WINTER
2003
VOLUME 2
ISSUE 1

BITE BACK



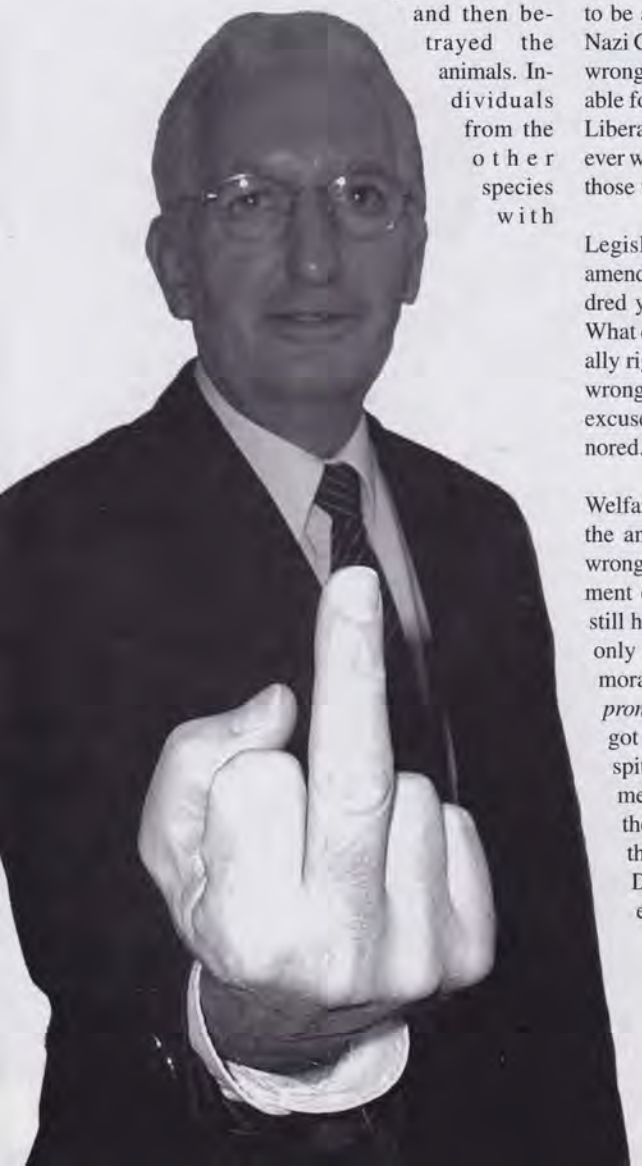
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editorial

volume 2 issue 1 winter 2003

"Animal Lib loonies," "Terrorists," "People haters" - all these terms and more have been used to describe the compassionate commandos of the Animal Liberation Front and similar radical groups who seek nothing more than an end to cruelty and abuse in this world. Yes, they wear balaclavas, hoods and masks to hide their identity. To be caught and imprisoned would mean they could no longer tear down the fences and free the innocent individuals incarcerated in the vivisection laboratories, factory farms, circuses, fur farms, zoos and all the other hellholes. It would mean that they could no longer destroy the tools of oppression. It would mean that our brothers and sisters would have to wait that much longer to be free.

The first animal welfare legislation in the world was passed in 1822. During the intervening 180 years we have seen an increase in institutionalized animal abuse that the early reformers could never have imagined in their worst nightmares. The law has failed the animals. Successive governments have failed the animals. Too many of the established, wealthy animal welfare organizations have failed the animals. Politicians again and again and again have used and then betrayed the animals. Individuals from the other species with whom we share this world can no longer wait to say, "Please," can no longer wait for "Gradual Reduction" and can no longer wait for a "Better World." They want to be free. They want to be free not next year, not next month, not next week, not tomorrow. They want to be free *NOW*!



Having been imprisoned without trial by the British authorities in an attempt to "lock me up to shut me up," I feel sure that I speak for all those who are in prison *now* for being active in the war against oppression, for those who *have* been in prison and for those who, undoubtedly, *will* be imprisoned in the future when I say to those who try in vain to crush our great, compassionate movement, "You can imprison an individual but you can never, *ever* imprison an ideal." Animal Liberation is not going to be beaten, it's not going to go away, it's going to be *ACHIEVED*.

It's going to be achieved by those who leaflet, who speak in schools, who march on demonstrations, who lobby their politicians, who go out with street stalls and get petitions filled. But, it's not going to be achieved by those good people alone. Like the struggles to abolish slavery and to achieve the emancipation of women, the hard cutting edge of direct action is also needed, both within and without the law. It used to be a crime to help a slave to escape. It used to be a crime to damage the concentration camps of Nazi Germany. Who now would say such actions were wrong? History will show that it was equally justifiable for the compassionate commandos of the Animal Liberation movement to go outside the law, in whatever ways considered necessary, to seek justice for *ALL* those who cannot fight for themselves.

Legislation is not constant. Laws are introduced, amended and withdrawn. What was unlawful one hundred years ago may be lawful today and vice versa. What does remain constant is that which is either morally right or morally wrong. Animal abuse *is* morally wrong therefore I firmly believe any legislation that excuses or protects such abuse may justifiably be ignored.

Welfare is an admirable short-term need but it's not the answer to animal abuse. Slavery was morally wrong. Had the welfarists had their way, then the treatment of slaves would have improved but we would still have seen slavery today. Total abolition was the only answer. Animal abuse and exploitation is also morally wrong. Again, total abolition *without compromise* is the only answer. Come on, together we've got the power to sweep the animal abusers aside despite all their protectors in the police, in government and all the other corrupt places. We've got the *POWER* so now let's go ahead and use it for those who can't achieve freedom for themselves. Don't wait, don't hesitate, do it NOW! Our brothers and sisters can wait no longer...

Robin Webb



2 of 1300 mink as they escaping a farm in Sweden after a raid

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Bite Back is a volunteer organization and magazine dedicated to the advocacy of those caught, or currently in the underground for animal liberation and the nonviolent tactics they employ. Bite Back strives to create a culture of support for the Animal Liberation Front and direct action by means of prisoner aid, news reporting, and the production of inspirational stories, photos, and pro-ALF merchandise.

Formed in 2002 to feed an animal rights movement hungry for ALF advocacy, Bite Back is all volunteer, grassroots organized, and free to everyone.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Bite Back is sent out quarterly. Subscriptions are free, however donations are encouraged to keep the magazine free to everyone. Simply put, a subscription is as much as you think the magazine is worth.

When subscribing to the mailing list send an email or letter to Bite Back with your complete mailing address.

BACK ISSUES

Back issues are $2 each (for postage). Please send a letter describing which issue you would like, the quantity and the necessary funds for postage.

SUBMISSIONS

Bite Back welcomes all submissions for articles. They may be sent via email or through the mail. Articles may have an author or be anonymous; please specify when sending an article. Pictures are also always welcome. If possible please send hard copies to the address, as email attachments will not be opened. Videos may also be submitted for Bite Back TV featured on the website. Your ALF/direct action related merchandise may also appear in the magazines for sale. Contact Bite Back about wholesale rates.

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Bite Back.



by rod coronado.

Eleven years ago I stood in the nation's largest fur research laboratory at Oregon State University. I wasn't there to lock down and I certainly wasn't there to deliver a petition. My warriors and I were there to burn the place to the ground. Over the previous year and a half I had visited fur farms across the country, documenting the conditions endured by mink, fox, lynx, bobcats and chinchillas and gathering intelligence on an industry that has waged a genocidal war on wildlife for over 400 years.

