose decisions are now mandatory. Sure enough, the WTO has overturned Europe's hormone ban and overturned our ban on the import of shrimp caught while killing endangered sea turtles. Congress was also intimidated into removing our ban on the import of tuna caught with nets that also

catch dolphins. Under the brave new-world-order of food fascism, people can no longer make collective, moral judgements about how our food is produced or harvested.

The USDA's cheap food policy is also behind the lax enforcement of the Humane Slaughter Act and ignores the cruelties involved in the intensive confinement of hogs and chickens. The new book, *Slaughterhouse* (Gail A. Eisnitz, 1997, Prometheus Books), reveals how packing house lines were greatly speeded up during the 1980s, and inspectors were forbidden to stop the line when they found violations. It might add a cent per pound to the price of meat!

This month the General Accounting Office reported that our system of inspecting imported food is a failure and recommended that such food meet American health and safety standards. Federal officials acknowledged the problem but feared such a solution would disrupt trade. Federal food scientists believe that free trade rules trump food safety concerns. Before we get too uppity, though, we should realize that the USDA already has regulatory power over imported meat and poultry, and imported meat may be safer than our own.

So why would the USDA try to undermine organic food labeling by allowing such foods to be genetically engineered or grown with sewage sludge, and meat to be produced in factory farms and irradiated? Easy! The Organic food movement is a bright beacon and an implied criticism of USDA's absurd, cheap food policy. Consumers are deserting the industrial food system in droves. An unprecedented 200,000 people sent in official comments to USDA protesting the draft rules, sending the agency back to the drawing board.

People have a basic right to clean, wholesome food to eat, clean air to breathe and clean water to drink. We have the right to collectively act to obtain these rights. How we treat the plants and animals we eat is perhaps the greatest measure of our worth and dignity as a sentient species... because we have the power to be cruel, but choose not to be. In essence we must demand a "values added" agriculture, where all societal values are considered.

We are making progress, but Big Ag will not give up easily on an industrial system from which they have profited so greatly. They prevailed upon the legislatures of 13 states to pass food disparagement or "veggie libel" laws. It backfired when they picked on Oprah Winfrey. However, they will continue to rely on the USDA and the shadowy gnomes that inhabit the World Trade Organization in Switzerland to enforce their cheap food policy. Fighting this battle will be the most important thing we ever do. 🐾

Craig Volland is Chapter Chair of the Sierra Club Kansas Chapter. The article is from the Sierra Club's Responsible Trade Campaign <www.sierraclub.org/trade>.

OREGON BEAR POACHER CHARGED WITH RACKETEERING

A bear-poaching ring has been broken up with a racketeering law normally used to crack down on gambling and drug trafficking. "People involved in this conspiracy are not hunters, they're thieves," said Captain Lindsay Ball, director of the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division. "They've stolen Oregon's wildlife and sold them for personal gain."

The alleged ringleader, Raymond Edward Hillsman, faces a felony racketeering charge in the first use of the law involving wildlife since the 1997 Oregon legislature broadened its application. Hillsman and 14 others illegally killed bears to sell their body parts to foreign buyers. Hillsman's operation allegedly killed the bears for their gall bladders, while leaving the rest of the carcass to rot. Bear gallbladders fetch exorbitant prices in Asia and in Asian communities throughout the United States, where they are used to treat various ailments. The unfettered domestic and international trade in bear parts places an severe risk on the remaining populations of bears worldwide.

LULU SAVES HUMAN COMPANION

When JoAnn Altsman suffered a heart attack, it was her pet Vietnamese pot-bellied pig LuLu who saved her life. When LuLu realized there was something amiss with her human companion, she started to cry, "you know, they cry big fat tears," Mrs. Altsman explained.

Lulu knew she had to help, and quickly sprang into action. In her haste, heroic Lulu cut herself while rushing through a door. Trotting out onto the road, she drew attention to herself by lying down in front of passing cars. When a baffled motorist finally stopped, LuLu led him into Mrs. Altsman's yard. "I heard a man hollering... 'Lady, your pig is in distress,'" Mrs. Altsman said. She replied, "I'm in distress, too. Please call an ambulance." The unidentified man did just that, and the medics arrived quickly. Ever faithful LuLu even wanted to accompany her mistress in the ambulance. Had she been unnoticed for another 15 minutes, her physician says, Mrs. Altsman probably would have died.

HOUSTON JEWISH COMMUNITY DEMANDS THAT MAXXAM HEAD ANSWER TO A HIGHER POWER

Jewish community leaders in Houston, Texas, want to make Maxxam president Charles Hurwitz, accountable for his corporate plunder, requesting that he appear before a Beit Din, the Jewish court of religious law. Hurwitz has refused to end the Maxxam-owned Pacific Lumber Company's destructive clear-cutting of the 1,000-year-old Headwaters Forest in Northern California's Humboldt County, and has shown blatant disdain for county residents' wishes. Alan Rosenberg, a leader in the Houston protest, states, "The idea of appealing to our religious community in an effort to change the business practices of one of our members and make Mr. Hurwitz behave more responsibly could have far-reaching implications for all business and religious groups in this country."

In 1986, with junk bonds floated by convicted felon Michael Milken, Hurwitz acquired the Pacific Lumber Company. This September, environmental activist David Chain (see page 13) was killed in the Headwaters Forest by a falling redwood felled by a Pacific Lumber Company employee.

GREENS A MAJOR PLAYER IN THE NEW GERMAN GOVERNMENT

Newly-elected German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder has invited The Greens, Germany's third largest political party, to become one of the Social Democrats' political coalition partners. The Greens received 6.7% of the vote in September's national election and have gained control of three cabinet posts, including that of the Foreign Ministry. Joschka Fischer, a self-educated former taxi driver who became the first Green minister on the state level in 1985, is now the Foreign Minister. Jürgen Trittin, another Green leader, has been appointed Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Reactor Safety. Green party member Andrea Fischer is now the Minister of Education. Born out of the antinuclear movement, representatives from The Greens were first elected to parliament in 1983. 🐾



Dead sows discarded by Newsham Hybrid, Inc., a factory farm breeding facility. The sows were dumped all over this path and along a county road in Eads, Colorado.

Botswana's Baby Elephants Saved From International Trade

"Until we start treating animals with empathy and ethical consideration we fail in our own humanity."

-Cynthia Moss, Director, Amboseli Elephant Research Project

by Adam Roberts

In a significant victory against the cruel global live animal trade, a South African judge has ruled in favor of the National Council of Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NSPCA) in a case involving 30 baby elephants, many reportedly as young as two years old, were separated from their herds in Botswana's Tuli Reserve and exported to South Africa by animal dealer Riccardo Ghiazza. Ghiazza was reportedly planning to sell the elephants for \$25,000 each to parks and zoos in various countries including Germany, China, Switzerland, and possibly the United States. Now the NSPCA will be able to seize the elephants and initiate a long-term plan to rehabilitate them and reunite them with their families.

At the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), last summer in Harare, Zimbabwe, Botswana's elephant population was downlisted from Appendix I to Appendix II, allowing trade in live animals "to appropriate and acceptable destinations." Animal dealers such as Ghiazza have been poised to profit from the Parties misguided downlisting decision.

The elephant herds were separated with a low-flying helicopter. Any babies that were split from the family were captured and removed. Cynthia Moss, noted elephant researcher and Director of the Amboseli Elephant Research Project in Kenya stated:

"Biologically each elephant calf is extremely important to its mother because she has to invest so much time and effort in producing and rearing each calf to adulthood.... If a calf is to survive to adulthood it too must form intense close bonds with its mother and other family members."

CITES mandates that live animals "be so handled as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment." But the poor victims of this international profiteer have been incarcerated in a warehouse, their front and hind legs chained with rattan, and individuals tethered to the ground prevent contact with one another. An inspector for the NSPCA who managed to gain entrance to the premises reported hearing high-pitched cries coming from the babies. In a CNN interview, elephant researcher Joyce Poole reported:

"These elephants have not only been brutally beaten, but they've been psychologically traumatized, as well. ...They have been treated really badly, absolutely appalling what's happened down there. I have never, ever seen elephants looking so bad, even elephants that have been orphaned, they don't look like that. ...Well, I went in, I went back into the barn and they didn't expect me to come back and there were several elephants that were huddled in there in chains, and they were being prodded with one of these. This is a piece of wood here with a drill bit in the end. And we're being told by the opposition that the wounds on these animals heads are being made by other elephants. That's simply not true. They have got pus coming out of their foreheads. It's just unbelievable."


The Animal Welfare Institute and other members of the Species Survival Network sent a letter to the South African Minister of Environmental Affairs and the Botswanan Minister of Local Government, Lands and Housing in an attempt to prevent further capture and export of baby elephants from Botswana and to keep these 30 baby elephants from being exported to zoos in developed countries. We have collectively requested that Botswana investigate ways of returning these babies to their families and that South Africa refrain from re-exporting the elephants.

