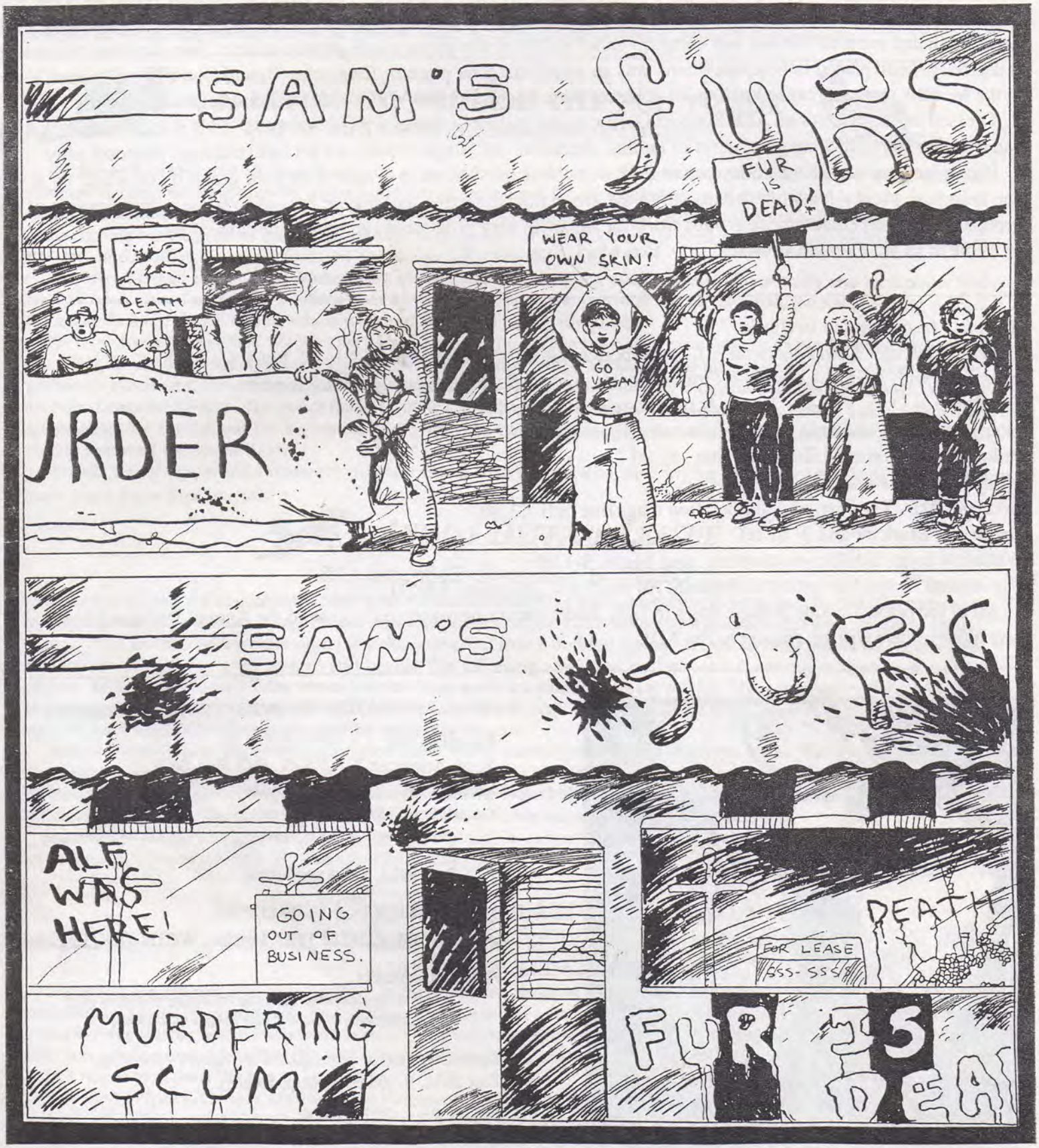
DRESSED IN BLACK



In this issue: An interview with Robin Webb, the UK A.L.F. Press Officer; Pages of the rarely seen Militant Vegan #8; Reports on local group activism; Reports on direct actions for animals; plus much more valuable information.

ISSUE 3 FEBRUARY 1995

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Welcome to Dressed In Black #3. Lots of new changes to this issue. This should be the new format, give or take a few changes here and there. Please feel free to send in any submissions for future issues on ideas for improving tactics, viewpoints, clippings, etc. We tried to pack as much as we could into 20 pages, but with the Militant Vegan #8 being sent last minute we had to omit a little. Apparently, Militant Vegan #8 didn't get printed, so we were asked to print some of it. So we included some of it in our last 4 pages. Other stuff in it was pretty much already in here. The one thing that was in it that hasn't been placed in here elsewhere, was an action that took place in Tennessee. In mid October, in Pleasant View, at the McEllis fur farm, cages holding 20-25 foxes were opened by the ALF so that the animals could escape.

Dressed in Black is not an ALF Support Group, so we make no contact with illegal units. This is to guarantee that we can continue to publish the good news of animal liberation. All illegal reports are for informational pruposes only.

Please feel free to make as many copies of this as you want. Sell them to raise $ for your group if you want. Or if you can help raise money for other groups, go to the group update section and maybe help raise some money for one of the groups listed. Remember, these groups work for free with very little money to back their campaigns.

Write to us at: Dressed In Black P.O. Box 6845 Syracuse, N.Y. 13127

Available from Dressed in Black:
Underground, the North American A.L.F. Supporters Group magazine. Issue # 1- $2 Issue #2- $3.00
Interviews with Animal Liberation Front Activists. 52pgs. $3.00 Covers most ALF aspects.
The Power is Ours. - $1.00 Direct Action booklet - 14 pages.
Interviews with California Animal Liberation Front Activists. -$1.00
Holocaust #4. Animal Liberation zine. -$2.00
Militant Vegan. #4,6,7 -$1.00
Arkangel #11 - The best animal liberation magazine out! $3.00.
Dressed in Black #1 and 2- $1.00
Without a trace. Booklet on covering your tracks. $-1.00
The Animal Rights Movement in Brittain: An overview 262pages. $10.00

All of the prices include postage costs in U.S. Make checks or money orders out to the Animal Defense League. Any money made will go directly to the ADL.



ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT SUPPORTERS GROUPS

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North American A.L.F.S.G., P.O. Box 8673,
Victoria, BC, V8X 3S2 Canada
e-mail: un028@freenet.victoria.bc.ca

Israel
P.O. Box 6023, Tel Aviv 61060, Israel

U.K.
A.L.F.S.G.-UK, BCM 1160, London, WC1N 3XX, England

A.L.F. Contacts

[note: do not assume that the following contacts take respsonsibility for any illegal activities.]

Djurens Befrielse Front (D.B.F.) / A.L.F. - Sweden:
Box 2051, S-265 02 Astorp, Sweden

A.L.F. Press Office - UK:
BM 4400, London, WC1N 3XX, England
011-44-954-30542 (24 hr); 836-310763 (mobile)

GROUP UPDATES

Interested in what's going on with other groups around the country? This section will help keep us informed on other groups and what they're doing. If you know of a group that's active and isn't in this, tell them to send an update. It helps keep us all going when we see we're not the only ones. So send in your update of around 2-3 paragraphs.