The flames that rose from the facility that night signaled the ALF's return to a guerrilla warfare strategy, one where we as defenders of earth and her animal people have our greatest power. We called the campaign Operation Bite Back. For the first time in the history of fur farming in America, hope was born for the animals awaiting death while being held prisoner on fur farms. Over the next 16 months my warriors and I successfully raided four fur animal research laboratories, a fur farm and a fur breeders cooperative. In addition, four unsuccessful attempts were made to raid fur farms in Oregon, Utah and Montana.

Operation Bite Back wasn't about winning reform or improved conditions, it's about destroying an entire industry whose sole survival depends on the continued imprisonment, domestication, and torture of native wildlife. Equally, when we call ourselves animal liberationists and earth defenders we must recognize that it is impossible for us to work within the system. The natural world and animal nations have been represented by welfarists and moderates long enough.

What the world needs now are warriors, brave women and men ready to bite back for the earth and her warred-upon nations. You reading this are part of a generation that will either choose to do what is necessary to preserve all life on earth, or fail miserably your responsibility to future generations. There is no in-between; you're either a part of the earth's problems or a part of her defense. We are not a protest group. We ask nothing from the systems of government and man that have built their wealth and power on the blood and bones of our animal relations and earth mother. There is only one proper response to such homicidal and genocidal mania - direct action that destroys the economic stability of industries threatening our entire planet. We will not negotiate with terrorists or pay ransom to the hostage takers.

This society has led us astray long enough. The civilization built on the commodification of all life makes every living being a target, and unless people rise up now, our children will be forced to live and die in a world ruled by greed and violence. But before you think it foolhardy to attack a militarily superior oppressor, let's remind ourselves what we're fighting for rather than remain focused on what we're against.

Victory is not something to be achieved in the distant future, it's something we must win every day. As Warriors we choose the way of Earth. We see our power not coming from our opponents' oppressive systems, but from the world we defend. Our power comes from the wind, water and fire. Our willingness to believe in a world where we are related to animals is a world that many have fought and died for, and I promise you, things have been much worse. Never should we believe that the sacrifices we must now make are in vain. The readiness to make sacrifices of our first world comforts and privileges is what is necessary to evolve into the warriors we must become.

Only when we demonstrate our love for the earth and animals with heartfelt action can we discover the beautiful and empowered world of the direct action Warrior. It's time again to bite back. Nelson Mandala said, "It is the oppressor, not the oppressed, who determine the methods of our resistance." Similarly, when the enemies of earth and animals repeatedly continue to respond to nonviolent civil disobedience with excessive force and violence, they leave us with no other choice but to find a more effective way to fight.

And if your heart does not break with the awareness of what is being done to the world we love, I feel sorry for you, maybe you're already dead. But if the death of the world we love makes you cry, than take those tears and turn them into action. The Earth gives us not what we need to live so we might simply survive; she gives us her power so we may fight. Now get out there and do something your ancestors and future descendants will be proud of.

> "We will not negotiate with terrorists or pay ransom to the hostage takers. ... It's time again to bite back."



FROM BEHIND THE bars



SARAH gisbourne

HR4605
HMP Highpoint
Stradishall
Newmarket
Suffolk
CB8 9YG
England

Sentenced to 12 months for criminal damage relating to the anti-HLS campaign.

12/21/02

I've never been more sure of anything than this; that what we do and what we sacrifice are 100% worth it and we can never look back once we have the dreadful knowledge and truth of what we must stop!

I'm immensely grateful for the inspirational people I have met in this battle and the inspiration they have given me. I went vegan the first day I decided to make this life change and dedicate my life to winning this WAR! I feel honored and am grateful I finally woke up. I'm now 37 years old and hope to remain fit and well to continue to the best of my ability. The best of health to everyone - they need all of us! Always for them!

Sarah



BENJAMIN persky

1410212600
George Vierno Center
0909 Hazen St
East Elmhurst, NY
11370
USA

Sentenced to 2-6 years for his part in property destruction at multiple anti-HLS demonstrations.

1/17/03

I was recently sentenced to two years - an obviously politically motivated and ridiculous sentence for a few broken windows and a lobby disruption. As before, however, I remain well, and am now another 3 months angrier, and that much closer to being able to use my freedom to help animals gain theirs.

I hope the hundreds of people who have written me find time to support my codefendants and good friends also, as a quick note letting a prisoner know she is not alone means a lot. To my codefendants and all prisoners: be strong, patient, and angry, and never let the bastards wear you down!

Benjamin Perksy



PETER schnell

Reg.# 99476111
SCI Otisville
PO Box 1000
Otisville, NY 10963
USA

Sentenced to 2 years for possession of incediary devices claimed to be used against dairy trucks.

1/25/03

Each one of us has an individual lying deep within. It's either in a dormant state waiting to be awakened, or feeding the flames of your burning heart because a connection has already been made. This connection inflames your true convictions and brings them to the surface ready to be expressed. This expression is your voice to protest, your voice to open up; and escape for the individual within. Once we are in touch with our convictions as individuals, our burning heart will bring out this voice to protest because we now cannot contain the flames any longer.

If it's a consciousness you've come to, that brings the flames to the surface and leads you to an outrage, bringing you to an inspired, passionate point. Well, then you need to truly come to an understanding of what it is that is bringing you to such an outrage. Ask yourself where and how you want (or even need) your voice to be heard, what is your path, what you do with all this passion.

If you've adopted an animal consciousness, there are certainly outrageous images in front of you, and a speciesist mentality ingrained in this society producing these images, both needing to be extinguished. An extinguishing process that has and will be a long road indeed, for all interested in the travel. As we travel along this road en route to our destination, let us not look for signs telling us where to travel or even how we should be travelling. Let us not listen for orders or a whistle blow to show us the way. There certainly will be no stop sign appearing to extinguish the idea ingrained in the general population that animals are commodities or resources. Nor can we expect an end to the extremely horrendous images such a speciesist mentality produces by something as trivial as a stop sign. So, how can we expect any such sign or command to appear determining our individual path in this struggle?

Listen to your heart and clear your own path. There will be frustration and many other obstacles along the way; do not give in, continue listening to your heart and get in touch with your one will to fight. It's up to us to take the passion and outrage we've adopted with this animal consciousness and connect it with the individuals within, waiting to be released. Stand up and be creative, be imaginative, and be courageous; then share, share, and continue to share. We can all learn and benefit so much from such individual expressions and ideas.

Petey



RAE schilling

GN6613
HMP Winchester
Romsey Road
Winchester
S022 5DF
England

Sentenced to 4.5 years for aggravated harassment against HLS shareholders.

12/18/02

I'm just reading Mandela's "Long Walk to Freedom" and Nelson Mandela says, I quote, "The doors of the liberation struggle are open to all who choose to walk through them!" As far as I can see most of us have already entered. We did so because of our horror when we learned of the evils being perpetrated against non-humans – our brothers and sisters... The world of animal abuse, it isn't a pretty sight; we see ugliness, we experience despair, but ultimately there are successes and failures in all walks of life, and we need to meet them both head-on, and with equal measure. Either way we move on to the next challenge. Faint hearts need not apply, its getting mighty dangerous out there! We in the movement know why, WE ARE WINNING!
YIPPEE!

Stay Strong!

Rae



JOSHUA schwartz

3100201611
NY State ID #
1900738L
EMTC
1010 Hazen St
East Elmherst, NY
10013 USA

Sentenced to 1 year for his part in property destruction at an anti-HLS demonstration against Marsh.