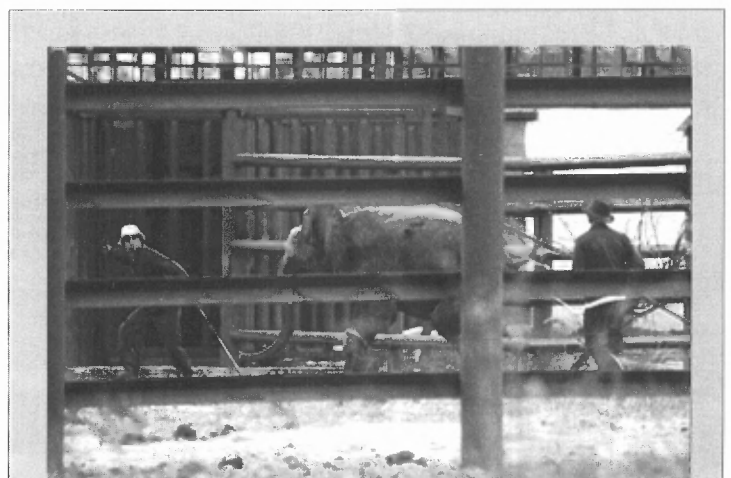
Daphne Sheldrick, who runs an elephant orphanage in Kenya, has noted:

"Calves that are orphaned between 4 and 7 years will have no trouble whatsoever (in finding their families) because they remember their elephant family clearly and are familiar with the elephant 'language'..."

These baby elephants should have never been ripped from their families in the first place; but unlike elephants that are killed for their ivory, these animals have the opportunity to once again roam the African landscape with their relatives and friends.

The Animal Welfare Institute has joined other organizations in the United States and Europe in funding the NSPCA's efforts to help these baby elephants.

ACTION: To contribute to their noble effort, please contact: Ms. Marcelle French, National Council of SPCAs, Mail Box 1320, Alberton, 1450, Republic of South Africa. 



A long telephoto lens was used to sneak this shot of two men armed with sticks and shamboks trying to train a baby African elephant at African Wildlife Services outside Pretoria, South Africa, in September. The man on the left has a shambok raised as if to strike the youngster. The calf's forelegs were chained and it was trying desperately to escape the two men and hide behind a tree in the compound.

-Conrad Barrington, photographer

Stop Killing Wolves with Wire Snares

Alaskan animal protection advocates are leading a ballot initiative in Alaska that would prohibit the killing of wolves with wire snares.

Wolf snares are wire loops designed to catch a wolf around the neck. One end of the wire loop is anchored to a tree or bush and there is a loop at the other end. There is a cinching device that allows the loop to get smaller, but not bigger. The idea is that the wolf gets the loop caught around the neck and is strangled as he or she struggles to escape.

But in practice, wire snares often get wrapped around wolves' paws, noses, or stomachs. These wolves do not die quickly but linger, striving to escape. Alaska does not even require trappers to check their snares, so an animal may struggle in agonizing pain for days or more, before dying.

Today, wolf snaring in Alaska is typically done "saturation" style.

Saturation snaring is a technique where dozens of wolf snares are set at one location. Caribou or moose entrails are often used as bait to attract wolves.

Saturation snaring catches not only wolves—the target species—but also game animals. For example, from 1993 to 1995, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game sponsored a wolf-control program primarily relying on snares. For the 109 wolves which were taken, 94 non-target animals were caught, including 35 moose, 14 caribou, 26 red fox, 10 coyotes, 4 golden eagles, 2 grizzly bears and 3 wolverines. This is the only hard data available on the

"incidental take" of non-target animals since Alaska trappers are not required to report when they kill non-target animals. However, reports from wolf biologist Gordon Haber and others indicate that these high rates of incidental kills are typical for wolf snare trappers.

The Coalition for the Alaskan Way of Life, the opponent of Ballot Measure 9, claims in television and newspaper ads that Ballot Measure 9 would ban the ownership of existing clothing and heirlooms made from wolves taken in snares. This falsehood is simply ridiculous and reflects a ludicrously new low in campaign strategy. They are being funded primarily by the "Ballot Initiatives Coalition," a collection of groups that include the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Association, the North American Wild Sheep Foundation, Safari Club International, and the National Rifle Association.

Saturation snaring is the favored method of wolf bounty trappers in Alaska. These trappers have been paid a \$400 per wolf bounty by a private group of hunters. Bounty trappers almost exclusively use aircraft to access their traplines, and leave wolves and other animals for weeks in snares because dead animals act as bait for others. They care not for the suffering of the wolves, nor even for the quality of the fur, but only want the bounty. For more information please contact Alaskans Against Snaring Wolves, 3820 Lake Otis Parkway #105, Anchorage, AK 99508, 1-888-699-WOLF. 🐾



Gordon Haber

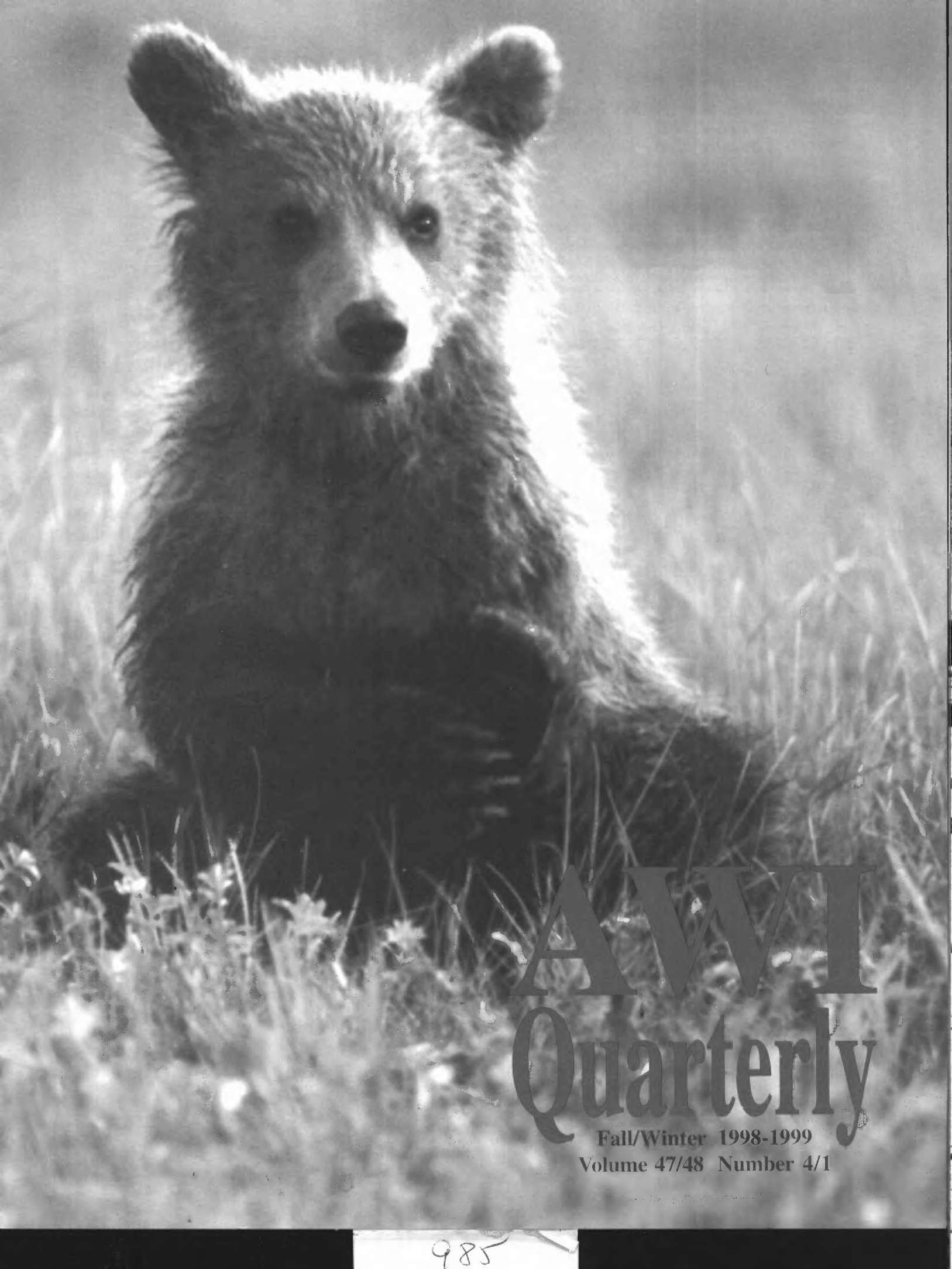
A wolf pup caught by the leg in a wire neck snare. In his panicked attempt to escape, he twisted round and round, causing his leg to be sawed off.

A revised edition of *Alternative Traps* will soon be issued by the Animal Welfare Institute. It contains information on less cruel substitutes for neck and body snares and steel-jaw leghold traps, the most commonly used capture methods and the ones that cause the worst pain and unrelenting suffering to animals.



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Cover: Grizzly bears, like this cub sitting in a mountain meadow, are under threat in all of their native ranges. They are in particularly grave danger in British Columbia, Canada (see page 16).



Cover photo by Lynn and Donna Rogers. Dr. Lynn Rogers, fiercely dedicated to protecting bears, is a retired US Forestry Service wildlife research biologist, and currently heads the Wildlife Research Institute in Ely, Minnesota.