COALITION TO ABOLISH THE FUR TRADE

P.O. BOX 55933 Indianapolis, IN 46205



On Super Bowl Sunday '95, 41 activists met at Indianapolis' Fashion Mall to protest Jacobsen's fur salon. After about 40 minutes of demonstrating outside, where hundreds of cars passed by, we entered the mall itself. Upon entering Jacobsen's Department store we began to chant "STOP SELLING FUR!" The store's business came to an abrupt halt. The security finally came rushing out to escort us out of the building, with two of our activists being shoved in the process. We had been inside the store and loudly chanting before they even knew what was happening!

We then traveled to Castleton Square Mall where Lazarus was having a big fur sale. The security and local police had already been tipped off by the Jacobsen's action. Although we never got to enter the fur salon, the mall security officers fumed as the local sheriff told us where we could and could not legally protest.

We then drove to Elan Furs. At Elan we placed our signs up against the store's windows totally blocking the inside view out. They could see nothing but our signs. Owner/operator George Mirakopolous immediately called police. He then grabbed a broom and came running out of the store after us. He took a swing at a couple of activists but missed. We had entirely disrupted his day. The police failed to show until 10-15 minutes later. We anonomously placed a call to Elan later questioning the store about the broom incident. They neither confirmed nor denied the action of Mirakopolous. They merely slammed the phone down.

Overall, it was a great and empowering day for Indpls. activists and a horrible day for Indiana fur retailers. We will give them many more days like this.



ANIMAL DEFENSE LEAGUE

P.O.Box 6845 Syracuse, NY 13217

So far this winter, we've concentrated 90% of our effort into battling the furriers here in Syracuse. In mid -December, we had a protest at Bonwit Teller, a department store that sells fur, where 6 activists set up a blockade and were arrested. At first, around 25 of us blocked the store until the police came and then 6 decided to stay. It took an hour before the arrests were made and we know we were noticed and heard. The following week, the local paper did a story on our group and the protest. With only 2 Bonwit Teller stores, we sure have made it a pain for them to sell fur. Since then we've done a handful of protests there, giving out around 10,000 flyers asking for a boycott of the store since late last summer. A bunch of other activists have been banned from the mall for leafletting the cars.

And we're still pounding away at Georgio's Furs. We've started going there 2-3 times a week. Eventually, we feel this store will either be forced to close, or at least, move it's location. The downtown public have given us very strong support. We've been told some days he doesn't open, and his store has looked like a mess from ALF hits that haven't been cleaned up. We've also gotten attention with a radio debate on fur and a cable access tv show on animal rights.

So although we haven't shut down these furriers, we've definately educated everyone while we're trying. The public has let us know we're being heard. It's just a matter of time before we see a win.

Student Organization for Animal Rights

235 CMU, 300 Washington Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455

SOAR Hotline: (612) 624-0422

It's been a crazy winter for SOAR so far. In early January, about 30 activists stormed the Madison, WI hotel where the International Mink Convention was taking place. Three activists were arrested, and several were beaten by conventioneers.

Earlier this winter, ten activists were arrested for protesting a hunt. They recieved a complaint in the mail citing them with four misdemeanor charges. This is the first time that the unconstitutional "hunters' rights'" law has been used in MN--SOAR hopes to make it the last.

Help by: 1. Write to County Attorney Tom Harbinson Courthouse 206, 428 Holmes St. So., Shakopee, MN 55379-1380. 2. Call 612-445-7750 or 612-496-8240 and tell them the charges should be dropped.

Also on Fur Free Friday 5 activists were arrested for attempting to blockade the entrance to Daytons. Days later, SOAR obtained skinned carcassed from a young boy who found them in the woods. SOAR then dumped them in front of the store

COALITION TO ABOLISH THE FUR TRADE
P.O.Box 40641, Memphis, TN 38174

1995 has started off well for CAFT. On 1-7-95, members of our Indiana chapter joined activists from WI and MN at the International Mink Convention in Madison, WI. Activists stormed into the hotel where the fur farmers were at and fought their way to the door leading into the convention. 7 activists got through the locked door and handcuffed themselves to a fire escape and began chanting. The mink ranchers kicked at the activists and the police manhandled one female so much that she cracked her wrist. This was, however, a very effective disruption that ruined the furriers day. Some were heard cmplaining about how "it just gets worse every year." In the end 3 activists recieved citations.

The very next day CAFT pulled off a gruesome protest in Memphis. Using skinned fox corpses obtained from a fur farm, we engaged in a demonstration that led to national media coverage. 3 activists were arrested as they stormed the doors to Goldsmith's department store in an attemp at blocking the doors while displaying the skinned foxes. This sent the message that FUR=DEATH to millions of people. The display of the victims of the fur trade sent the industry reeling.

After the demo, 2 activists were pulled over by police and harrassed. This included verbal abuse, body searches, a wait in the back of a squad car, and traffic citations which will be challenged in court.

Several weeks later, a CAFT representative debated Karen Handel of the Fur Information Council of America on the radio. 15,000 listeners heard Ms. Handel make an ass of herself as she claimed that the animal rights activists were thugs and interupted every person who tried to talk. We had the truth on our side and came away shing.

The most telling sign of how our work is paying off came from the mouth of a local furrier. He was willing to admit that this last winter he had been affected more than ever before. Now, 1 out of every 3 customers entering his store is asking about animal rights. This shows that when we increase the pressure and act persistantly, we make headway. However, if we slow down one bit, they will catch up.

Our intelligent efforts have also turned up evidence that the Memphis fur industry has had at least one meeting with a special police intervention unit. The police are not our friends. Don't trust them. They will help the furriers crush us. If they want to talk to you, just say no. It's your 5th Amendment right to be silent. The police are working for the enemy and collaboration with the enemy is treason. Always think of the animals and how any communication with government agents will affect our movement. We can and will win if we act ethical.

S.E.A.L.
P.O. Box 2611 Dayton, Ohio, 45401
Voicemail: (513) 222-7200

S.E.A.L. (Students for Ecological and Animal Liberation) is a bi-monthly newsletter published for activists in Indiana and western Ohio. S.E.A.L. is the main organizer of the campaign against Lazarus department stores for their sale of fur garments.

The campaign has spread to 8 cities in 4 states and is already more successful than past efforts against Lazarus by In Defense of Animals. This campaign has been done on a shoestring budget but has attracted a lot of media attention. To order the current newsletter send a stamp.