JENNIFER greenberg

3100201610
Rose M Singer Center
1919 Hazen St.
East Elmherst, NY
11370
USA

Sentenced to 1 year for her part in property destruction at an anti-HLS demonstration against Marsh.

updates



MATT whyte

Santa Cruz 2
PO Box 583
Eugene, OR 97440

Sentenced to 1 year for possession of incediary devices claimed to be used against dairy trucks.

Matt has been released from prison and has been sent to a halfway house. Afterwards, he will be placed on house arrest for a month. Then Matt will be free again. You can send him letters and cards of support and congratulations through Petey and Matt's support group.

released

Gillian Bradley
Jonny Ablewhite

At the time Bite Back went to print, Gillian and Jonny were expecting to be released in 2 weeks. They both had been sentenced to 9 months each for criminal damage in relations to the anti-HLS campaign. Their co-defendant, Sarah Gisbourne, has been sentenced to 12 months and is still in jail.

OTHER prisoners

Nathan Brasfield
202044100
King County Justice Center Detention Facility
620 West James St
Kent WA 98032
USA
Arrested for felony theft of telecommunications in relation to the anti-HLS campaign

Pelle Strindlund
Ostragard Kriminalvardsanstalt
Box 215
SE-462 23
Vanersborg
Sweeden
Sentenced to 8 months for disarming a slaughterhouse as part of an accountable direct action.

Geert Waegemans
Gevangenis Hoogstraten
Gelnelstraat 131
2320 Hoogstraten
Belgium
Sentenced to 5 years for various ALF arsons.

Jeffrey Luers
#13797671
OSP
2605 State St
Salem, OR 97310
USA
Sentenced to 22 years & 8 months for an arson attack on 8 sports utility vehicles

Craig Marshall
#13797662
SRCI
777 Stanton Blvd
Ontario, OR 97914
USA
Sentenced to 5 years & 5 months for an arson attack on 8 SUVs.



diary

OF ACTION

NOV - JAN

In order to include a thorough diary, communiques had to be edited. Complete writeups can be found on: www.directaction.info



NOVEMBER

11th, France: Animal rights activists free 1,000 animals from mink farm in France.

From French Press:

"Animal rights activists broke into a mink farm in eastern France and released 1,000 animals from their cages, police said. About 1,000 of the farm's 17,000 animals escaped into the fields on Sunday, and firefighters and volunteers spent Monday searching for the fleet-footed animals. They had little success... The owner of the farm in the town of Bure put his loss at 30,000 Euros (about US$30,000)."

24th, Italy: ALF Rescues 128 Beagles from vivisection in Italy.

From Italian AP:

"About 118 puppies and 10 adult dogs were stolen yesterday from a dog-breeding farm by a gang suspected of belonging to the radical Animal Liberation Front (ALF), police said. A group of about 10 people spray-painted 'Murderers' and 'ALF will free all' on the walls of the farm, 80km west of Bologna, police said."

DECEMBER

3rd, Sweden: ALF Rescues 18 rabbits in Sweden.

From Communique:

"On the night to December 3, the Swedish ALF attacked a small rabbit farm in Bruzaholm, Sweden...a total of 18 rabbits were rescued and all of them have now been placed in new homes... We also decided to do a bit of paintwork to his car, the rabbit shed and his house with him asleep inside it. Slogans such as 'Animal abuser', 'murderer' and 'Close the farm' was painted."

19th, Netherlands: Dutch ALF Rescue 33 Chickens.

From Communiqué:

"The Dierenbevrijdingsfront (Animal Liberation Front) visited for the second time the Oranje-eggfarm in Emst. This time we took 33 hens... We took on purpose one single chicken out of every cage so at least the chickens who will stay behind have a bit more space... Out of 100,000 chickens thirty three seems just a small amount, but... People shouldn't stop because of the big numbers. Even if you save one chicken or another animal, its already the beginning of a better future for a living creature.

"There is nothing to be afraid off. A prison sentence is nothing. You will survive but the animals will not. If you save them you can at least look them straight into the eyes and say that you're doing your best. No judicial institution is capable of breaking the DBF (ALF). The heart is stronger than any law."

19th, Italy: ALF re-rescues beagles in Italy.

From Communiqué:

"On December the 19th The ALF entered the house of a doghouse volunteer in Modena to liberate 5 beagle puppies that risked being sent to a lab animal farm. These 5 beagle puppies had been found on November 30 near a doghouse in Modena. Someone called the police, thinking these young beagles could be part of the 128 beagles liberated on November 24 from Morini farm, a notorious lab breeder in Italy. These 5 dogs had no tattoo, so the judge ordered a DNA analysis to know if they were coming from Morini farm. The dogs were awaiting this analysis that could bring them to the Morini hellhole, and kept at the house of a doghouse volunteer. On the night of the 19th someone entered the house through a window, took away the dogs and spray-painted "Sorry, ALF".

19th, Italy: ALF liberates mink on Italian Fur Farm.

From Communiqué:

"At 6:00 PM of December 19th the ALF entered a mink farm in Galeata, Forlì, to open the cages and free the animals... Four sheds full of minks have been completely emptied by the activists before the farmer unexpectedly arrived on place."





JANUARY 1 2003

Over 600 hens liberated in the UK

"During the hours of New Years Eve and well into the following morning members of the Animal Liberation Front broke into Norfolk Cottage Eggs on Magna Rd, Canford Magna, Bournemouth and took away over 600 battery hens...

The whole operation had been planned for weeks and was executed with precision and compassion by the 12 strong team who gained valuable experience and are already planning further raids."

21st, England: 84 turkeys liberated by the ALF.

From Communiqué:

"In the early hours of Saturday morning, 21st December, the Animal Liberation Front raided a Sun Valley turkey supplier saving the lives of 84 turkeys... For many animals Christmas means torture. At least this Christmas 84 turkeys have been re-homed to peacefully live out their natural lives."



NOVEMBER

7th, France: McDonalds is burned to the ground by suspected anti-globalization protesters in France.

11th, USA: ALF and ELF Attack Marsh Exec's Golf Club in New York.

From Communique:

"The ALF and ELF paid a visit to the Plandome Country Club... The golf pro shop was covered with paint and slogans drawing ties between Frank and Huntingdon Life Sciences; other signs and buildings were also painted. But perhaps most importantly the slate patio outside of the 'Gentlemen's Lounge' was painted with huge letters reading "FRANK TASCO = MURDERER!" ...In loving memory of the late Barry Horne... Barry gave his life, the least you can do is sacrifice a little comfort! Love, the ALF/ELF"

12th, England: Meat Trucks Are Burnt Out in the UK.

From The Evening Chronicle, UK:

"Animal rights activists were today being blamed for a £30,000 arson attack at a Tyneside factory. It is suspected animal activists may have torched the two lorry trailers destroyed at the company's depot on the North Tyneside Industrial Estate. Company chief Greg Wallace, 43, said' 'I think it is more likely that this was a strike against the meat industry by extremists. I have had things like dead rats sent to me in the post.'"

15th, USA: ELF claims Sept. arson that gutted a Forest Service Lab and issues a "threatening communiqué."

"While innocent life will never be harmed in any action we undertake, where it is necessary, we will no longer hesitate to pick up the gun to implement justice," said the statement, from the Earth Liberation Front (ELF).

22nd, England: ALF attacks "a number of Marsh directors"; their "windows were put in."

23rd, Netherlands: ALF firebombs horse 'musical' in Netherlands.

From Communique:

"ALF attacked Goa's horse musical in Den Haag. A total of four firebombs were put under 2 trucks. One of those trucks was heavily damaged because of the fire."