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Update: Rescued Pigs Now Enjoying Life

In the last *AWI Quarterly*, we reported on the valiant rescue of 171 pigs bound for slaughter. Tightly packed into an eighteen-wheeled truck trailer, the pigs were abandoned by the truck driver in a Washington, DC neighborhood. Luckily, fate and dozens of volunteers, intervened and the pigs were rescued. All of the pigs who survived their horrific ordeal have found happy, permanent homes.

Ninety-nine of the pigs call PIGS, a sanctuary, home. Many of the pigs had a difficult time walking when they arrived, as the slatted floors and cramped conditions of the factory farm left them with muscle atrophy and injured legs. Now they romp and root in a large pasture, complete with their own woods.

The forty pigs that went to Farm Sanctuary have settled in, especially enjoying treats of bagels and popcorn given to them by admirers. Twenty-two pigs, including Priscilla (see photo on page 3), who is being sponsored by AWI's president, Christine Stevens, remain at Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary.

Despite previous poor treatment by humans, all of the sanctuaries report that their new charges are very curious about people; every day becoming more trusting and friendly. If you would like to make a donation, or sponsor a pig, please contact one of the following sanctuaries: PIGS, PO Box 629, Charlestown, WV, 25414, Farm Sanctuary, PO Box 150, Watkins Glen, NY 14891 or Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary, PO Box 507, Poolesville, MD 20837. 🐾



Formerly imprisoned at a factory farm, these pigs now reside at PIGS, a sanctuary. They now enjoy their own pasture, and behave much like their wild cousins—rooting, scratching and foraging among the trees.



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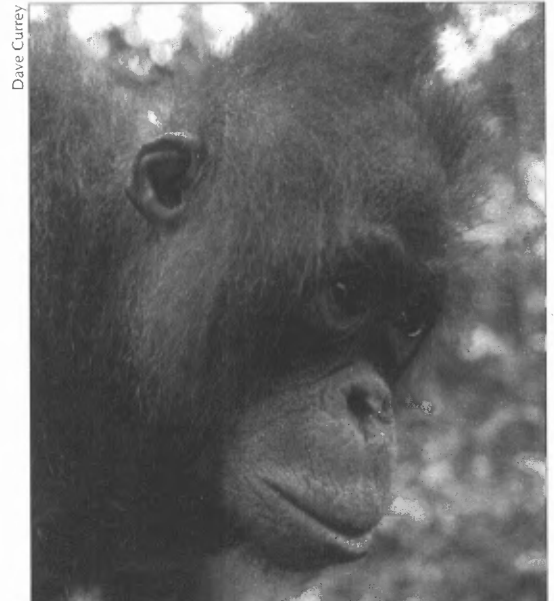
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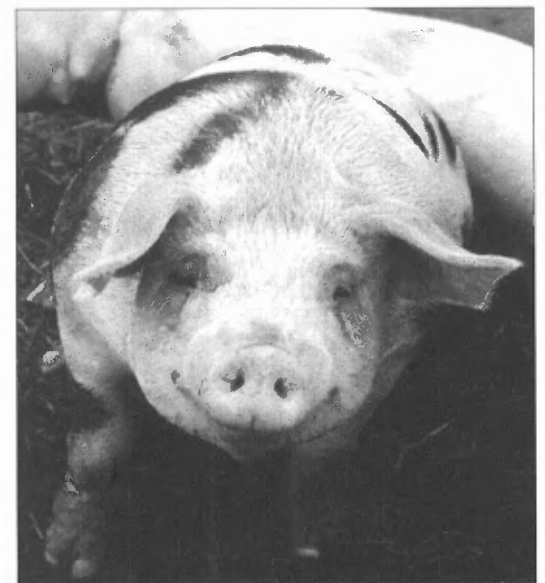
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This young orangutan's home in the forest of Indonesia is in desperate danger of being destroyed (see pages 8 and 9).



Meet Priscilla, one of the pigs rescued from slaughter last October (see the update, page 2).

Election '98 ★★★

1998 BALLOT INITIATIVES: MANY VOTERS SAY "YES" TO ANIMALS

CALIFORNIA BANS CRUEL TRAPS, TWO STATES OUTLAW COCKFIGHTING

by Wayne Pacelle

The worldwide movement against the dreaded steel-jaw leghold trap received a major boost when California voters overwhelmingly approved a statewide ballot measure to ban the use of steel-jaw leghold traps and to restrict the use of other body-gripping traps. In a campaign where the proponents and opponents cumulatively spent \$2 million, voters handily approved Proposition 4, which severely restricts the use of leghold traps of any variety, outlaws the use of snares and Conibears for recreation or commerce in fur, and forbids the use of two poisons—Compound 1080 and sodium cyanide—used by US Department of Agriculture field personnel engaged in killing coyotes.

California becomes, then, the fourth state since 1994 to pass a ballot measure banning cruel traps, joining Arizona, Colorado, and Massachusetts.

On the downside, Alaska voters overwhelmingly defeated a measure, Proposition 9, that would have outlawed the use of snares for killing wolves. The killing of wolves, encouraged by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and by privately funded bounties, has provoked national outrage. Massive wolf kills by "saturation snaring" (the placement of dozens of cruel wire snares in underbrush) are decimating whole families.

Nationwide, voters decided 11 ballot measures which had major implications for animals. They sided with animal advocates in seven of 11 campaigns, continuing a major series of successful statewide ballot campaigns since 1990.

For their first time ever, voters directly decided whether cockfighting should be legal. Voters in Arizona and Missouri overwhelmingly approved propositions to outlaw the gruesome and barbaric practice of cockfighting, in which roosters are drugged and fitted with metal knives on their legs to fight to the death. Arizonans approved the cockfighting ban by a 68 percent majority, while Missouri voters approved a similar measure by 63 percent. Only three states now permit this

archaic practice—Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

In addition to banning cruel traps, Californians passed a separate measure, Proposition 6, to ban the commercial sale of horses for human consumption. Nearly 60 percent of voters favored that measure. In recent years, the media have widely reported the inhumane treatment of horses transported and slaughtered in the United States and then shipped to foreign markets for sale for human consumption.

Animal advocates suffered a major setback in Ohio, where voters turned away a measure to restore the state's long-standing protections for mourning doves by a three to two margin. Hunting and gun industry groups spent \$3 million on the campaign, out-spending dove protectors by a factor of eight. Their remarkably deceptive advertising campaign, falsely argued that the plainly worded measure was a first step to ban all animal research and farming! Dove advocates did not have enough funds to counter their farfetched allegations.

Other bad news came in Minnesota and Utah, whose voters approved measures referred to the ballot by state legislatures to protect hunting and trapping. Animal protectors were decidedly outspent—five to one in Minnesota and 12 to one in Utah.

Between 1940 and 1990, voters sided with animal advocates on only one statewide ballot measure. Since 1990, voters have sided with animal protectors on 17 campaigns—a startling turnaround and an indication of an emerging social consciousness about animals and a developing political sophistication for our social movement. 🐾

Wayne Pacelle is the Senior Vice President, Communications & Government Affairs, for The Humane Society of the United States.

MAIMED DOG CONVINCES CALIFORNIANS TO VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 4

By starring in the Pets and Wildlife-California's Vote YES on Proposition 4 campaign commercial, a maimed dog helped convince voters to ban the steel-jaw leghold trap.

While driving along a California interstate last June, Jennifer Van Ness spotted an injured dog. She tried to coax the dog into her car, but to no avail. The terrified canine retreated into a wildlife corridor, built to allow wildlife to pass safely under highways. Jennifer returned day after day, leaving food, water, and a warm blanket when the pup proved too scared to go to her.

Jennifer enlisted the help of Officer Todd Lurie of the Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley to catch the badly

wounded dog. Upon Lurie's close investigation of the area, the extent of the poor animal's horrific ordeal became evident.

Lurie found the remains of the dog's leg clamped in a steel-jaw leghold trap. It was obvious that he had chewed off his leg to escape the agony of the steel-jaw leghold trap. Luckily, Lurie was able to catch the dog in a box trap to take him to a veterinarian.

After extensive surgery, the unfortunate dog recovered, albeit missing his left hind leg. He also found a home. Jennifer decided that she and Dillon—as the three-legged dog is now known—were meant to be together. 🐾



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VOTERS REJECT FACTORY FARMS

ANTI-FACTORY FARM CANDIDATES WIN, STRUGGLE AGAINST FACTORY FARMS CONTINUES

by Tom Garrett

In 1998, the proliferation of hog factories, which has embroiled state legislatures and county commissions for much of the decade, reached center

stage as a national issue. On November 3, in the words of the Wall Street Journal's Bruce Ingersoll, "Pig politics became big politics."

In the two states where the hog factory issue came directly before the people, the verdict was unequivocal. In Colorado, Initiative 14, which places hog factories under moderately severe regulation, was approved by over 60% of the electorate. South Dakota Amendment E, which bans corporate farming in the state altogether, gained



59% of the popular vote despite a massive infusion of corporate cash and opposition from the state's Republican governor.

Lauch Faircloth was defeated by John Edwards (D, NC). Faircloth, according to *CounterPunch* (November 1-15, 1998) "was part owner of Coharie Farms, the 30th largest hog producer in the country. Faircloth owned more than \$1

Progress or Retrogression? Left: A relaxed group of pigs photographed on a family farm almost a hundred years ago. Below: Sows in a present-day factory farm. They can't even turn around in their 22-inch-wide gestation stalls. They express their desperation by attacking the bars that imprison them.

million worth of stock in two slaughterhouses. In Congress he attended to the interests of the pig men as chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on



Clean Water, Wetlands, Private Property and Nuclear Safety." Environmentalists and small farmers across the state worked hard to defeat Faircloth. The Sierra Club flooded the airwaves with ads linking Faircloth to water pollution and pfiesteria.