DEPARTMENT STORE CAMPAIGNS

We at D.I.B. wanted to give you more information on current department store campaigns, but this was the only space left. Many activists are now focusing their attention on campaigning against department stores to stop selling fur, seeing they can easily do this without hurting their business. Contact these groups if you live in an area with one of the targeted department stores and can help in that area. Contact:

Jordan Marsh department stores
Animal Defense League- Syracuse
Bonwit Teller department stores
Animal Defense League- Syracuse
Goldsmith's department stores
Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade- Memphis
Jacobsen's department stores
Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade- Indianapolis

Animal Defense League merchandise



NEW- A.L.F. Support T-shirts with above on front, back "A.L.F. on tour", with small diary of actions, available in white, lt. grey, and cream with black ink. $10 + $3 shipping and handling.



"If animals believed in God...." T-shirts with ADL logo on back, available in burgundy, navy, and dark green with cream ink. $10 +$3 shipping and handling.

Also available: MEAT IS MURDER! bumper stickers in red, black and white for $1.50.

The Animal Defense League is a grassroots animal liberation group fighting to end animal abuse in its many forms. The ADL works through public education by direct action protests, leafletting, tabling and organized boycotts. The ADL speaks out against all forms of animal abuse, while strongly encouraging a vegan diet.

Make all checks or money orders out to the Animal Defense League. To become a member, send your name and address plus $10 or more. Members recieve a 10% discount on merchandise plus a newsletter. Write to:
ANIMAL DEFENSE LEAGUE P.O.Box 6845 Syracuse, NY 13217

Diary of Actions

Please note: The Diary of Actions is intended to report news of illegal actions to save animals, not to encourage crime. All reports come from movement and opposition publications, mainstream media, or anonymous claims. Activists can anonymously claim their actions from a pay phone to CAFT at 901-725-7595 or send them in with no fingerprints to Dressed in Black.

NOV/94: New York City, New York- Fur store: Had large steel garbage can thrown through display window.-ALF

NOV/94: Olney, Maryland- KFC: Spraypainted and windows smashed.-ALF

NOV/94: Maryland- Best Kept Secret: Thousands of dollars worth of fur coats had blood spraypainted. -ALF

NOV/94: Washington, DC- Fur stores: windows shot out.

NOV/94: Spokane, Washington- Exclusifurs II: Spraypainted. -PAINT PANTHERS

NOV/94: Seattle, Washington- KFC: Smashed up.

NOV 7/94: Memphis Tennessee- Jean Bentham Furs: New location firebombed before store moved. The owner may now drop fur. -ALF

NOV 17/94: San Fransisco, California- Robert's Furs: Paintbombed, windows smashed. Berkeley's Milk Board: Office paintbombed.-ALF



NOV 28/94: Rochester, New York- Conti Paking Co., meat packing plant: smashed windows of seven trucks and three trailers, causing more than $5000 in damage, slogans painted. -ALF

NOV 29/94: Dayton, Ohio- Lazarus department store (sells fur): slogans painted on a company truck. -ALF

NOV 30/94: Rochester, New York- Berman's Fur Fashion: Front windows smashed, others etched, slogans painted. -ALF

LATE NOV/94: Mankato, Minnesota- A fur store had "Fur is Dead" spraypainted on it. -ALF

NOV-DEC/94: Maryland- Local grocery store continually has rodent glue traps and UPC tags for traps damaged and thrown in store garbage cans. After 4 weeks of continued action, the store has no longer ordered, displayed or sold these devices. -ALF

DEC/94: Maryland- Best Kept Secret: hundreds more dollars worth of fur coats splattered with paint. Used clothing store: fur coats spraypainted on.-ALF

DEC/94: Maryland- Giant Grocery: Has large number of trucks with meat ads spraypainted with slogans. -ALF

DEC/94: Maryland- Large fur sale recieves bomb threat.

DEC/94: Gathersburg, Maryland- McDonald's: Spraypainted with slogans and windows smashed. -ALF

DEC 2/94: Bloomington and Indianapolis, Indiana- Lazarus department stores had windows smashed and were spraypainted. -ALF

DEC 6/94: Madison, Wisconsin- McDonald's: Paintbombed. -ALF

DEC 16/94: Berkeley, California- Northwest Animal Facility: front paintbombed. -ALF

DEC 22/94: Rochester, New York- Berman's Fur Fashion: Brick thrown through window, damaging a fur coat, $1000 damage. Hillcrest Turkey Products: Smashed windshields of two trucks and poured sugar into both gasoline tanks, slogans painted. Possible damage $35,000. -ALF

DEC 23/94: Vancouver, BC, Canada- Safeway and Save-on-Foods: recieved letters saying that turkeys had been injected with rat poison. The hoax forced the two chains to pull all turkeys from their shelves and offer refunds to any customers who returned turkeys. -Animal Rights Militia

DEC 23/94: San Fransisco, California- Roberts Furs: locks glued. Home Fine Sausage: Paintbombed, locks glued.-ALF

DEC 24/94: Memphis, Tennessee- Tandy Leather: Windows smashed. -ALF

DEC 25/94: Oakland, California- Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers: Front lock glued. ALF Golden Gate Unit

LATE 94 or EARLY 95: San Fransisco, California- Herberts Furs: Had "Fur Scum" etched into their glass front door with acid during their going out of business sale. -ALF

JAN 12/95: Syracuse, New York- Eastern Milk Producers: Slogans painted. -ALF

JAN 16/95: Syracuse, New York- Georgio's Furs: Paintbombed. Mazzye's Meats: windows

JAN 21/95: Virginia Beach, Virginia- Lowenthal Furs: Slogans painted. -ALF

JAN 28/95: Virginia Beach, Virginia- Cental Meats & Packing: unspecified damage. -ALF

JAN 30/95: Virginia Beach, Virginia- Central Meats & Packing: Windows smashed, slogan's spraypainted, central cooling system destroyed, trucks had tires slashed. -ALF

JAN/95: Rochester, New York- Conti Packing Co., a meat packing plant: Two Mack trucks were set on fire, slogans painted. -ALF

FEB 16/95: San Fransisco, California- Robert's Furs: Paintbombed. -Stockton Unit, ALF

FEB 23/95: Syracuse, New York- Georgio's Furs: Paintbombed, slogans painted. -ALF

FEB 23/95: Skaneateles, New York- Skaneateles Fur Exchange: Slogans painted, paintbombed, windows smashed. -ALF

A REPORT OF SORTS FROM ENGLAND

by Ann Nonamous

Just writing to inform you about a protest I heard about in England. Apparently there was a vivisection conference that was going to go on, but the animal rights groups found out about it as well as the A.L.F.

Before the conference happened the hotel was notified of what vivisectors are and what evil things they do by concerned people who phoned them up. These people also demanded that the hotel stop letting such nazis hold conferences there beginning now or they would boycott their hotels nationwide. This gave the hotel ample time to pull out, but they continued to rationalize their involvement in the conference.

Activists then called and made many bogus reservations at the hotel to try and cause the hotel economic hardship or at least frustrate them in trying to determine between the real reservations and the fake ones.

A few days before the conference began, the A.L.F. spraypainted "go home vivisectors" and similar slogans on all major roadways heading toward the hotel, especially the one from the airport as most of them flew in. Posters were also hung all over the city regarding vivisection and the evil conference that was to come.