29th, England: Customers of

Newchurch Guinea Pig Farm have credit cards stolen and used!

From communiqué:

"...Activists representing the Guinea-Pig Avengers went on a shopping spree at the expense of animal abusers associated with Newchurch Farm... The only thing these sadists care about is money so we decided to give them a taste of their own medicine. After coming across their credit card details it was spend, spend, spend; it is Christmas after all! A bill of £15,000 was run up in such a short time... Today we send out a message that anyone connected to Newchurch Farm is a legitimate target"

DECEMBER

3rd, USA: ALF/ ELF Release communiqué about their Fur Farm / GMO Rampage in the Midwest.

From the joint communiqué:

"At 2:00 AM on November 26, 2002, anonymous cells of the A.L.F. and the E.L.F. visited the Mindek Brothers Fur Farm (4200 Shannon Road) in Harborcreek, Pennsylvania. Before disappearing into the night, a large fire was set which completely destroyed the farm's feed barn and its contents, causing extensive financial loss...

"The A.L.F. is also claiming responsibility for releasing 200 breeding mink in May and 50+ in September from the same farm... Working together, cells from A.L.F. & E.L.F. demolished this feed facility due to its role in the systematic torture and killing of thousands of innocent creatures yearly...

"In June of 2002, another anonymous cell visited the Lawrence Dana Fox Ranch in Erie, PA (9129 Station Road). Breeding information was removed and the entire breeding stock was released. Additionally, the A.L.F. is claiming responsibility for releasing dozens of breeding stock mink and destroying breeding information at the Main Mink Ranch (RR 2/Route 60) in Gerry, NY. in September.

"On behalf of another anonymous cell of the Earth Liberation Front, we are also claiming responsibility for the destruction of two GMO corn test/ demonstration crops in northwestern Pennsylvania. Both crops (BT and Roundup-Ready) were destroyed beyond usefulness, and kept from producing seed for future planting."

8th, Netherlands: ALF burn down a slaughterhouse in Netherlands.

From Communiqué and DBF Press Office:

"As long as there are slaughterhouses, we will continue with our war against the daily genocide.

"An old office and an old storage building burned down containing organic meat. The slaughterhouse itself was saved unfortunately."

20th, Australia: Animal Rights Militia sends razor blades to animal abusers in Australia.

From Communiqué:

"On the 20th of December, Christmas cards containing razor blades and a special XMas message were sent to 8 people/companies involved in animal abuse, letting them know that they were being thought of at this festive time of the year."

Recipients ranged poultry farmers to an HLS shareholder.

24th, England: Animal Rights Militia contaminates Proctor & Gamble Products in England

From Communiqué:

"The ARM has contaminated over 300 'Oil of Olay' Procter & Gamble products with industrial paint stripper. We will place these products back on store shelves throughout London by next Monday."

30th East Germany: ALF Attacks Meat Company in East Germany.

JANUARY

2nd, USA: ELF destroys several SUVs in Pennsylvania.

From Communiqué:

"The Earth Liberation Front attacked several SUV's at Bob Ferrando Ford Lincoln Mercury in Erie, Pennsylvania. At least four vehicles were entirely destroyed and several others sustained heavy damage, costing an estimated $90,000."

3rd, Netherlands: ALF torches chicken slaughterhouse key.

From Communiqué:

"In the early beginning of the New Year the DBF torched a truck of the chicken slaughterhouse Welling in Schalkhaar. This year the DBF will give no peace to animal abusers."

3rd, England: Arson attack on hunt supplier in the UK.

From UK Press:

"Animal rights activists look to be the prime suspects following a night of fires and desecration in Stocking Pelham.

" 'Fox killers' was scrawled in red paint over the village church and a nearby animal feed business, which supplies the Puckeridge Hunt, was razed to the ground in a £250,000 suspect blaze during the early hours of Sunday."

11th, Germany: 10 people in Dusseldorf and Neusspeople wearing fur coats were attacked with butyric acid.



ONE OF FOUR BEAGLES LIBERATED IN SWEDEN



INGRID newkirk

president, PeTA

"you can't have all politeness and patience, all potlucks and epistles. some people will never budge unless pushed to budge"

INTRODUCTION

Ingrid Newkirk is co-founder and president of the world's biggest animal rights organization, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, and is one the most visible and known names connected to the Animal Liberation Front. Ingrid Newkirk is largely responsible for introducing the American public to animal rights direct action throughout the 80s and the 90s by setting up interviews and press conferences for the ALF. Serving as the early conduit for stolen documents and videos from research labs, PeTA and the ALF successfully shut down experiments, labs, and won the hearts of many compassionate people for the animal rights cause. Her book *Free the Animals* gives an early historical perspective on how the ALF in the US was formed and is a page-turner that leaves its reader completely inspired and with a racing heart beat. Ingrid Newkirk shares with Bite Back magazine her perspective and stories about the ALF.

BITE BACK: Why did you write, *Free the Animals*?

INGRID: People seemed to think the ALF was some sort of commando elitist group with amazing, superman talents, and I thought it was important that they see that they are often just "normal" people who decided to play a role in animal liberation. Also, there was no historical record and I felt there should be one. Finally, I wanted to dispel the myth that the ALF were misfits, rather than committed people who risk their careers, contact with their families, the works, because of a deep, ethical, moral conviction and the desire to do something for those who couldn't liberate themselves from the worst oppression in history.

BB: PeTA gained a lot of notoriety in the late 80s and the throughout the first half of the 90s by serving as a Press Office and Supporters Group of the Animal Liberation Front. How did this start and why did it stop?

INGRID: We have always said we'll take information from anyone at any time and no questions asked. At first in the US, there was just us willing to take that role and go to Congress, the press, and the public, to hold news conferences, etc., for the ALF after a raid, and to then pursue the cases of cruelty and wrongdoing they had exposed through legal channels. At some point there was a bit of a split in the US ALF, more groups sprung up, and some people devoted their time to this, full time, so we weren't really needed.

BB: Support of the ALF has long found its lifeblood in the grassroots movement, but PeTA stands as one of the few national groups that will step to the plate in defense of direct action and those caught for it. What is the difference between PeTA and the other national groups that motivate it to take this often controversial stand?

INGRID: I'm not sure. All I can say is that I believe with all my heart that what is being done to animals in all these abominable places is so hideous and unethical and wrong and will be indicted by history, that it should be legal to go into these hellholes and get the animals out. As with every social justice movement, brave people have to take it upon themselves to do what needs to be done so that society will change for the better and stop animal slavery. There's no question in my mind that animal liberation is what all of us should be doing, but that because most people will never find it in themselves to do it, then we must find ways to engage them in the legal struggle. That's where PETA has chosen a role.

BB: You personally are famous, and controversial, for your unwavering support of the ALF. Your press comments do not mince words and are often portrayed with a sinister glee. How has this unflinching support of direct action affected you as an activist and personally? (For example - does this ever cause you to be unpopular with family or friends or coworkers?)

INGRID: Like many of us in the movement, every time I open my mouth, someone tells me I should not have said this or that, but I say what I believe is right to say, that's all. Freedom of speech was hard won in this country and would be lost if we just threw it away. If I wanted to be popular, I'd have taken up ballroom dancing.

BB: PeTA quite literally puts its money where its mouth is when helping with the legal defense funds of those on trial for acts of direct action. The opposition groups have clung to this recently in an attempt to destroy PeTA. Are you worried such financial support could ultimately cost PeTA its charity status and its own financial support? How do you measure the risk when choosing between activist support and sustainability?