In Iowa, where hog factories have blighted northern counties and driven most of Iowa's traditional hog farmers out of business, the hog issue played heavily in Democrat Tom Vilsack's crushing upset of Republican gubernatorial candidate Jim Lightfoot. In neighboring Minnesota, Reform Party candidate, Jessie "The Mind" Ventura's victory sent a seismic shock through the American political establishment. The governor-elect supports a temporary moratorium on new hog factories.

Factory farming was also a factor in the unexpectedly severe defeat of anti-environmentalist Republican candidate Ellen Sauerbrey by Maryland's incumbent governor, Parris Glendening. Glendening received high marks for his crack-down on Maryland's huge chicken farms following the 1997 pfiesteria outbreak in the Chesapeake Bay area. Environmental protection was a defining issue in the campaign.

Despite political setbacks, the industry blitzkrieg shows no sign of abating. With the producer price of hogs as low as 9 cents a pound—the same price it was in the Depression Era—the last of America's family hog farmers are being driven from the business, while corporations are engaged in a brutal battle for control of the hog market. In the meantime, thousands of citizens, from the New Melloray Monastery in Iowa to Owyhee County, Idaho, are threatened by the insensate drive for more, and still more, hog factories. 🐾



FIGHTING THE 'NEW FEUDAL RULERS'

Excerpts from the January 3, 1999
Washington Post article by William Clairborne

"It's ironic when you think about our heritage in South Dakota," said Johnson, 41, who took over the family farm when his father had a stroke in 1981. "Our ancestors left the landlords and kings in Europe to come here for their economic freedom, and now we're making the big corporations the new feudal rulers.... Sometimes I think nobody is paying attention while the big corporations are just taking over the whole farm economy and destroying an American way of life." [Charlie Johnson a farmer from Madison, South Dakota]

The article quotes another farmer:

"The feed comes from out of state, the hogs come from out of state and the hogs are shipped out of state for slaughter," said Don Hoogestraat, who turned his third-generation family farm over to his son eight years ago. "That leaves us with nothing but the manure, and the farmer becomes a hired hand on his own farm."

Hoogestraat, a former president of the South Dakota Pork Producers Council who is now critical of the council's support of corporate-backed farming, accused big hog-producers of engaging in "planned overproduction" to temporarily drive pork prices down and force more family farms into contract feeding agreements. Earlier this month the price of hogs dropped to a 27-year low of 15 cents a pound in Sioux Falls—half of what it costs to produce—and in some parts of the country prices have dropped to less than 10 cents a pound.

US Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman has announced a series of crisis measures, including a moratorium on government loans for new pork production plants...

Animals as Units of Production: Industrial Agribusiness and Sentient Beings

by Ken Midkiff

Traditional farming operations treated animals as individuals. A farmer knew the personalities of his milk cows as well as he did those of neighboring farmers. I knew which of my sows liked to have her back and ears scratched—and which one would try to viciously bite if approached. When ewes rejected their lambs, we brought them into the house and fed them from a bottle. As a small child, I knew which of the old roosters would attack me (some roosters are just damned mean) and which could be carried around in my red wagon.

Somewhere between my childhood in the 1940s and the 1970s, something went terribly wrong in food production. Schools of agriculture and the USDA, taking their marching orders from agribusiness implement and chemical companies started preaching the adoption of the Industrial Model. Get big or get out. Volume of production is more important than quality.

A diversified, sustainable system of integrated crops and animal production was abandoned in favor of monocultures. Farmers became specialists. Some grew only corn and soybeans. Others developed huge dairy or beef feedlot operations. This move had nothing at all to do with needing to feed the world, and everything to do with concentration of food production, and profits, into the hands of a few large corporations. Market control was the goal. Not many more hogs or chickens are being grown today than in the past—only the methods have changed.

Poultry was the first to totally convert to the industrial model. Today there are almost no independent poultry growers, all are either owned by or under contract with large corporations. The hog industry is going the same direction.

So what? Well, animals are now raised in huge confinement structures, crammed in small pens or cages, given antibiotics to combat diseases (that can run rampant in such stressful conditions). One conveyor brings in food, another system transports out excrement. From a rather idyllic existence on the family farm to a unit of

production, packed in with thousands of other units of production, animals are now treated as only a product—much as any other industrial product. Just widgets.

Chickens raised for broilers for mass consumption are now grown in confinement structures that contain up to 22,000 birds. Hatching to slaughter is only eight weeks. Those drumsticks at Kentucky Fried Chicken are from a two-month old chicken. The methods of production are nasty, brutish, and short.

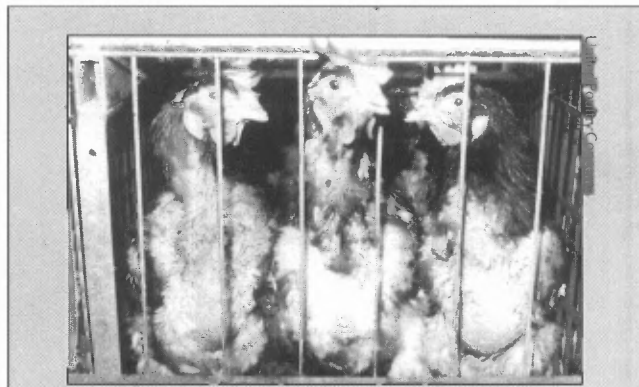
Hogs are raised in arguably worse conditions. Mortality rates are very high. Sows in gestation stalls and farrowing crates cannot turn around. In the "finishing houses" where pigs are fed from around 55 pounds to slaughter size, there are from 1,200 to 2,500 hogs in a building. Emissions of hydrogen sulfide and ammonia from excrement and urine are so strong that large exhaust fans must run constantly to remove the toxic gases from the houses. If the fans shut off for more than 15 minutes, hogs begin succumbing to the gases.

In the heat of summer, the overcrowded conditions in poultry operations lead to massive die-offs. During the record-breaking heat-wave last year in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, millions and millions of hens and broilers suffocated in their packed cages. All the media

focused on was the monetary losses to the owners and growers, not to the miserable deaths of millions of living creatures.

Chickens also suffer from the misfortunes of their owners or growers. In southwest Missouri, a bankrupt poultry house owner simply walked away and left 12,000 hens to starve and die. Two years later, the skeletons of thousands of hens remain packed in their little cages in a crumbling poultry house overgrown with weeds. A horror story in the best Stephen King tradition—and one that pretty much sums up industrial-strength hog, chicken and egg production. 🐾

Ken Midkiff, formerly a hog farmer, now is the Director of the Missouri Sierra Club



Above: Laying hens are confined to battery cages so small they can't even spread their wings. The ends of their beaks are painfully cut off but they still peck the feathers off their cage mates for lack of any natural vegetation. Below: Sows are confined to cramped stalls they can't so much as turn around in. Biting the bars of their prisons is their only occupation.



Cathy Lass

A Call for Strong Enforcement of the Federal Humane Slaughter Act

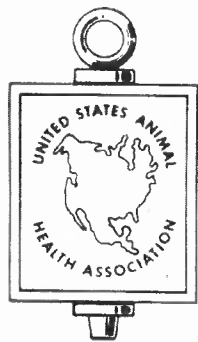
In 1958, following overwhelming public support, the Humane Slaughter Act was adopted. In 1978, the Federal Meat Inspection Act was amended to empower USDA inspectors to stop the slaughter line on the spot if any cruelty is observed. Once the line has stopped, slaughter may not legally recommence until deficiencies, whether of equipment, or of abuses by personnel, are corrected. Since that time the public has assumed that the law has been enforced. Gail Eisnitz's 1997 book, *Slaughterhouse* (see *AWI Quarterly*, Fall 1997), was a rude awakening to the fact that deregulation had caused enormous speed-ups in the slaughter line so that animals were no longer being slaughtered in conformity with the law. On the contrary, the book revealed that *fully conscious* pigs and cows were being beaten, strangled, scalded, skinned and dismembered in the nation's slaughterhouses.

Two government reports, "Survey of Stunning and Handling in Federally Inspected Beef, Veal, Pork, and Sheep Slaughter Plants" (January 7, 1997) and "Special Survey on Humane Slaughter and Ante-Mortem Inspection" (March 1998) provide further documentation of the failure of slaughter plants to handle and kill animals humanely. Many apparent violations of federal law were found despite the fact that these inspections of slaughter plants were announced in advance, providing ample opportunity for plant managers to cover-up.

The 1997 report documented excessive use of electric prods, slippery floors and hazardous ramps, citing 64% of

the slaughter plants visited for ineffective use of captive bolt stunners to render animals unconscious and insensible. The 1998 report noted that "it is considered inhumane to allow an animal to regain consciousness after the stunning procedure, so the bleeding should be done as quickly as possible after stunning." Yet, 57.6% of the plants permitted a lengthy period of time between stunning and bleeding. The report concludes that 28% of the plants visited have "serious problems."