The day the vivisectors arrived, they were greeted by a loud bunch of protesters who had numerous banners telling the vivisectors how evil they are and that they should feel free to leave at once. One protester with a megaphone quite vehemently attacked all of the vivisectors as they tried to enter the building by telling them exactly what she thought of them. Almost 100 of the vivisectors, witnessing the many sights, took the activists up on their offers and, at great cost, went home. A great victory.

The activists continued to be loud once the convention had started by banging on drums and chanting. They especially rose their voices loudly when the police asked them to quiet down as the vivisectors could not hear the people giving the speeches.

The A.L.F. was also busy. They had dumped lots of red food coloring and laundry liquid in the hotel's fountains, sprayed slogans on the side of the hotel, and dumped motor oil in their pool. All of this was to put economic pressure on the hotel to not hold such murderous conventions now or ever again as well as put the vivisectors on edge. It worked tremendously well. Now the hotel was claiming that they had thought the conference was on animal welfare, and that they were ashamed that they had ever let them hold a vivisection convention there.

At lunch, some vivisectors wanted to leave the hotel to grab a bite to eat. Protestors followed them around and leafletted everyone around them and told them what the vivisectors did. If the vivisector went into a store, some would leaflet outside the store while others would go inside and tell everyone who that person was and what they did. Pretty soon, no more of the vivisectors left the hotel.

Some activists managed to get inside the convention and cause problems. Once when the vivisectors were sitting down to eat, an activist who had been waiting their table, threw the food, told them what she thought of vivisectors in general, and then what she thought of them in particular and stormed out of the place. At another conference, well dressed activists who had been hiding out in bathrooms, stormed into the dining hall, overturned tables and exited before anyone could catch them. Other activists reserved one room so they could have access inside of the hotel for further disruptions.

Activists willing to get arrested would enter the confernce rooms, and disrupt the speeches by starting arguements about animal rights. After three or four of these, the vivisectors nerves were shot and morale amongst them was low.

These actions have had far reaching effects on vivisection conferences in England. Many of them have been cancelled when the vivisectors have found out that animal activists were aware of when and where they are going to take place. Likewise, numerous hotels and even cities refuse to let the conference take place in their borders as activists send them press cuttings of what happened at this past conference and they quickly pull out. It cost the city almost 100 pounds to police the week long conference, and the hotel suffered financially as well. Hopefully, vivisectors soon will no longer be able to meet and communicate better ways to exploit animals and to fight those of us who stand up for animals.

Robin Webb- UK A.L.F. Press Officer

Interview by Freeman Wicklund

When and how did you get involved with animal rights?

I became involved about 11 or 12 years ago when I was working for an electronics company next door to a slaughterhouse. I began to realize that animals taken in there were the same animals I was eating at home. One time I went for a walk on my lunch break. I saw some pigs being unloaded. In the afternoon I had heard them and smelt them. I went home and my partner Margaret had cooked pork for dinner that evening. I couldn't eat it. We almost immediately went vegetarian. And, as we knew a little bit about farming practices, within about two months we had become vegans.

How have you stayed motivated?

Since I saw the pigs unloaded and went home to dinner that evening, I haven't had a moments peace of mind. I still wake up in the middle of the night with mightmares about what I've learned about the animal cruelty over the years. I have never got used to it. I've never gotten hardened to it. If anything, it has gotten worse and worse. I couldn't live with my own conscience if I stopped trying to do something to change it.

What is the role of the ALF Press Officer?

The role of the ALF Press Officer is to explain to the media why activists have carried out unlawful activities, and it can happen in a number of ways. An activist can telephone me anonymously to tell me what they have done, I would then contact the media, tell the media what they've done, try to publicize it, and explain why the activists were driven to carry out the action. Or an action can be carried out, not claimed, in fact, for the activists' own security a lot of them won't telephone because it is reasonable to assume that my telephone is monitored by the police. So within those instances, the media would often contact me, explain the action to me, and I could then say whether or not it fell within ALF policy, whether or not the ALF would claim it as one of their actions, and also try to explain why it was carried out.

The other functions of the Press Office are to speak at public meetings, rallies, and demonstrations, to try to highlight animal abuse, to encourage lawful ways for people to campaign against it, and also to explain publicly why activists break the law. I would not encourage anyone to go out and break the law because that would be incitement which is a criminal offence.

What is the Press Officers' relationship to the law?

Well, my two previous predecessors, Ronnie Lee and Robin Lane, have both served prison sentences for their role as ALF Press Officer. I've been arrested on a number of occasions since I took up the position. I find that the police really cannot understand the motivation of the Animal Liberation Movement. They cannot comprehend that so many people are willing to risk their freedom, their careers, their lives, in effect, in pursuit of something which they have no personal reward for what-so-ever. They also cannot understand that it is not an organization. It is people who go out following what their hearts tell them. What they can't realize, but will need to realize eventually, is that you can imprison people, but you cannot imprison an ideal. The fight for animal liberation will continue no matter what they do.

How often do actions happen?

A great many actions happen without the Press Office even being informed. ALF, as I said earlier, is not an organization. Anyone can go out and undertake an action which falls within ALF policy, and claim it as an ALF action. In brief the policy is one; to rescue animals from suffering or potential suffering and place them in good permanent homes, or where appropriate release them into their natural environment. Two; to damage or destroy property or equipment used in animal abuse. That would be twofold; one, it would take that equipment out of the arena of animal abuse, it can't be used to harm animals anymore, and it would also cause great financial loss to the companies through replacing the equipment, increased insurance premiums, increased security costs, hopefully, eventually, pricing them out of business. Third, and over-riding policy is life should not be threatened or endangered. Anyone can go out and undertake an action within those policies and claim it as Animal Liberation Front.

Why does the ALF do what it does?

At least 15 to 20 actions would happen every night up and down the country, quite often more. I had one anonymous claim recently where two people had gone for a ride in the early hours of one morning and took the windows out of eighty shops.

Well, the first animal welfare law was past in 1822. 170 years of lawful campaigning has seen an increase in animal abuse that the animal reformists couldn't have invisioned in their worst nightmares. Lawful campaigning, lawful lobbying, has failed our brothers and sisters. Now with other liberation movements in the past, the abolition of slavery and emancipation of women, neither of which have been completely achieved yet, but we are a long way along the road, people have worked both within and without the law. Yet no one with hindsight would condemn those who broke the law in pursuit of the abolition of slavery and votes for women. I believe that history will show that those who cannot fight for themselves were equally justified in doing so. Legislation isn't constant, laws are introduced, amended and withdrawn. What was legal years ago may be illegal now and visa versa. What is constant is what is morally right and morally wrong. And in a nutshell, to break

unjust laws in the pursuit of justice cannot be wrong.

Has the ALF really produced any positive change for the animals?

I think the ALF isn't the be-all and end-all. Education in schools is important. Putting pressure on those in government is important. Putting legal pressure on animal abuse establishments is important. What is important is that all areas are working toward the same ends. We're all walking down the same road in the same direction, and the only common enemy at the end of the road is the abuser. I wish that all strands of the animal protection movement would remember that as too much time and energy is lost arguing tactics, arguing methods, and while that is being done, we're not fighting for those who need us.