INGRID: Oh, Mr. Ashcroft and the conservatives really seem to be in a party mood at the moment, and there are certainly some extremely nasty ultra-capitalistic self-serving, profit-without-ethics groups jumping vigorously up and down out there, anxious to thwart animal liberation. They lie with impunity and they've tried to hijack the domestic terrorism business to their own ends. We'll see where the chips fall, but if there's any justice (big questions!), they can't take away our charity status for providing legal defense and other legal support for activists. The Wise Use Movement, a misnomer if ever I heard one, sent the IRS in to comb through our books ten years ago and we came up with a clean bill of health. Do they think we would have declared on our public records that we had spent this money if we sought to hide it? How daft do they think we are? If it's legal, we do it, and they can argue it shouldn't be allowed and we'll see who wins.

BB: The opposition groups are using the Sept. 11th aftermath culture to paint all forms of vociferous dissent, from protests to liberations, as forms of terrorism akin to Al Qaeda. How do you think the animal rights movement should respond, if at all, in defense of direct action?

INGRID: We've been having Op Eds printed, pointing out what animals go through in war; how "our" society tortures animals in warfare experiments, how non-violence begins at the breakfast table with what you eat, how we are supposed to now try harder to undestand "others" and get along with those who are "different" and how that should in-

clude other species, and so on. We've also used the opportunity to point out that the West buys leather from tanneries in the Sudan which fund Islamic terrorism, and so on. I'd try to seize opportunities to point out relevant differences and similarities, and hope the pendulum swings the other way soon.

BB: You were quoted in a Daily News article about the ALF from 1997 saying "In the early 90s, it was a very different group, well-organized, and generated a lot of sympathy. But they dissolved... Now they're just angry, and act without planning." And in the revised edition of *Free the Animals* you state, "the 'new ALF' has lost patience with the foot-draggers and spends scant time explaining. Determined to cause economic injury to the exploiters, ALF members burn down their emptied buildings and smash their vehicles to smithereens." Strategically do you think the ALF should be trying to explain more and cater to public sentiments?



I say what I believe is right TO SAY, THATS ALL. ... IF I WANTED TO BE POPULAR, I'd have taken up ballroom dancing.

INGRID: I was just stating a fact or two, definitely not criticizing. The anger is justifiable. What sort of dead person inside must you be not to be angry at what is done to animals by people? The lack of planning in SOME of the operations, or so it seems, is just the way it is. Although, over the last few years, it seems there have been more carefully planned actions. I do wish it were possible, although it may never be possible again, for the ALF to do more public outreach as was once done. I remember being handed a rescued dog to take to a press conference, some rescued cats to show to a reporter, even being "loaned" two baby chimpanzees for an interview! Those were the days. I also wish it was possible to show the public the faces of the animals who are saved. A burning building doesn't help melt people's hearts, but times change and tactics, I'm sure, have to change with them.

BB: Ultimately what role do you see the ALF or direct action ideally playing in the animal rights struggle?

INGRID: It is a vital, absolutely vital role, as history bears out. You can't have all politeness and patience, all potlucks and epistles. Some people will never budge unless pushed to budge. That was true with slavery, with women's suffrage, you name it. As the whole movement expands, I'm sure the ALF and direct action will expand and that is how it must be. It's like physics. If anyone wants to complain, they have only to ask themselves, "What am I doing, legally, to bring about change so that the ALF won't need to exist?" If they can't answer by saying "All I can!" then they have only themselves to "blame" for the existence of the ALF.

BB: You seem very well versed in the history of other social justice movements throughout the ages. In your opinion are there any glaring mistakes or successes from these other struggles that those employing direct action today for the animals should learn from?

INGRID: I read about everything from the persecution of the Jews to the construction of the Burma railway, and there are parallels everywhere. Obviously, stupid, mean prejudices have always been deep-seated. I think everyone realizes that since money rules, this means economic destruction, hitting the insurance companies, the banks, will have to have an impact. But probably the most important lesson from all past movements is the power of forming alliances, stifling one's criticism of those who aren't doing exactly what we would do. Remembering we are all needed,that it takes lots of different tactics to succeed in anything. We must try hard to stop divisiveness, stop throwing stones, talk to those who encourage dissention, and just keep our heads down and get on with it, work and link arms when we can, ignore our disagreements and fight our wars. In POW camps, so many different personalities depended on each other's discretion, confidence, talents, and put aside their differences to succeed together. That is our lesson, I think.

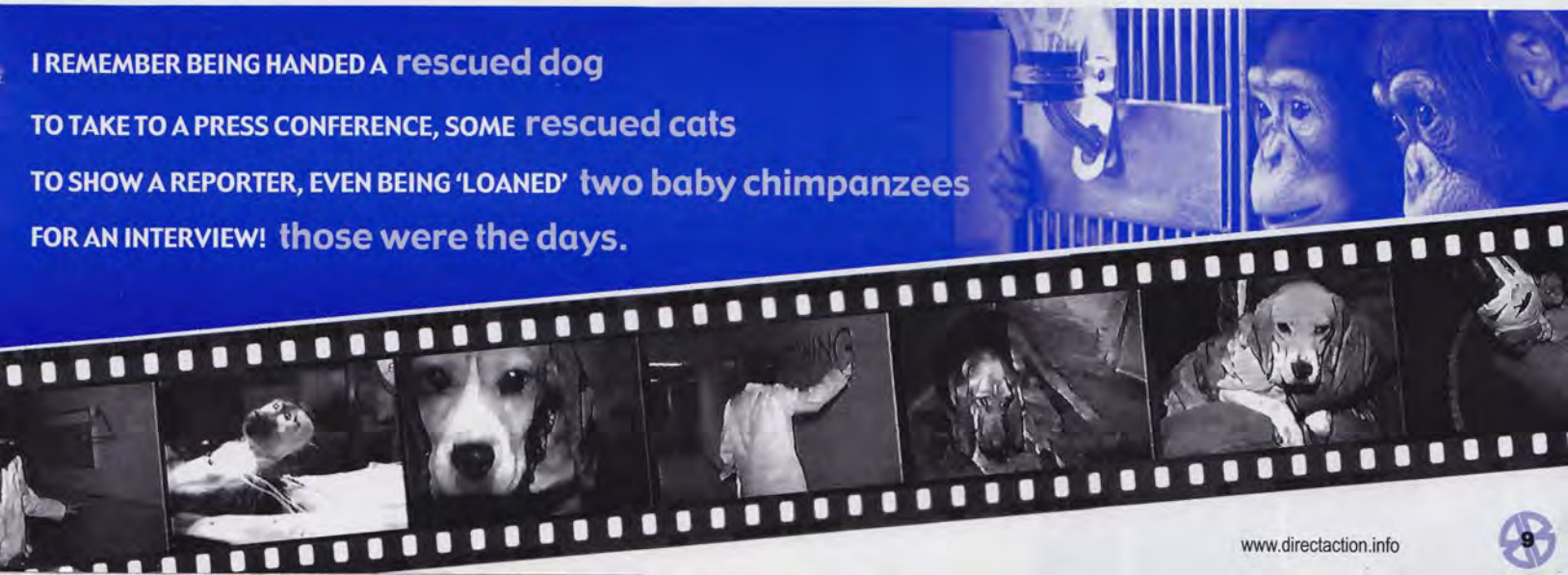
BB: Can you share with us your favorite ALF action of all time?