A detailed resolution calling for strong enforcement of the Humane Slaughter Act was presented to the United States Animal Health Association's Animal Welfare Committee by AWI's Director Cathy Liss. The USAHA represents federal and state regulatory veterinarians throughout the nation and has done so since its founding in 1897. Seeking to quash attention to this issue, a representative of the Livestock Marketing Association objected to virtually all of the text claiming it could not be substantiated. The industry representative even objected to text cited from the two government studies, claiming that these studies, too, could not be substantiated. In the interest of obtaining the necessary votes to adopt a resolution in support of the Humane Slaughter Act, a compromise version was agreed. The final resolution, which appears in the box, was adopted by the Animal Welfare Committee of the USAHA. On the following day it was adopted by the full board of the Association. 🐾



RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE OCTOBER 1998 USAHA MEETING

THE UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION ENCOURAGES STRONG ENFORCEMENT OF THE FEDERAL HUMANE SLAUGHTER ACT BY USDA'S FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE TO PREVENT ABUSES TO ANIMALS PROTECTED UNDER THE ACT.

(The mission of USAHA is to be a forum for communication and coordination among state and federal governments, universities, industry and other groups on issues of animal health and disease control, animal welfare, food safety and public health.)

EU Bans Sub-therapeutic Use of Drugs

As of January, four widely used growth-enhancing antibiotic drugs will be banned for use in the European Union.

Unlike therapeutic or medicinal drugs, sub-therapeutic drugs are not used to help a sick animal recover, but rather to induce rapid and unnatural growth or keep a stressed animal from dying while in cruel factory farms. Up to 80 percent of all Europe's cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry are given sub-therapeutic antibiotics.

Britain, Sweden, Germany, and France led the campaign to exclude the use of the drugs as growth-enhancers. Three nations, Spain, Portugal, and Belgium abstained from the vote, arguing that the ban will push up the price of meat. Denmark

and Sweden already enforce a unilateral ban on sub-therapeutic drugs.

Several large agencies, including the World Health Organization, The British House of Lords, and the British National Consumer Council have spoken out against sub-therapeutic drugs. The Soil Association, representing Britain's organic farmers, reports that the use of antibiotics had increased by up to 150 times in the past 30 years. Their press release reads, "We must create a new climate in which animals are kept in more natural, less stressful conditions and are routinely treated with respect, rather than antibiotics." 🐾

Indonesia: A Paradise Lost?

People of the Forest

by Dave Currey

The dark, almost human eyes, gave the orangutan away. First glancing at me and then at the camera and after a few seconds, back at me again. He was waiting for me to feel secure before he reached out to grab at the camera with real determination. Nearby, my travelling companion, a committed vegetarian, was gently being fed an ant by Gistok, a young male orangutan who refuses to return to his natural home—the forest canopy. After Gistok had the ant refused, he thought for a while, picked a leaf and pressed it against my companion's mouth.

Everyone who sees orangutans in the wild speaks of their uncanny similarities to people. Their eyes and expressions are the first thing to disarm you, then the tiny manicured finger nails. It's probably their mischief that confirms how close we are and their soulful expressions that spread guilt all over those of us who are aware of what human beings are doing to destroy these creatures with whom we share 98 percent of the same genes.

Orangutans are only found on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, and it was to the Indonesian part of Borneo, known as Kalimantan, that I travelled with EIA to gather evidence of the horrific clearing of the forests, the orangutans' home. The scenes I witnessed were so bleak and without hope, that I forced myself six months later to return to see wild orangutans, to help renew my strength to fight for their future.

In a very personal way, 1998 will be my year of the orangutan. In February, although my colleagues and I spent time in areas inhabited by orangutans, I didn't see one. What I did see and feel will remain with me for the rest of my life. We travelled across hundreds of kilometres of Central Kalimantan which just three years ago was home to a wide range of tropical forest species. However, for the last thirty years Indonesia has not been an easy place to live for most of its people, and the same is true of its wildlife. Vast tracts of land have been ravaged by companies owned by family and friends of former President Suharto. Indigenous people have been displaced and destroyed as easily as a chainsaw fells a two hundred year old tree.

Just three years ago Suharto announced a crackpot plan to turn an 1.4 million hectare area of forest into a rice growing project. Crackpot because it wasn't possible, but Suharto's cronies backed up the idea seeing lucrative concessions to build canals, dams, and transmigrant housing before moving in to grow palm oil when the scheme inevitably failed. And of course there was a lot of money to be made out of timber. In 1997 the vast forest fires were started to clear land in this area by some of the companies holding concessions.

I was talking to a local Dayak villager in the centre of this "rice" project about the fires and orangutans. "You never see orangutans around here" he explained. "Except when the fires came. Every day you saw orangutans in the trees on the other bank of the river. Every day you would see them trying to escape the fires." Most simply burned with the forest.

Travelling across the region is like entering Dante's Inferno. The closest to hell on earth that can be imagined—a glorious wild gem of a place, defiled by greed, torched, hacked down and left to rot.

Nobody really knows how many orangutans are left. The horrific fires which spread through Borneo and Sumatra in 1997 and 1998 no doubt killed very many of these creatures. Orangutans are unable to swim and when they reach the river banks they have no escape from the fires. The fires have started again in the last few weeks of 1998.

The latest estimates made before the fires is that only 15,000 to 25,000 remain. This figure is disputed by Biruté Galdikas, the renowned primatologist who has worked with orangutans in Kalimantan for the last 25 years. She believes there must be more—not out of blind optimism, but because she sees so many orphaned orangutans still coming in today, that she finds it hard to believe that there could be so few out in the forests. Unless of course, the population is close to a crash.

Over the last 20 years about 80 percent of orangutan habitat has been destroyed. Those of us who watched

fascinating television documentaries about the impenetrable forest of Borneo and its incredible head-hunting people and its wildlife have to take stock. It's gone. The indigenous way of life, the orangutans, the extraordinary proboscis monkeys, clouded leopards, langurs, leaf monkeys, gibbons, bears and rhinos. Borneo has very few pockets of such habitat left. This island, the fourth largest on the planet, has been raped by massive industrial logging and mining, fuelled by a greedy world and a local political system which ruthlessly profited only the elite.

The sickness of the land pervaded my body and I returned home infected with Dengue fever and a mysterious virus eating away at the nerve in a shoulder muscle. A Dayak "doctor" had understood the sickness and provided temporary relief, but once home none of the medical experts knew how to treat my pain. I believe it went deeper than physical illness, as if I was infected with the experiences of 20 years working as a wildlife campaigner culminating in stepping into a nightmare in Kalimantan.

After six months, still exhausted by the sickness but mainly recovered, I returned to Borneo. The sheer energy of some of the local activists and the optimism of a country emerging from 30 years of oppressive rule was a tonic.

My companion and I were thrilled to be invited to meet Biruté Galdikas at her home in a Dayak village near the Park. Her commitment to orangutans over so many years places her in a unique position to understand—almost feel—their decline. It is clearly an extraordinarily emotional time for her when so many infant orangutans are brought to her almost daily. Orphaned by poaching, forest habitat and fire, some of these infants have been sold as pets. She seems almost bewildered by what is happening to these creatures, her companions for so many years, but she carries on her fight for their future against increasingly difficult odds.

Deep in the forest where fire ants still tread the paths and painfully sting any unsuspecting strangers, we could smell the rain coming. In front of us a mother was hanging from a tree by her arms and legs as her baby scrambled over her back, clambering to drop over her shoulder and grab her breast to start suckling. It grew darker and darker until the warm rain crashed through the leaves. A massive dominant male orangutan with his huge cheeks and slightly aggressive, but almost knowing expression sat ten meters away in the undergrowth.















I pulled my poncho out of its bag to shield my head and my camera from the downpour, remaining alert because this potentially dangerous male was so close. Once protected from the rain I nervously glanced over where he had been standing. He had pulled some large leaves from the trees and made his own umbrella and sat holding it above his head. As we sheltered we had time to think and watch each other. I won't pretend to know what went through his mind, but his eyes had a disarming depth which seemed to contain all the knowledge of the forest. I was thinking of the log rafts floating down the river and the sound of chainsaws. The thunderous rain disguised my tears. 🐾

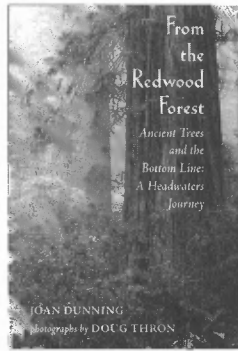


Author Dave Currey is a director of the Environmental Investigation Agency. He took these photographs during his recent visit to the rainforests of Indonesia.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY'S NEW REPORT, *THE POLITICS OF EXTINCTION*, WHICH GRAPHICALLY DOCUMENTS THE BRUTAL DESTRUCTION OF INDONESIA'S RAINFORESTS, IS NOW AVAILABLE. TO REQUEST A COPY PLEASE CONTACT: EIA, 69-85 OLD STREET, LONDON, ECV 9HX, ENGLAND. EIAUK@GN.APC.ORG