How can the ALF be helping the movement when they generate so much bad publicity?

The movement is not the be-all and end-all. The movement is there to help the non-human animals, not to protect its own image. I don't believe those who broke the law to help the slaves were thinking of the image of the political campaign. I think they just wanted to help oppressed human beings to freedom in the same way that those who are trying to free non-humans aren't too bothered about the media reaction.

I don't believe those who broke the law to help slaves escape were thinking of the image of the political campaign. I think they just wanted to help oppressed human beings to freedom in the same way that those who are trying to free non-humans aren't too bothered about the media reaction.

However, it's interesting to note that originally the media portrayed the ALF activists as English eccentrics who had just gone a little bit too far, and gave them a Robin Hood type image, and almost a pat on the head, and isn't this a jolly game. However, when it became clear that the ALF were having a real effect on the pharmaceutical industry, on the factory farming industry, and on the fur trade, the media began to change its attitude and began to portray these same people as urban terrorists, as enemies of the state, rather than the compassionate commandos which they really are. What they are now trying to start to do with police inclusion, if not police instruction, is to censor ALF actions as they know that the more publicity they get, the more people are going to be encouraged to go out and fight that matter for the non-humans. In fact, I telephoned the police recently to report an action and the police officer I was speaking to asked me to hold, as one of his senior officers would like to speak to me. The senior officer requested that I didn't tell the media what happened as it encourages other people to go out and do similar things. A number of times recently, I have reported ALF actions to the press which have been very newsworthy, and they have not been published.

I understand when you say that individual animal lives are more important than bad publicity, but how can firebombings and other forms of economic sabatage be justified when weighed up against the bad publicity?

Economic sabatage, or damage to property and equipment, has closed animal abuse establishments down. One example recently, a Hallal slaughterhouse. Hallal is a method of killing animals where they are not prestunned for religious reasons. Local residents and animal rights campaigners campaigned to close this slaughterhouse for three years. A couple of weeks ago the ALF went in, completely wrecked the offices of the slaughterhouse, and took a number of important files. The place is now closed down. It has stopped animal cruelty from being carried out on those premises.

It was also the ALF who decimated the fur trade in the United Kingdom. And that is not just a claim made by the ALF, it's a claim made by the British Fur Trade Association who said two or three years ago that if it had been lawful educational campaigns, they would still have fur shops up and down the country. It was the ALF attacks on their premises which drove people out of business. Direct action does work.

What annoys me dreadfully is when people refer to damaged property as violence. I do not believe that one can be violent to property, unless it is gratuitous vandalism for kicks. One living creature cannot own another creature. We don't have the right to do that, it is slavery. So property would be a chair, a table, a door. Something that has no feelings, it can't react to painful stimuli, it has no social awareness. Surely if that type of property is being used to inflict pain and suffering on living, breathing creatures, surely taking that out of the arena of animal suffering is no different morally, to a demolition contractor going in and demolishing an unsafe house in case it harms life. Morally, I can see no difference. It is removing property used to inflict pain and suffering on innocent creatures. How can that be wrong?

A lot of people say at the end of the day, "Yes, we understand to a certain extent the damage to property, why you rescue animals, but you really shouldn't break the law. It is anarchy." Now the law, can change.

The law is not constant. If I can give you an analogy. In two buildings you have a number of dogs, and these dogs are being cruelly treated by humans. Another team of humans sledge hammer the doors down, go in, rescue the dogs, and take them to safety. In the first instance it is an old house in the country and it's an illegal dogfight, and the who sledgehammer the door down are the RSPCA special investigation department and the local police. The law says that those abusing animals are criminals. Again, quite right, they are criminals.

In the second scenario, it's a research laboratory and the dogs are beagles, and the humans who sledgehammer the door down are ALF activists. They are guilty of criminal damage and theft. We're also told that those who are abusing the dogs are doing so for great humanitarian purposes. Now I or someone else can argue until doomsday the rights and wrongs of legislation, but what it boils down to is until someone can explain the difference in the law to the dogs themselves, either both actions are morally right or both actions are morally wrong. You cannot have it both

ways.

I think the only justification to the ALF existing is that animal abuse exists. I hear the activists being termed "extremists" and "terrorists," surely it's extreme to stitch up the eyelids of a kitten in a research laboratory, it's extreme to transplant the head of one monkey onto another, it's extreme to tear a young calf from his mother's side to steal her milk and condemn him to a short life in a veal crate, it's extreme to castrate a young piglet without anesthetic merely to argue that the meat will taste better when he's murdered. Surely that is true extremism, real terrorism against the weak and innocent. I believe that those who seek to end such atrocities of that nature are only guilty of one thing, and that's compassion.

If you are not in any paid positions currently, what is your source of income?

All of the donations and subscriptions made to the ALF Press Office go for the expenses of the Press Office. For my day to day living, I am a house-husband. My partner Margaret works full time and she pays all the bills. I couldn't do what I do without her.

What are your thoughts on those activists who are paid to work for animals?

I think its understandable if one is giving all of one's time to the animal liberation movement to be paid a reasonable amount to live on. I do not believe that it is right for people to be paid market rates for salaries. Animal liberation is not something to make a profit out of, not something to make a good living out of. The animals need help. Any spare pennies that are left over should be to finance the battle itself. The battle against exploitation, the battle against abuse, not to give someone an increased standard of living. That is not what animal liberation is about.

What do you see as effective types of campaigning to really stop the abuse?

To really stop the abuse, apart from unlawful direct action which the Animal Liberation Front carry out, find out who the abusers are, for example vivisectors, go and demonstrate outside their houses, leaflet their neighbors, make it clear to their local community how they make their money, that their mortgage repayments are paid with blood-stained money. They will then become outcasts in their own community. It will encourage them to find another way of earning a living. If the animals can't get away from their exploitation, if the animals are imprisoned 24 hours a day, why should the abusers go home, put their feet up, and watch television.

Another important way, of course, is to take the message into the schools. Young people are the adults of tomorrow. I know that sounds cliche, but it's true. Young people are much more aware than I was when I was their age, and I do believe that with the increase of compassionate education, and the increase in awareness amongst young people, that we are on the threshold of real change at last.

I think I've covered the unlawful side, the educational side, and the taking-it-to-the-front-doors-of-the-abusers-themselves side. Without wishing to get myself into trouble, all I would add is that people know in their hearts what is right and wrong. If their heart tells them to do something, then they shouldn't allow their head to try to rationalize them out of doing something that's right. Too many people have done that who are not fighting as strongly as they could.

People know in their hearts what is right and wrong. If their heart tells them to do something, then they shouldn't allow their head to try to rationalize them out of doing something that's right. Too many people have done that who are not fighting as strongly as they could.