INGRID: Oh, every one I know of has been important because they have all been carried out in an effort to stop pain and injustice. In *Free the Animals*, I wrote about a California liberation in which a vanload of liberated "wanted" dogs has to travel across the entire country to homes on the east coast. I thought the ingenuity of the liberators who took the doors off their hinges to get these dogs out, all the things that went wrong, the old dog (Old Man) with his damaged legs and weak stomach from years in a cage being cut open, having to be tended to along the journey, his gratitude to his rescuers; that was wonderful, but that's just one of many favorites.

BB: Is there anything you would like to tell any potential ALF activists reading this article right now?

INGRID: The same thing I'd tell anyone interested in helping. I think people have to do what their hearts tell them to do, and in a convenience-ori-

I REMEMBER BEING HANDED A rescued dog TO TAKE TO A PRESS CONFERENCE, SOME rescued cats TO SHOW A REPORTER, EVEN BEING 'LOANED' two baby chimpanzees FOR AN INTERVIEW! those were the days.



"I also wish it was possible to show the public THE FACES OF THE ANIMALS WHO ARE SAVED."



Interfauna
71 beagles liberated



Newchurch Farm
600 guinea pigs liberated



Regal Rabbit Breeder
22 rabbits liberated



City Farm of London
6 goats liberated



Charles River
15 rats liberated

ented society the challenge is to not let your comfort get in the way of your heart. There's that old list from World War II, about "First, they came for... And I did nothing" and ending with "Then they came for me, but then there was no one left to help me." Animals need us all so desperately, it is quite frightening that we are all they have, their only hope. Who am I to say "Go break in?" All I know is that whatever a person chooses to do, legal or not, they have to do it because they think it is morally right to do. If you choose to carry out ALF-style actions, I ask you to please not say more than you need to, to think carefully who you trust, to learn all you can about how to behave if arrested, and so to try to live to fight another day.

PeTA SPEAKING OUT



PeTA had the opportunity to speak out for liberators, the animals they rescued, and the countless millions left behind inside of laboratories across the country. As underground activists risked their lives for others' freedom, PeTA made sure those liberationists were heard. By bringing communiques, videos and even liberated animals to the public and press, the world was able to take its first glimpse into "modern day" research facilities. The public was outraged; labs, research, and experiments were halted (by force or by post-raid pressure) and animals were free.



may, 1984
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, HEAD INJURY LABORATORY

$60,000 of economic sabotage, 60 hours of research videotapes taken. After the raid and much protest, the lab was shut down.



april, 1985
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT RIVERSIDE

$500,000 of economic sabotage, 1000 animals liberated, including "Britches", a primate who'd had his eyes sewn shut.



december, 1986
SEMA CORPORATION

Documents taken, and 4 chimpanzees liberated. Video footage prompted a visit by Jane Goodall, who said nothing could have prepared her for what she saw.



july, 1989
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY, HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

$70,000 of economic sabotage, 5 cats liberated. Dr. John Orem was targeted and had all of his research destroyed.

the FACE of the

The **Animal Liberation Front Press Offices** serve as the media mouthpieces for those anonymous activists who are underground. The Press Office has several basic functions, all of which are designed to explain why the A.L.F. carries out actions, how it does, and how non-human animals are treated by our species.

Any anonymous information received by the Press Office which details A.L.F. -style actions will be communicated to the media. The Press Office will be available as part of the network of contacts for the media, able to confirm actions that fall within A.L.F. policy and explaining the suffering that necessitates such actions.

As of the date of this publication both the UK and the US press offices have experienced some changes. North American Press Officer David Barbarash has resigned after three action-filled years as the main media contact. The NA-ALF PO will still be in operation for receiving underground communications and will mail news alerts, but will no longer provide a press contact so that other groups across the country may now step up to the necessary challenge of openly supporting direct action. The UK ALF Press Officer is currently stationed in the USA while awaiting trial for charges relating to an anti-HLS demonstration. He can be reached through Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty USA at (732) 545-7560.

The **Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group** exists to support those who have broken the law to further the cause of animals, and who end up before the courts or in prison as a result. It also seeks to promote an understanding of the reasons why otherwise decent people feel themselves forced to break the law. The law as it stands now not only fails to protect our fellow animals from suffering and death, it actually encourages their exploitation.

By means of financial and moral support to ALF prisoners and their families, pro-ALF merchandise and messages, along with a quarterly news publication, the Supporters Group serves as the official vehicle for ALF support.

The Press Office and the Supporters Group cannot do everything. Filling those niches left empty comes a variety of **news organizations and support groups** geared towards promoting the direct action message alongside other animal rights and environmental issues.

UNDERGROUND

bringing the action to you.



NORTH america

ALF PRESS OFFICE

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Email: alfpress@resist.ca

To subscribe for electronic ALF updates, please visit: www.waste.org/mail/list=frontline-news

ALF SUPPORTERS GROUP

ALF Supporters Group – North America
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Email: naalfsg@resist.ca
Web: www.animaliberation.net

Publications: The Underground. Subscriptions can be obtained for $25. Letters and articles are welcome and encouraged.

DIRECT ACTION NEWS AND SUPPORT

No Compromise
P.O. Box 1440
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Voice: (831) 425-3007
Web: www.nocompromise.org
Email: nc-info@nocompromise.org

Publication: No Compromise Newspaper. No Compromise is sometimes a quarterly news publication reporting on the militant grassroots animal rights movement. Read about a demonstrations, acts of civil disobedience, ALF raids, how to avoid grand juries, and other useful tips for today's radical animal rights activists. Subscriptions are available on a sliding scale.

Earth First! Journal
P.O. Box 3023
Tuscon, AZ 85702

Phone: (520) 620-6900 / (413) 254-0057 (fax)
Email: collective@earthfirstjournal.org
Web: www.earthfirstjournal.org

Publication: Earth First Journal. As the news outlet for the 'radical' environmentalist organization Earth First!, the journal reports on demonstrations and actions across the world and provides information on ALF and ELF prisoner support.

Animal Liberation Frontline News Service
Email: frontline@rocketmail.com
Web: www.animalliberation.net

Frontline was once the Grand Central Station for ALF information and breaking news updates. Over the last years it has been unfortunately neglected. Nonetheless, there still exists a wealth of timeless information from "how to's", to interviews, to fact sheets about a plethora of groups that use illegal means in defense of the earth and the animals.



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London, WC1N 3XX,
England

Email: info@alfsg.co.uk
Web: www.alfsg.co.uk (under construction)

Publication: ALF SG Newsletter. Subscriptions and memberships run £ 2 per month or £ 24 per year.

DIRECT ACTION NEWS AND SUPPORT

Arkangel
BCM 9240
London WC1N 3XX
England U.K.

Email: arkangelweb@hotmail.com
Web: arkangelweb.org.uk

Publication: Arkangel Magazine. This magazine was the first animal rights magazine that both covered mainstream animal rights issues and a full ALF Diary of Action. For over a decade it has faithfully succeeded in this endeavor. Subscriptions are available on a sliding scale.

Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network
BM Box 2407
London WC1 3XX
Enlgand

UK email:
animalearthliberation@bigfoot.com
North American email:
naelpsn@graffiti.ne
Web: www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk

Earth Liberation Prisoners exists to provide information on people imprisoned for actions in defense of the earth and its inhabitants. We include animal and earth liberationists, those fighting on anti-nuclear and peace issues, indigenous struggles, anti-fascists, MOVE prisoners and more.



europe

ALF PRESS OFFICE

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E-mail: dbfsg@hotmail.com
Web: www.animalliberation.net/sweden

ALF SUPPORTERS GROUP

DBF-SG Netherlands (ALF SG)
Postbox 3607
1001 AK Amsterdam

Email: dbf-sg@zonnet.nl
Web: www.militantvegan.com

Animal Liberation Front Supporters
PO Box 4734
Dublin. 1
Republic of Ireland

Email: alfireland@wildmail.com

Supporters Group of Finland

Email: evtr@elaintenvapautus.net
Web: www.elaintenvapautus.net

ON THE WEB

You can find a more thorough list of resources at:
www.DirectAction.info

In the week of October 16th 2001, an ALF cell of three took wire cutters to the fences of a mink farm in Ellsworth, Iowa and released nearly 2000 animals. Many mink were recaptured. Six days later they returned to free them. The farm closed its doors forever. This is that story.