Forest Facts

-  More than half the world's land dwelling animals make a forest their home
-  Less than 5% of America's original forest cover remains
-  40 million acres of North American forests have been logged since the early 1990s
-  The US consumes 100.3 billion board feet of wood each year
-  Forests purify and regulate the water supply
-  A single tree will absorb carbon dioxide at the rate of 26 pounds per year
-  Logging and land conversion creates loss of soil and soil nutrients, contributes to landslides, flooding and the siltation of rivers
-  Within the last 100 years, one fifth of the world's forests have been lost to logging
-  Tropical rainforests cover only 6% of the earth, but contain more than half of the world's plant and animal species
-  In Indonesia, an area of the forest the size of New York's Central Park is destroyed every 20 minutes
-  74 rainforest plant or animal species become extinct each day
-  Indonesia has the world's longest list of endangered species, including forest-dwellers; the Sumatran tiger, Asian elephant, clouded leopard, and orangutan
-  Over 70% of Indonesia's original forests have been destroyed
-  Major causes of forest loss in Indonesia are: commercial logging operations and forest fires intentionally set to clear land for palm oil plantations



Book Review

*From the Redwood Forest.
Ancient Trees and the Bottom Line:
A Headwaters Journey*

Joan Dunning, Photographs by Doug Thron

272 pages. White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green Publishing, 1998. \$24.95

The tragedy of the unforgivable destruction of the glorious ancient forests by the corporate raider Charles Hurwitz, head of Maxxam, is painstakingly revealed in a series of autobiographical sketches by the author, Joan Dunning, a naturalist, author and illustrator. She was writing a book about the birds of Baja when she was drawn into the battle being fought over the redwoods by a friend's invitation to attend a meeting. "We want to show Clinton that it's not just Earth Firsters with dreadlocks who care about Headwaters," she said.

Doug Thron has, for six years, been photographing the desecration of the famous Headwaters Grove of ancient redwood trees and the associated groves possessed by Hurwitz after his hostile takeover of a very old and high-minded company called Pacific Lumber, whose strict policy against clear-cutting had preserved the whole of their holdings and would have done so in perpetuity but for Hurwitz's Maxxam.

Thron is wholly dedicated to saving the redwoods. His beautiful and tragic pictures fill 57 pages of the book showing the remaining trees in their majesty in stark contrast to the devastation of the clear cuts, to resulting mud slides that wrecked people's homes and the pollution of streams that once provided spawning waters for endangered salmon.

"Do you know who gets madder than anyone at my slide shows? The veterans. Some old-timer will stand up and say, 'I fought for this country. What are they doing allowing this guy to break the law?'"

Against this background we follow the author's experiences as she explores by air in a small "Lighthawk" plane (Lighthawk pilots seek to inform the public about what is happening to US forests) the devastation that has befallen Headwaters. The trees are still being clear cut, "salvage logged" and sprayed with herbicides. She follows up, exploring on foot, at night, the habitat of the endangered marbled murrelet, known to country people as "fog larks." These small sea birds who lay their two eggs at the very top of the towering redwoods are losing their homes in violation of the Endangered Species Act.

Joan Dunning writes, "During the early years of Reagan's presidency, the savings and loan industry was deregulated so that investors' money was no longer backed by actual recoverable assets. Depositors' money was still insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, however, making them vulnerable to what the Wall Street Journal described as a 'spider web of deep pocket investors' looking for free money. In 1982, junk-bond king and soon-to-be felon Michael Milken helped Hurwitz to gain control of United Savings Association of Texas, which in turn purchased junk bonds from Milken's brokerage firm, Drexel, Burnham and Lambert. When United Savings Association of Texas investments failed, it was the American people who repaid the 'loss' to its investors," 1.3 billion. So far there are no results from the suit against Hurwitz filed by the Office of Thrift Supervision.

At the end of the book she reports on the film taken by the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department of their attempt to discourage the protesters. The film shows the police officers rubbing pepper spray into the eyes of seven individuals, including a sixteen year-old girl whom Dunning later interviewed. The painful punishment of peaceful protesters was, in fact, a training film for future use by the Sheriff's officers.

Earth First! is epitomized by Julia Butterfly Hill, whose courage and

continued on page 11



Edward O. Wilson

Book Review
Consilience.
The Unity of Knowledge
 Edward O. Wilson
 332 pages. New York:
 Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1998.
 \$26.00

Professor Wilson is usually right, and he backs up his analyses with a degree of scholarship astonishing in its depth and diversity. His delightful book *Biophilia* is most likely to be familiar to readers of the *AWI Quarterly*, explaining as it does why it is natural for humans to be fond of other species.

In *Consilience* he tackles the whole range of human knowledge from medicine and the natural sciences to art, religion and philosophy with stress on ethics, and in the book's last chapter cites "ecological economics, a new subdivision formed to put a green thumb on 'The Invisible Hand,'" beloved of conservative economists.

It is the end of his thesis which gives terrifying statistics—figures which spell out what, for all practical purposes, would be the end of the world that we Americans so blithely take for granted.

"To summarize the future of resources and climate," he writes, "the wall towards which humanity is evidently rushing is a shortage not of minerals and energy but food and water," and he explains why in no uncertain terms. "By 1997 the global population had reached 5.8 billion, growing at the rate of 90 million per year. In 1600 there were only about half a billion people on Earth, and in 1940, 2 billion. The amount

of increase during the 1990s alone is expected to exceed the entire population alive in 1600."

Wilson gives projections of numbers which readers will wish to study carefully. He closes the paragraph: "Even if the global birth rate were reduced drastically and immediately, say to the Chinese goal of one child per woman, the population would not peak for one or two generations. The over-shoot is ensured by the disproportionate number of young people already in existence, who look to long lives ahead."

"Population growth can justly be called the monster on the land. To the extent that it can be tamed, passage through the bottleneck will be easier. Let us suppose that the last of the old reproductive taboos fade, and family planning becomes universal. Suppose further that governments create population policies with the same earnestness they devote to economic and military policies. And that as a result the global population peaks below ten billion and starts to decline. With NPG (negative population growth) attained, there are grounds for hope. If not attained, humanity's best efforts will fail and the bottleneck will close to form a solid wall."

Nor is this a simple fate of succumbing to physical wants. Wilson leads us 65 million years into the past to the end of the Mesozoic Era. "At that time, by current scientific consensus, the impact of one or more giant meteorites darkened the atmosphere, altered much of Earth's climate, and extinguished the dinosaurs. Thus began the next stage of evolution, the Cenozoic Era or Age of Mammals. The extinction spasm we are now inflicting can be moderated if we so choose. Otherwise, the next century will see the closing of the Cenozoic Era and a new one characterized not by new life forms but by biological impoverishment. It might appropriately be called the 'Eremozoic Era,' the Age of Loneliness." 🐾
 —Christine Stevens

continued from page 10

determination sets a powerful example to everyone who cares about the environment, biodiversity and all the millions of species of creatures who share the planet with us. She has lived on a small platform at the top of an ancient redwood 180 feet above the ground for more than a year. Other Earth Firsters have kept her supplied with food and water.

She told the author about the end of a "ten-day blockade of supplies and how twenty Earth Firsters finally stormed the tree and sent supplies up her rope. 'It was so beautiful,' she said. 'They were so brave.' She talked about being harassed by air horns, barking dogs, floodlights, and whistles to keep her from sleeping. But Butterfly has endured."

The book ends with the resolution of the battle to save what is left of the magnificent redwoods still unpredictable. The lawsuits and the federal case long pending against Hurwitz have not been settled. The information available on the Internet at <http://

www.jailhurwitz.com> frequently updates this under-reported historic struggle. Readers of this book will want to keep following the fight and urging protection for the ancient redwoods and their inhabitants, the birds, mammals and amphibians who make their homes in the boughs and massive hollows and spreading roots of these giant trees. 🐾

—Christine Stevens

BEQUESTS TO AWI

To any who would like to help assure the Animal Welfare Institute's future through a provision in your will, this general form of bequest is suggested:

I give, devise and bequeath to the Animal Welfare Institute, located in Washington, DC, the sum of \$ _____ and/or (specifically described property).

Donations to AWI, a not-for-profit corporation exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), are tax deductible. We welcome any inquiries you may have. In cases where you have specific wishes about the disposition of your bequest, we suggest you discuss such provisions with your attorney.

Sting Investigation Captures Notorious Animal Smuggler

A five-year long sting investigation, dubbed "Operation Chameleon," has resulted in the capture of one of the world's most notorious animal smugglers, Keng Liang "Anson" Wong. Wong is thought to be responsible for smuggling more than 300 animals from Asia into the United States.

It took the cooperation of multiple international law enforcement agencies and the creation of a phony import/export company to finally bring down the smuggling kingpin. To break the infamous ring, United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) agents in San Francisco created PacRim Enterprises. Functioning as a front for Operation Chameleon, PacRim purportedly dealt in imported animals, but in actuality was staffed by undercover agents.

According to the indictment against Wong, USFWS agents cultivated business contacts with Wong in order to track the illegal movements of endangered animals into the US. Consequently, the reverse flow of money was traced back into Wong's pocket. "He's been one of the most flagrant smugglers out there," said Lois J. Schiffer, the assistant attorney general for environment and natural resources. "We're sending a message today: We will do whatever it takes to shut down the black market in endangered species."

Wong was apprehended during a trip to Mexico City

where he was supposed to meet with a federal agent posing as a crooked businessman.