Abuse, of any nature, is wrong. In the same way that whilst there is one slave on this earth, we won't be completely rid of slavery, I don't believe that I have any authority to comprimise on behalf of non-humans. I have no authority to agree to larger cages in research laboratories or anything like that. It is war. It's not a campaign, it's not a battle, it's a war. And it's a war in which all of the casualties have been on one side. And to me, while there is one non-human suffering at our hands, that war will still need to be fought.

Any last words?

The animal liberation movement is not just about freeing non-human animals from oppression. It is also about freeing humans from oppression, about a complete change in how we use and treat the planet. A lot of people who go out campaigning on the streets have members of the general public come up to them and say, "You only care about animals, you don't care about people." What they are trying to do is really say that they don't do anything themselves for either people or animals, and they're trying to transfer the guilt onto the campaigner.

Human rights and animal rights have always been inextricably linked. Animal rights campaigners have always been in the forefront of human rights. At the inaugural meeting in 1824 of the RSPCA, two of the founding members, William Wilberforce and Fowell Buxton, were leaders of the fight to abolish slavery. Later in the 19th century it was RSPCA members and staff, using RSPCA premises who started the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. On demonstrations you will often hear the chant:

"Human freedom!
Animal Rights!
One Struggle-
One Fight!"

It's absolutely true, and animal rights people have often been in the forefront of human rights.

Write to:
A.L.F. Press Office- UK
BM 4400
London, WC1N 3XX, England

DIRECT ACTION

The following article was sent in by an anonomous writer. I am enclosing it for informational purposes, not telling you to break the law, you make your own desicions. I happen to find it very interesting and hopefully you will too. To the anonomous writer-thank you.

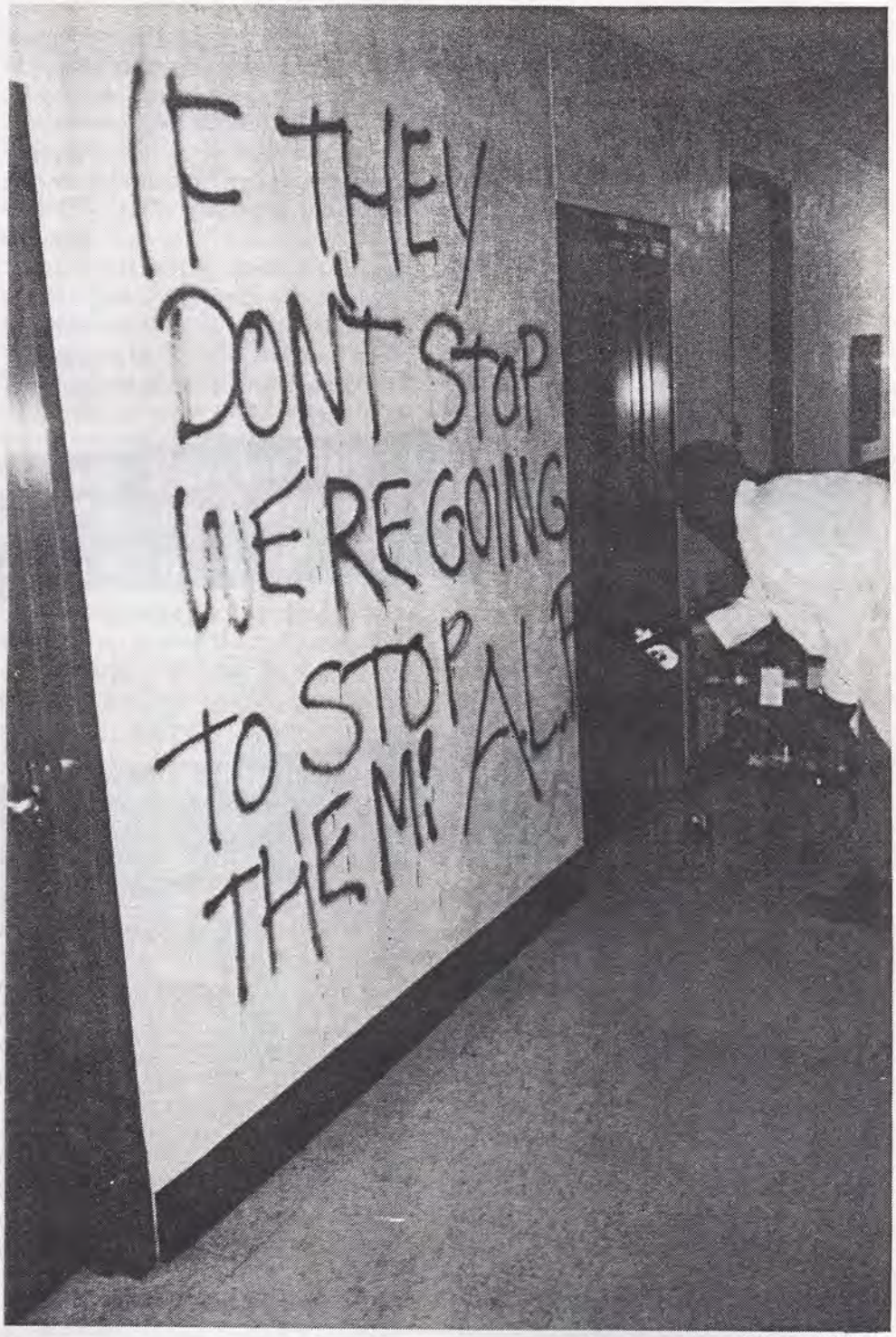


Photo: PETA

It appears as if we are seeing a dramatic increase in the number of direct actions (DA) being carried out by the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and similar direct action groups. It is my view that we must be strategic, intellligent, and focused if we want to be successful in the long run. If we take out the weaker animal abusers now, our resources and targets will not be so stretched in the future. Specifically, if we completely defeat the fur trade now, the meat, dairy, vivisection, etc. industries will be easier to handle in the future. Divided they fall, right?

"Direct action" is a term that can apply to many forms of activism but is commonly used in reference to live animal liberation's and acts of economic sabotage (property damage). Direct action has been an important part of every successful social movements' history. The Underground Railroad, the Boston Tea Party, etc. are several actions where people risked their freedom for the better treatment of an oppressed group. Some criticize direct action but it should be noted that 1) without radical action, a society will not consider discussing an issue such as animal rights that requires such a change on the individuals part, 2) life is more valuable than an inanimate object such as a furriers windows, 3) direct action causes animal abuse to be cost prohibitive by causing insurance rates to rise, and 4) live liberation's achieve the desired goal immediately. To let an animal suffer on a farm and do nothing because of some sort of "respect for the law" is repulsive.

I would like to discuss ways in which DA can be effectively used against the fur trade. I will discuss live animal liberation's first. Basically, there are three ranch raised fur animals: mink, fox, and chinchilla. Mink and fox are genetically wild and will survive when released into the woods. Minks can travel five miles a day while fox can travel twelve. They disperse quickly so there should be no worry that a habitiat will be wrecked by a massive release of fur farm animals.

Mink and fox do bite so heavy gloves are a necessity. They can be grabbed and dropped on the other side of the fence. Don't ever put them into bags together as many ALF cells do when dealing with other animals.