THE ELEMENT OF surprise

how three people 'broke the mold' of fur farm raids forever









The element of surprise. In the ALF war against the war on animals, this is our true leverage. For this war is not merely one of superior resources - a front on which they will always win - but of will, surprise, and invisibility. The fight of the clandestine guerrilla cell has been called "The War Of the Flea" - an unrelenting force too small to isolate and neutralize, but whose prolonged campaign will confuse, demoralize, and sting the opponent into collapse. The ALF "fights the war of the flea, and his enemy suffers the dog's disadvantages: too much to defend; too small, ubiquitous, and agile an enemy to come to grips with." One FBI agent called the hunt for the ALF "like grabbing Jello". It is our under-the-cloak-of-darkness, clandestine nature in which the force of our blow lies. What they cannot predict, they cannot catch. And what they cannot catch, will return to strike again. Sometimes later that week…

The purpose of our reunion was unspoken. After a long separation, three activists, a closet full of equipment, and the question: Which target. The fur farms of the Midwest were a likely choice. Over one-third of the country's 350 mink farms lay in the three state area of Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Our numerous reconnaissance missions had yet to turn up a single farm with a security system. Dozens of farms - many holding 20,000+ captives and lacking even a fence - invited demise by our hands.

This raid would be unconventional in that the decision process would not involve one established farm address resource - *The Final Nail*. Although seven years old, it still remains a useful resource for fur farm targets. But significant gaps existed between the number of farms listed, and the number known to exist through other statistics. Expanding this gap was the large number of closures since its publication. It was in this gap we would strike - addresses previously unknown by the movement, farms comfortable and sleepy in their presumed invisibility, addresses we had special privilege to: Two summers previous, in one visit to a fur industry supplier, a member of our cell came away one very valuable booklet - the title itself made it good as gold: "Customer List." Cross-referenced with The Final Nail, several previously unknown farms were found. Scott Nelson's mink ranch in Ellsworth, Iowa was our first stop.

Whoever laid out this farm was on our side. Four sheds, barely a fence to speak of, and the mink liberator's most coveted luxury - no house on site. This target chose itself.

Take A Lesson.

On a strict risk/benefit ratio, the fur farm raid is unmatched. At one time a focus of the ALF in the mid-90's, mink liberation activity in the past years has slowed to the rate of nearly one a year. Newer activists are perhaps unaware of the frenzy of fur farm activity taking place at one time, with 1995 seeing 5 raids, 17 in 1996, 20 in 1997 and 10 in 1998, and many are equally unaware of this activities ease. Security patrols of farms are almost unheard of, and the nights of reconnaissance required for many other actions is unnecessary. Three activists can free 3,000 mink in 30 minutes. A cell of five could liberate 10,000 in an hour.

Valid excuses for inactivity by activists in this area are few. Most people in this country live within a day's drive a fur farm. Addresses can be found in The Final Nail (download at www.animalliberation.net). Expenses can be kept below a hundred dollars, near zero if one is resourceful. And thousands of animals can be freed by as few as two people. The three-state, five-farm spree in 1997 resulting in the liberation of over 12,000 mink - for which Seattle activist Peter Young was charged, charges he remains on the run from to this day - was said to be carried out by two people.

ALF activity should not be viewed as distinct from any other "line of work." If militant vegans put the time into animal liberation that we did into our careers in the "real world," we would see animal liberation activity soar in both number and scale. For in our goal of animal emancipation, our means should really be no different then any other endeavor - legal or illegal. You size up the obstacle, teach yourself the skills, and acquire the tools. The aspiring rock climber reads books on rock climbing, takes rock climbing classes, and obtains rock climbing equipment. By the same formula, the aspiring white collar criminal isn't deterred by the arcane world of banking, finance, and credit card manufacture; s/he purchases a photo id machine, laptop computer, credit card embosser, and teaches himself the trade. It is with this mindset that the liberator must approach ALF activity. One isn't deterred by a seemingly impenetrable research lab; we simply obtain alarm system manuals or attend a trade school with alarm instillation classes, do the research, and deduce a method of circumvention. The locked door of a vivarium in a Biology Building basement doesn't signify defeat; a $15 lock pick set is obtained, a lock pick book purchased, and one learns to pick locks. In lab raids where alarms have prevented convenient entry via doors, the ALF has continuously taken tools to concrete and made their own. The urgency of animal exploitation demands no less. The more one practices this process of overcoming obstacles, the more one realizes them to be largely psychological. So it continues with fur farm raids. Nearby farms aren't likely to be listed in the phonebook; one simply makes a logical deduction as to whom has this information, then goes there and procures it. State/Regional fur breeders associations, fur feed manufacturers, department of agriculture offices, or fur farm equipment suppliers are located, visited, and their trash is taken and inspected for addresses. Fur farm targets with guard dogs aren't abandoned; the cell merely obtains the necessary sedatives as though s/he were a legitimate dog "owner" requiring such. The alarmed farm isn't avoided; the alarms are identified, researched, understood, and circumvented. This is a very simple matter once one clears away the cloud of mystique surrounding ALF activity.

A Unique Tool.

Behind every spectacular mink liberation, some making national news and others closing farms forever, there is likely little more than one visit to a thrift store, one to a hardware store, one night of reconnaissance, and one of action. Wire cutters, flashlight with red screen, headbands for flashlight,

gloves, mask, disposable clothing: all the tools needed to close a farm and free its captives. But the uniqueness of the Scott Nelson Ranch begged one additional tool, never before used by the ALF in a mink liberation - a video camera. This had never been done, for good reason. Few farms targeted by the ALF have been fully emptied, less for reasons of cowardice than self preservation. The sound of released mink is a symphony of pleasure squeals, fighting, and excited chatter - beautiful but loud. The proximity of a farmer's house to the sheds makes prolonged presence on the site risky. For this reason, emptying a farm of all animals is rarely a certainty going in. Dedicating a cell member to video when they could be opening cages - translating to hundreds of lives lost - would be a criminal move. But this action would be unique. With no house on site, and a "stock" of barely 2000, opening every cage - and doing it in less than 30 minutes - was a certainly. A video document would achieve a two-fold purpose: 1) Giving the public its first glimpse of fur farm conditions, and 2) for activists, it would accomplish some badly needed demystification of mink liberations. It only takes one spark, they say, to start a prairie fire. Introducing uninitiated activists to the ease of a mink liberation through video might be the spark to once again bring the industry its second wave of ALF raids. It was an opportunity not likely to be seen again.







video stills from the raid on the farm

We shopped around for a camera that would accommodate our needs. We bought the best, with one crucial feature: night vision. The next day, the camera would accompany us onto the farm and record what would become history.