Among the 39 species of endangered animals trafficked by Wong's gang were Chinese crocodile lizards, Bengal monitor lizards, plowshare and radiated tortoises native to Madagascar and Komodo dragons from Indonesia. The animals were frequently transported in carry-on luggage, Federal Express packages, or hidden among shipments of legally imported animals. Many of the animals died during their transport to the US; survivors will be kept as evidence for the case. Officials said that most of the animals will not be able to be returned to the wild and will probably wind up in zoos after the legal proceedings end.

Operation Chameleon was an international effort conducted with the cooperation of the US Customs Agency, the USFWS, the Mexican attorney general's office, Interpol and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Considered to be one of the most brazen animal smugglers, Wong operated from his zoo-like Malaysian home compound stocked with exotic cats, birds and reptiles. He has been on the run from US agents since fleeing the country after being indicted for operating a similar smuggling ring in Florida. 🐾



Among the animals seized in Operation Chameleon was this baby Komodo dragon from Indonesia and these Madagascar Radiated tortoises.



Erin Mamerl-USFWS

CHINESE SEIZE SMUGGLED IVORY

Chinese authorities have recently stepped up their efforts to stop the smuggling of endangered animal products into China. Smuggling in China is a multi-billion dollar business dominated by China's powerful military.

In November their crackdown paid off. Customs officials seized 1.6 tons of illegal African ivory hidden among legally imported African wild ox horns.

Although China is a signatory country to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), it remains one of the leading consumers of products made from endangered species.

TAIWAN PASSES ANIMAL PROTECTION LAW

In October, the Legislative Yuan voted to help animals by enacting Taiwan's first animal protective legislation. Major points covered in the new law are the prohibition of using animals for gaming purposes, provisions for humane slaughter, the establishment of an Ethics Committee to oversee the use of laboratory animals, mandatory registration of pets, and regulations governing pet shops and breeders. Violators of the law are subject to hefty fines.

ZHABA DUOJIE—PROTECTOR, MARTYR

The Tibetan antelope's most fervent protector was gunned down on November 8th near his home in the western province of Qinghai, China. Poachers are believed to be responsible for Zhaba Duojie's murder.



A Tibetan antelope forages for food after a snowfall.

Doujie, an ethnic Tibetan, managed the Gyaisang Soinamdaje wildlife protection center; home to some of the world's most endangered mammals, including the Tibetan antelope and snow leopard. Located in one of China's most remote areas, the center was named for Doujie's predecessor who, four years ago, was also murdered by poachers.

The Tibetan antelope is prized for the fur around its throat, known as a shahtoosh. Although it has been illegal to trade shahtoosh in much of the world since 1976, a shahtoosh shawl will fetch more than \$15,000 in Europe.

Only 75,000 to 100,000 Tibetan antelope still exist, and as many as 20,000 a year are killed by poachers.

"COSMETIC" MUTILATION CAUSES SUFFERING

In a strongly worded statement, The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) announced its stance against the cosmetic ear cropping and tail docking of dogs, stating that these procedures "are not medically indicated nor of benefit to the patient. These procedures cause pain and distress." Boxers, Doberman Pinschers, and Schnauzers are among the breeds of dogs that often have their tails and part of their ears cut off in order to comply with their breed's "standard."

AAHA plans to submit its resolution to the American Veterinary Medical Association asking them to adopt this position as their own. Many countries, including Sweden, Norway, Germany, and England now prohibit the cropping and docking of dogs' ears and tails.

WOODSTREAM QUILTS TRAP BUSINESS

Woodstream Corporation, the nation's largest maker of steel-jaw leghold traps, announced that they will no longer produce the cruel traps due to lack of business. Harry E. Whaley, the company's president, acknowledged that more stringent trapping laws and the depressed economies of the American fur buying regions of Russia and Asia have permanently disabled the steel-jaw leghold trap business.

FACTORY FARMS DEEMED NOT ORGANIC

Controversy over the labelling of organic animal products was resolved by a January 14, 1999 decision of the US Department of Agriculture. By early spring, stores will have USDA certified products. The organic label means that animals have not been confined to the dreadful factory farms where they are virtually immobilized in tiny cages and stalls during their entire lives of painful imprisonment. Instead, the animals must have access to pasture, fresh air and sunshine and not be given growth hormones or sub-therapeutic antibiotics.

MAJOR BUST IN BEAR PARTS TRADE

A three year investigation between the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has resulted in the arrests of 25 individuals from Virginia, West Virginia and New Mexico for over 100 wildlife violations regarding trade in bear parts and products, including jewelry made from teeth and claws, paws for expensive soups, and gallbladders for use in traditional medicine. The Department expects this case "to yield one of the largest prosecutions in the nation's history for crimes relating to bear poaching and illegal trade in bear parts."



Ginger Kahrens/Taurus Productions

On December 27, 1998, nine wild horses were found dead or dying in Nevada's Virginia Range foothills. They were shot in the stomach and hindquarters, leading to a slow and extremely painful death. Two days later, the death count had risen to 33. According to John Tyson, a Storey County range management officer, the wild horses were "easy marks." "If it was moving and breathing, they shot it." The perpetrators were arrested after Anthony Merlino, 20, a construction worker, was overheard bragging about shooting the horses along with his buddies from the Marine Corps, Scott William Brendle, 21, and Darien Thomas Brock, 20. Merlino had a reputation as an animal abuser before the attack on the wild horses. For more information on wild horses, visit the website <<http://www.savewildhorses.com>>.

PEER Finds Dissension in USFWS Ranks

Despite the successful sting reported on page 12, many Special Agents within the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) report that criminal investigations are often interfered with by agency managers and that agency decision-making is influenced by politics. This is according to a national survey released by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER).

USFWS Special Agents enforce the Endangered Species Act, the Lacey Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and all other federal hunting and wildlife interstate transportation laws. Of the roughly 200 USFWS Special Agents nationwide, more than 60 percent responded to the PEER survey.



The US Fish and Wildlife Service is administered under the auspices of the United States Department of the Interior.

Over half the respondents related first hand experiences of managers who interfered with an investigation in order to protect a prominent individual or powerful group. Eighty-one percent said agency managers have often "injected political considerations into what should be strictly law enforcement decisions" and that hunting groups exercise disproportionate influence over agency decision making. Only five percent of agents think that USFWS law enforcement is improving while 74 percent think it is getting worse. The state of affairs at USFWS was summed up by one survey respondent who commented, "This division has gone from agents who believe in protecting the resources to agents protecting themselves." 🐾

How Cruelty Begets Cruelty

by Patrick Nolan

America was understandably shocked and saddened by this year's reports of sudden, tragic violence, especially in schools. Beneath the stories of the inexplicable killings is a lesser-known but still terrible story: the undeniable link between cruelty to animals and cruelty to humans. Again and again, when the public tries to understand the psychology behind an act of horrific violence, a record of animal abuse shows up in a suspect's past, leading psychologists and others to recognize a direct correlation.

For too long, when a child tortures an animal, it's glossed over as unpleasant but typical sport, "boys will be boys," people say, and sweep it under the carpet. When, over and over again, those individuals continue on the violent path to assault, rape and murder, however, newspaper interviews of those who knew the suspect all too often recall his record of torturing animals. More needs to be done to stop violence before it happens, and recognize early-warning signs. At last, this is getting some of the recognition it deserves.

Take the case of 15-year-old Kip Kinkel, who according to authorities, burst into his high school cafeteria and began gunning down his schoolmates, killing one and injuring 23 others. The bodies of his parents were found 90 minutes later.

According to the *New York Times*, fellow students recalled that Kinkel "boasted to friends that he had killed his cat and blown up a cow." "He was always talking about what he did to animals," said one classmate. "He would like to torture animals and stuff." Another said, "He talked about killing things way too much. And he'd always go into way too much detail, like how he'd cut animals open with hunting knives."

Still, the Springfield, Oregon schools superintendent, Jamon Kent, said of Kinkel that "his teachers still viewed him as a good student. He was a typical 15-year-old." This "typical 15-year-old" put lit firecrackers into the mouths of squirrels and chipmunks.

Nor is Kinkel's case unusual. In Jonesboro, Arkansas, a month before, two boys—aged 11 and 13—allegedly opened fire on their schoolmates and teachers, killing five and wounding 10. Predictably, newspaper accounts of the boys' troubled pasts included a history of killing animals.

According to prosecutors, 17-year-old Luke Woodham had ritually slaughtered his dog just weeks before he killed 3 students and wounded 7 others in Pearl, Mississippi last year. "On Saturday of last week, I made my first kill. The victim was a loved one, my dear dog Sparkle," wrote Woodham in a grisly "manifesto" describing his preparations for the further killings.

Nor is the connection only relevant to youthful criminals. In July, Russell Weston, Jr. was charged with gunning down two policemen inside the United States Capitol. The previous day, according to Weston's father, he had killed a dozen family cats, including his Grandmother's Littlebit, with a shotgun.

"Jeffrey Dahmer, who admitted killing and dismembering 17 young men and was convicted in 1992, reportedly impaled frogs and staked cats to trees during his child-

hood," writes AP science writer Joseph Verrengia.