These particular species are very likely to start fighting when piled on top of each other. One idea is to cut holes in the fence around the compound and then open all the cages so that the animals can find their own way out. Plenty of escape routes should be provided. None should lead the animals towards a busy road. Also, release type actions should take place between late May and late October. If before then, the animals will be too young and if after this time period, there may not be enough food available.

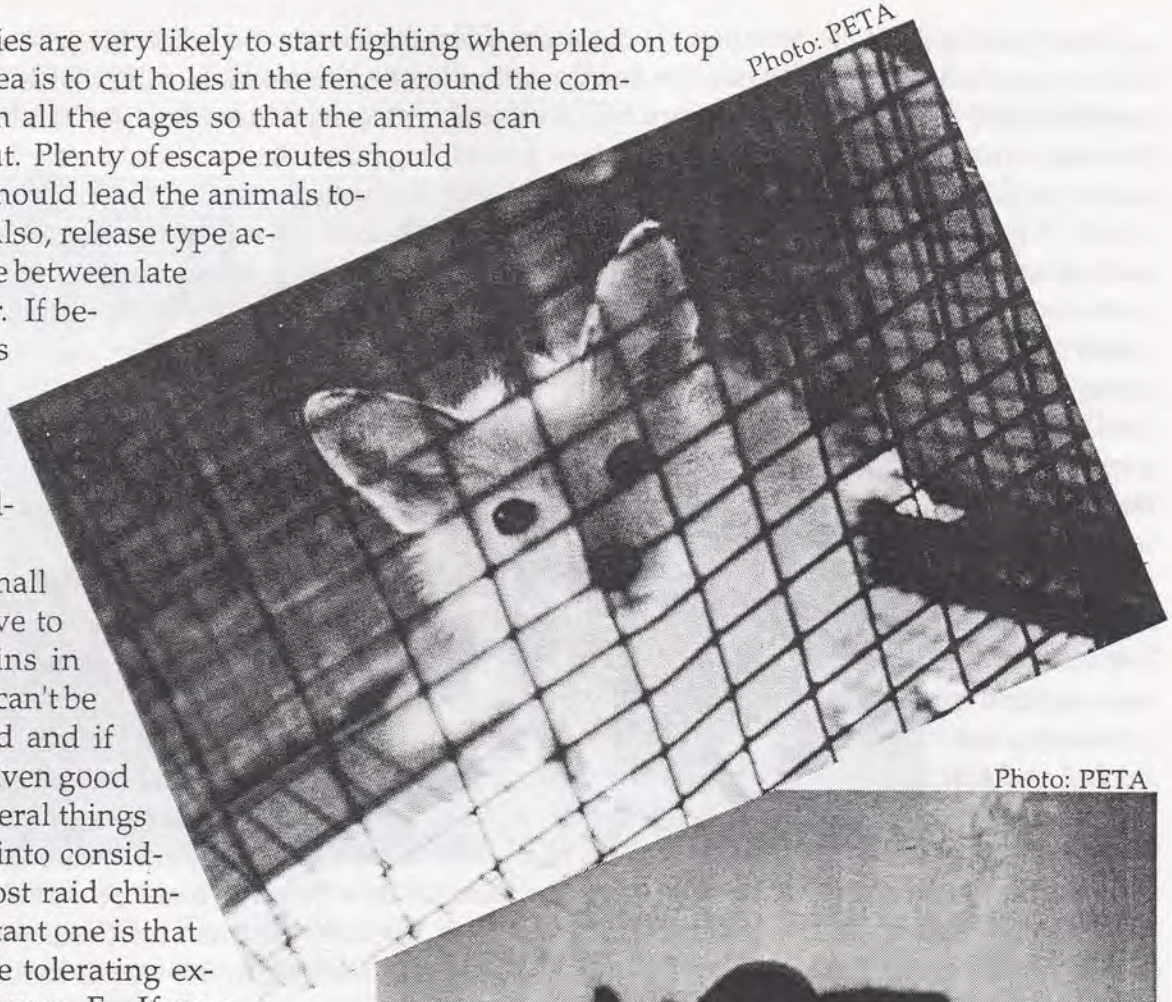


Photo: PETA

The chinchilla is a small herbivore that is native to the Andres mountains in South America. They can't be released into the wild and if liberated, should be given good homes. There are several things that should be taken into consideration concerning post raid chinchilla care. An important one is that they have a hard time tolerating extremes above 80 degrees F. If you should liberate chinchillas, please make sure that the person providing their new home has been educated about their special needs. Chinchilla rare books are available at the book store and library.