A pre-raid walk-through of the farm was taken the night before the action to determine the presence of obstacles unseen from the road - dogs, alarms, etc. Both deterrents used by the rare farmer, and both succeeding in absolutely nothing. With dogs, sedatives can be obtained from one or two veterinarians under the pretense of being an upcoming vacationer with a large dog requiring mild sedation for the trip. With alarms, those found commonly on fur farms (particularly the high-security farms of the Northwest) are at best smashed and ignored, and at worst the path of the alarm-beam must merely be determined and rolled under. These alarms are identified most often as black boxes on posts placed in the corner of the property. It should be noted on this topic that it was stated in the communique that the Arritola Mink Ranch in Mount Angel Oregon from which 10,000 mink were freed in 1997 was fortified with a "state of the art" security system.

Everything that had been noted from our drive-by was verified - security was non-existent. We familiarized ourselves with the cage latches, layout, and fence. Everything was coming together, one night with all the ingredients of a good plan: shredded cages, bankrupt exploiters, and animals running free.

24 hours later, we stood at the property line before the soft chatter of 2000 mink, calling for freedom. There is no call more urgent.

The dropping of masks marked the eruption of our advance. Wire was ripped away, posts ripped from the soil, cages opened, and in less than 30 minutes, every animal was set free.

From our communiqué: "Fences surrounding the farm were cut away, every cage opened, and 2000 mink ran to freedom. These animals were kept 3 and 4 to a small wire mesh cage. Their rescue came at the final hour, only a month from a violent death in the pelting season. Captive-bred mink are closely related to their wild ancestors and have been shown to retain survival instincts when released - ensuring these liberated prisoners will live and thrive. The fur industry will move to condemn this action, using misleading half-truths and boldface lies. They point their fingers with blood stained hands. There is no defensible case for the taking of innocent life. Furthermore, there is no defensible argument against militant intervention to prevent this atrocity. When mink are no longer kept 4 to a small wire cage, when chickens are no longer kept packed in battery cages, when we stop calling dead animals food, when the blood stops spilling - these actions outside the law will no longer be needed. Until then, we will be tearing up fences, breaking down walls, and opening cages to free the animals. Terrorism against non-human animals will be met with liberation. In this struggle for life against greed, compassion over sadism, our only recourse is to ignore laws and risk our freedom to save lives. Were you in a cage, whose side would you be on? A.L.F."




watch the raid on bite back tv at www.directaction.info

Double Dose.

48 hours later across the state in Glenwood, Iowa; Double T farms (21655 Barrus Rd.) was raided and 162 birds bred for vivisection were set free. This was the second raid at the farm, and the second within 48 hours of a mink release. The raid was taped and the video released to the media. For the second time, owner Ted Golka perhaps regrets listing his home address in Lab Animal magazine.

Breaking the Mold.

Browsing in an electronics store, we moved across to the televisions for coverage of the release. We watched a recovery effort, with farmers from several states flocking to the scene to recapture those freed. Eighteen hours previous, mink took their first steps of freedom before our camera, and before those of the media we watched them take their last. Owner Scott Nelson appeared, smugly down-playing any permanent impact to his business, while boasting of over half the mink being recovered, and returned to cages - two things voiding the intended impact of the action. And at a meeting that night - two things we vowed to militantly correct...

2 am, six nights later. We stood at the exact spot where Scott Nelson had told reporters he was the victim of a "terrorist act", masked up and prepared to demonstrate love in it's truest form.

The re-liberation took less than ten minutes.

Our communiqué released that afternoon stated: "The first time we visited the Scott Nelson Mink Ranch, we opened every cage on the property. We intended to close the place down. Unfortunately some of the mink were recaptured. To demonstrate our complete seriousness regarding the freedom of these animals and contempt for the people responsible for these horrible places we, again visited the fur farm and opened every cage on the property. We demand these mink are allowed to remain free. A.L.F."

That evening, Scott Nelson was back on TV - announcing his retirement from the fur industry.

Revolutionary Suicide.

To all once active warriors, let each action remind you of the struggle you abandoned, of those you left behind. To every talker, full of words and nothing else, let every warriors strike against abuse be also one against your own failure. To every warrior imprisoned, accept every lab in flames as a tribute - your life is a victory. And to every animal still under the knife and behind the wire, our revolutionary suicide is for you...

This story was orginally released along with the video of the raid to aboveground sympathetic groups in 1999.



Proverbs of a liberationist activist.

Phone taps, DNA evidence, undercover agents, handwriting analysis, radio transmitters attached to vehicles . . . these are not only the stuff of television crime shows. These methods have been used against animal liberation activists in the U.S. Security is important for all activists, even if you've never been arrested before. The animals lose every time an activist is imprisoned. The following are a few time-tested tips to review, learn and live by.



We all know not to leave fingerprints at the scene of the "crime." But did you know that fingerprints can be left on paper, or that they can transfer through latex gloves?! Follow the golden rule: wear gloves for anything and everything. And when you're done with the gloves, dispose of them properly. For added security, burn them.

Don't underestimate the eavesdropper.

Don't say anything over the telephone that you wouldn't want the police to hear. Pay phones have also been bugged and ultimately resulted in prison sentences for activists. Its now easier than ever for the authorities to get permission to listen to your phone calls.



If you can, avoid writing anything down (such as addresses, driving directions) that could be used against you. It's not your little brother that you should be afraid of snooping through your desk. If you must write something, burn it as soon as you can. Don't write on top of wooden surfaces, notepads or other impressionable surfaces.



If you choose to mail something, it's a good idea to act as if you are sending it straight to the police. Wear gloves; don't lick the stamp or envelope (use a wet sponge instead, or buy self-adhesive stamps and envelopes). Use plain paper, and use a stencil or a public typewriter to address the envelope. Beware of including anything unintended (such as hair) in or on the envelope.

Don't trust your computer!

Your computer cannot keep a secret, it remembers just about everything, and it is the first thing the police will take in a raid. When researching animal abusers on the web, or to send e-mail, use public computers at libraries, copy shops, or Internet cafes. Visit http://security.tao.ca for an excellent overview of online security, encryption basics, file wiping and general electronic privacy. Look into using PGP (Pretty Good Privacy) for your day to day operations, but don't trust it to encrypt sensitive documents.



They won't let you keep your souvenirs in prison. Don't keep anything incriminating in your house or apartment. There's no telling when they will come, or even if you'll ever know. So keep your gear in a safe house beforehand. Afterwards, clothes, shoes, paint, tools, and maps should be carefully cleaned, and destroyed. The recently enacted PATRIOT Act allows police to break into your residence and search your property without notifying you that they were there. So to stay safe, keep a clean house!

Voices carry.

Gossip jails activists. Don't discuss your involvement or someone else's involvement in past illegal actions, or plans for upcoming actions. Don't discuss rumors, or speculate about who did what. And don't trust those that do. Avoid those that ask you to speculate on past actions; they are either newcomers to the movement, gossips or officers of the law. Any way you cut it, you don't want to involve these people in illegal activity. And of course, don't say anything to law enforcement.



Too many cooks spoil the dish. Work with as few people as you need to, and make sure you know them all VERY well. Your friend's friend is not your friend. Is everyone prepared to spend time in jail? Are you sure?! Your "partner in crime" should be someone you have known and trusted for a number of years. That goes for everyone in your group. You're not picking teams at the baseball diamond, you're putting together a group that could ultimately lead you to victory or a prison sentence.

Trust your instinct to the end. That little voice inside that's telling you something is wrong, is probably right.



books

Animal Liberation Front Primer
A how-to guide to ALF tactics and security.

War At Home by Brian Glick
"the most concise, informative reference guide on government repression" and how we can fight it.

If An Agent Knocks
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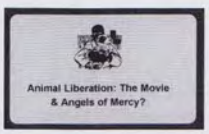
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