"Killing animals certainly is a good indicator that someone might escalate their violent behavior against other human beings," said Harold Bursztajn, director of the psychiatry and law program Harvard Medical School. "It is a very steep, slippery slope." Forensic psychiatrist William H. Reid agrees: "It's a very ominous sign."

A study by the Massachusetts SPCA revealed that 70 percent of animal abusers had committed at least one criminal offense and that 38 percent had committed violent acts against people.

Fortunately, some things are being done to take these warning signs more seriously. The Humane Society of the United States has an established campaign to educate counselors, parents and the general public about the link between human and animal cruelty and abuse, and last year the society sponsored a conference, "Making the Connection."

Studies have shown that in many instances of child abuse, animals are being abused as well—frequently by the children; social worker Mary Ingram explains this by saying that the abuse moves down the family "totem pole": from parents to children to pets and other animals.

Trish Keefer, a humane officer with the Sacramento SPCA, said that "Harming an animal is a direct link to problems in other areas—with spouses, children, elders." She noted that many humane officers' investigations lead to "cross-referrals" to social workers or police, to determine whether the animal cruelty is in fact connected to human neglect or abuse as well.

Further, law enforcement and the courts are beginning to recognize the seriousness of animal abuse both in and of itself, and as a warning sign for escalating violence.

In Brownsville, Texas, in August, Judge Migdalia Lopez gave stiff sentences, as well as strong words, to three young men who were charged with stoning a dog to death. The accused had reportedly lured a stray dog to a canal bank, surrounded the dog and threw rocks as a crowd cheered them on. District Attorney Geoff Henley said, "This is not child's play and these are not children."

Lopez had been extremely moved by a nationwide wave of outrage at the crime. Speaking of animal advocates in the audience and around the country, she told the defendants that "they believe you pose a threat to your fellow human beings. All life is sacred, human or not. They remind this court of the link between human cruelty and animal cruelty. This is one of the best predictors of future human violence. The people have loudly expressed their outrage through letters, faxes, cards and petitions. They don't want you to get off with a slap on the wrist. They believe this court must send a strong message that this behavior should not be tolerated." To animal advocates, Lopez said, "The court wants you to understand that I have heard your voice." 🐾

—Patrick Nolan is AWI's Editorial Consultant

Cleveland Amory



Cleveland Amory was already established as a witty and perceptive critic of society, with a whole list of best-selling books to his credit, when he turned his literary gifts to the long struggle for protection of animals that filled his life for more than thirty years. When he wrote in *The Saturday Review of Literature* about a bullfight he had attended, I wrote him to congratulate him. Those were the days when Ernest Hemingway dominated the intellectual scene with his passion for bullfighting and the most gory details of big game hunting in Africa. But here came Cleveland to deflate the sickly adulation of the tough-guy fashion. Cleveland's was a voice in the wilderness of animal suffering in the 1950s.

Our correspondence led to meetings, to a large extent devoted to how we could help animals in laboratories. Before long, Cleveland joined the Board of The Humane Society of the United States. In 1967, he decided to found his own organization, The Fund for Animals which, he tells us in *The Cat Who Came for Christmas* (the best-selling cat book of all time), was named to encourage gifts of funds needed for its campaigns. He writes, wryly, that he had thought of its name as a moment of inspiration, but he found it to be just the opposite: "Everybody thought we already had the money."

It may be that Cleveland almost single-handedly made the cat the most popular of companion animals in the United States. After *The Cat Who Came for Christmas*, every three years he wrote another best-selling volume: *The Cat and The Curmudgeon* and *The Best Cat Ever*. All three books were compiled in 1995 as *Cleveland Amory's Compleat Cat*, an 814-page book.

Cleveland Amory was unique to the animal protection movement. His death leaves a gaping hole, impossible to fill, in the ranks of the movement. He founded Black Beauty Ranch in Murchison, Texas where he has been buried next to his beloved cat, Polar Bear, whom he rescued on Christmas eve.

—Christine Stevens

Henry Spira

Henry Spira was given the Albert Schweitzer Medal by the Animal Welfare Institute in the spring of 1996, and a description of the ceremony and Henry's remarks were fully covered in the Spring/Summer 1996 *AWI Quarterly*.

Though already gravely ill, Henry came down from New York and captivated the audience with his deep-seated commitment to animal welfare. Combined with his customary ebullience, his astringent wit and his endearing modesty, it was a socko performance.

Henry had a career that almost defied belief. From longshoreman to teacher to animal rights activist in one lifetime is a path not often trod.

In his zeal to protect animals, he worked with an imaginative fervor tempered with common sense that resulted in improved conditions for many laboratory and farm animals. The great numbers of animals spared suffering because of his formidable and successful campaigns will be Henry's true legacy and memorial.

—John Gleiber

Amory Winthrop

The death of Amory Winthrop, at far too young an age, is a sad loss for the animal welfare community. Born into a Virginia family with a tradition of sport hunting and shooting (the daughter of a legendary, octogenarian Master of Fox Hounds), Amory turned away from this world to interest herself in protecting animals. She founded the Winley Foundation to help provide financing for animal protection causes and remained active and interested in these issues throughout her life.

My fondest memories of Amory center on the times I didn't see her. On several occasions, she cancelled trips to Washington where we were to meet at holiday events simply because she wanted to remain home to be certain her animals were properly cared for, because she wasn't absolutely certain her then staff could be relied upon. Her love for animals and her sense of responsibility will always be a beacon for those of us who work to better the world for animals everywhere.

—John Gleiber

Ise Togo

Ise Togo, who followed her late husband, Fumihiko Togo, on AWI's International Committee died at their home in Japan recently. The Togos were a stand-out couple in Washington diplomatic circles when he served as Japan's ambassador to the United States, with his wife as his official hostess.

During his term of office, Japan built probably the most spectacular recent ambassadorial residence, set in the midst of a vast garden, but, still well within the confines of the city.

They were both committed to the cause of animal welfare, and Mrs. Togo realized the publicity value of her

remarkable house. Almost as soon as construction was completed, she initiated the first of many benefits to raise funds for animal welfare organizations. Diplomats, social leaders, Members of Congress and humanitarians mingled with animal protection activists in the almost stage-set rooms to dine and dance, with the proceeds going directly to help animals.

The Ambassador and Mrs. Togo forged a strong link between officialdom and the ordinary citizens, who are seeking a better world for animals. No diplomatic couple has yet appeared to fill their shoes.

—John Gleiber

A Grizzly Business

by Craig Bennett

Grizzly bears in British Columbia are being pushed towards extinction because of trophy hunting and massive habitat loss due to logging the forest. "Unless steps are taken now to conserve grizzly bear populations in British Columbia (BC), this animal could disappear from our landscape forever." These are the words of the British Columbia Government in the introduction to its "Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy." It was published in June 1995, and yet, *over three years later*, the most important measures contained within the strategy are still a very long way from being implemented and grizzly bears face a critically uncertain future.

As far back as the 1970s, conservation biologists were warning that the BC grizzly bear population was being over-hunted. In 1979, the BC Government promised to reduce the hunting quota to 200 grizzlies a year, but the promise was never delivered. Then, in 1990, came two shocking reports, one by the BC Government's own Wildlife Branch, the other by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, a Federal Government agency. Both found that the annual allowable hunt had been exceeded in large parts of the province during the 80s.

The BC Government promised to reduce grizzly bear mortality from all sources to four percent of the provincial population. However, to do this the BC Government did not reduce the actual number of kills, but brought in a new methodology for estimating grizzly bear populations. It led to a near doubling of the official population estimates for the province overnight, from 6-8,000 to 10-13,000 bears.

The new methodology, which is still in use today, is based on an assessment of how many bears an area could potentially support, not how many bears actually live in an area. The estimates that are produced from this exercise are not

backed up by any meaningful field checks of actual populations. It is merely left to local government biologists to make what even the Ministry has admitted are 'best-guesses' about what is actually happening to grizzly bear populations, and to adjust the estimates accordingly.

Despite the promises made in 1979 and 1990, the 1996 hunt was one of the largest in twenty years with 363 grizzlies legally killed. Long-term studies of radio-collared bears suggest that unreported kills may equal reported kills. As logging, mining, roads and railways open up access to bear habitat, so these 'unplanned kills' are likely to increase. And yet, the BC Government continues to do nothing, despite its acknowledgment of the threats faced by grizzlies.

Environment and conservation groups are certain that nothing short of a complete moratorium on the hunting of grizzlies will be enough. Only a moratorium will provide time for a comprehensive survey of bear populations and for habitat protection measures to be

implemented. The BC Government must accept its responsibility for the conservation of these magnificent animals and act immediately. 🐾

ACTION: PLEASE WRITE TO BRITISH COLUMBIA'S PREMIER URGING HIM TO INTRODUCE A MORATORIUM ON GRIZZLY BEAR HUNTING IN THE PROVINCE.

**PREMIER GLEN CLARK, OFFICE OF THE PREMIER
WEST ANNEX, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
VICTORIA BC V8V 1X4, CANADA**

Craig Bennett co-authored EIA's report, Trigger Happy.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COPY OF THE EIA REPORT, *TRIGGER HAPPY*, DOCUMENTING THE STATUS OF THE GRIZZLY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, PLEASE CONTACT: EIA, 69-85 OLD STREET, LONDON, EC1V 9HX, ENGLAND. ELAUK@GN.APC.ORG



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