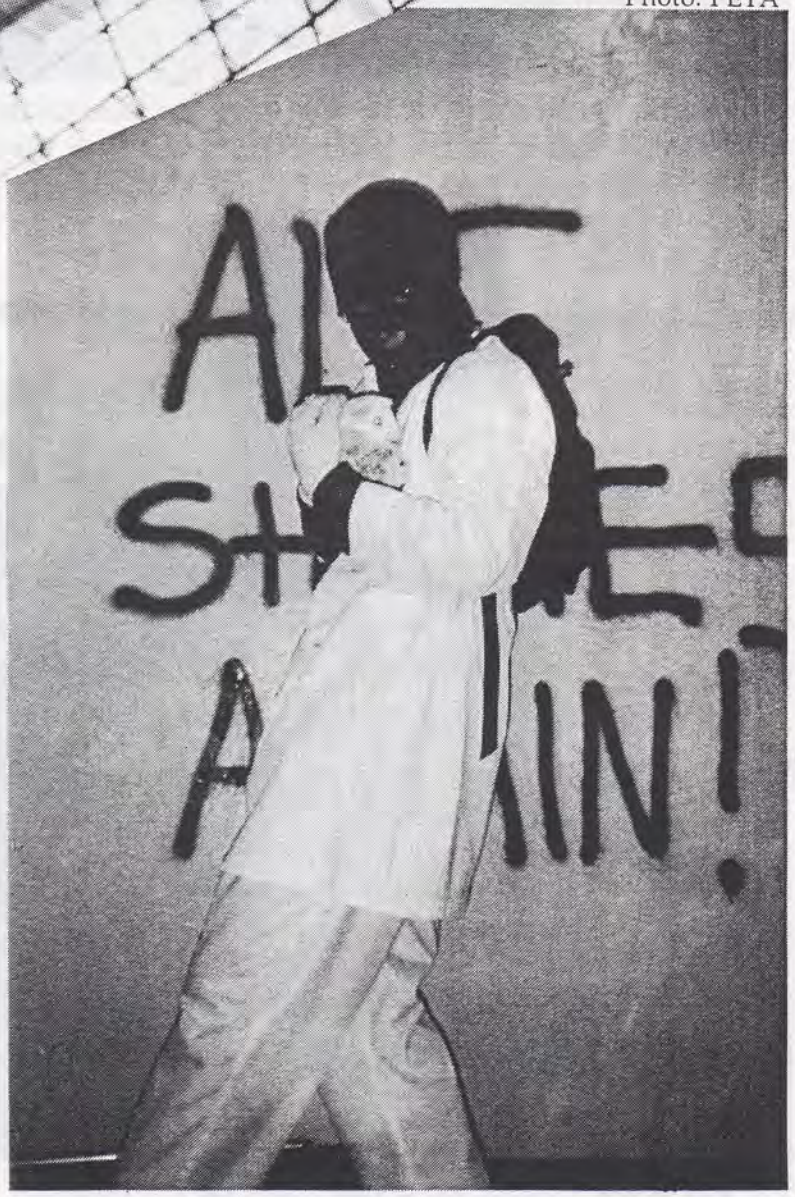


Photo: PETA

Fur farms can still be hit even if a live liberation is not possible at that time. In October through December, the pelting stock (those about to be killed) will be the same size as the breeding stock (those kept to produce more animals). If all of the animals are released into the compound then the fur farmer won't know which are the breeders and which are the pelters. He will have to pelt them all out and spend thousands of dollars on new breeding stock. This is so annoying that sometimes they just give up for good. If anyone uses this tactic, they should make sure every animals cage is opened as it is hard for us to know which shed contains breeders and which doesn't. If a couple of sheds are left untouched, then you might miss the breeding stock completely and the purpose of the hit will not have been achieved.

Non toxic dyes can be sprayed on the animals backs to ruin the economic value of their pelt. This is better than nothing, but as with the last described tactic, the animals will still be killed. The processing room and the feed storage barns can be hit as well. Malecky Mink Ranch in Yamhill, OR was put out of business when the ALF burned down their processing barn. Arson should only be used when it can be guaranteed that the fire will not spead to the sheds the animals are in.

Fur farmers have specialized tractors that dispense feed on top of the cages. These vehicles can be trashed in a number of ways. One easy one is to buy a bottle of muratic acid at the hardware store. This costs about three dollars for one of two gallons. Simply pour it all over the engine and leave.

Your state department of agriculture may have a list of fur farms in your state. You can call and ask and if they ask questions say your a potential fur farmer looking for breeding stock. It may be wiser to contact the Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade. They have a small fur farm list, and while their list may not be complete, at least they won't tell who ordered the lists from them. For security purposes, claim you need the list for research and investigations. Their address is: P.O. Box 40641, Memphis, TN 38174. Try and send $1 to cover postage and printing.

Economic sabotage can also be employed. This simply involves smashing fur shops windows, squirting super glue into the locks, spray painting, filling bell peppers or christmas ornaments with paint and "paint bombing" the building, etc.. To be effective, a place should be hit repeatedly. Every hit causes security to increase so go for maximum destruction.

Always wear masks as most furriers have cameras. Also, all equipment should be wiped with rubbing alcohol and warm soapy water to remove fingerprints. Wear gloves at all times when the hit is in progress. If caught, remember your Fifth Amendment right to silence. Police tell massive lies to make people talk. They try and coerce people by saying "we're trying to help you". They don't care about you so keep quiet at all times. When people narc, they bring the animals down as well bacause that ends an entire ALF cell.

This is how a press release of an action is handled: First off, the press release is written out the way it is dsired. Then it is went over again, looking at the words used because you may not notice it but be- cause it's so normal to you, but other people can look at things you write and pick up on a certain stlye you have. So it is editted and phrases are changed around even if they sound a bit funny, so that it won't look like something you'd say. Then for each letter in the press release, three people are used to write it out. So the first person would write one third of the letter, the top


Photo: PETA

of a T, the second the top part of the line, and the third person would finish it. By doing this, there are three different handwriting styles within, so it can't be traced back to one person. The other option is going to a public typewriter and there's no way to trace that. Then when that's done they might get a copy of it and make sure to have no fingerprints on the final copy. Any-thing with fingerprints gets burned.

Photo: PETA

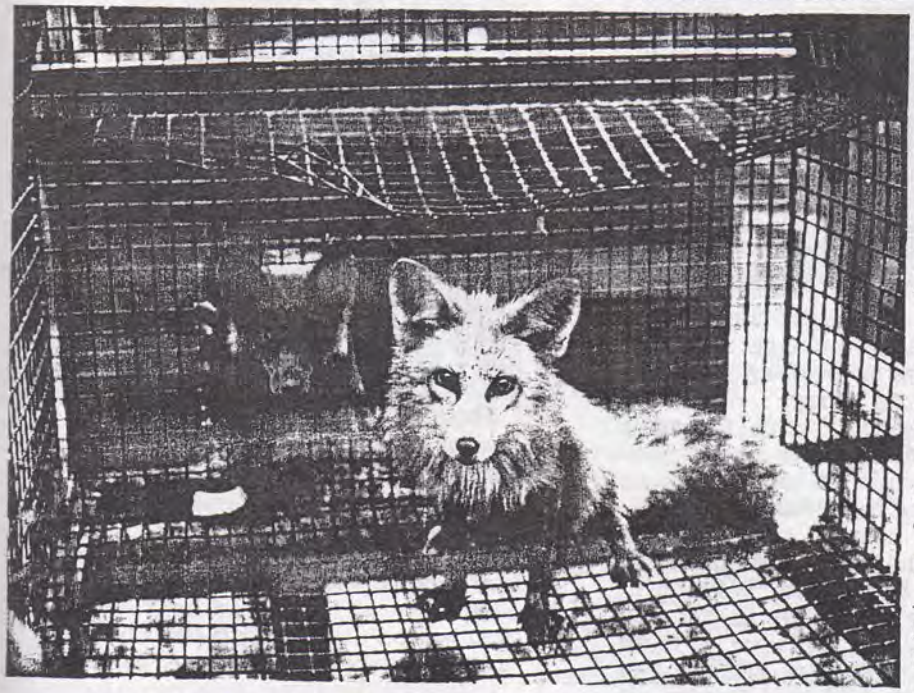


Once it's ready, they would go to the post office and buy a pre-stamped envelope. Ask for it in a waxed en-velope so that gloves don't have to be worn into the post office and finger-prints won't go through the waxed pa-per. So then when they get home they make sure no hair, eye-lashes, etc. falls into the envelope be-cause that can be traced. To seal the envelope, a wet sponge is used instead of licking. Then it is addressed with a public type-writer or the same writing style. The press release is then sent to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. If it is a fur hit it can be sent to the Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade.

Its past time to end the fur trade for good. Let's take to the streets and stop the killing. Action speaks louder than words.

INTRODUCING THE

COALITION TO ABOLISH THE FUR TRADE



27 MILLION DEATHS A YEAR . ALL FOR CONSUMER VANITY AND FUR INDUSTRY PROFITS. THE ANIMALS PICTURED TO THE LEFT WILL SPEND THEIR ENTIRE LIVES INCARCERATED IN TINY CAGES AND THEN BE KILLED BY SUCH MEANS AS GASSING OR ANAL ELECTROCUTION.

HELP US STOP THE SLAUGHTER! JOIN THE COALITION TO ABOLISH THE FUR TRADE. WE WILL SEND YOU ALL OF OUR MAILINGS AND, IF YOU'D LIKE, A LIST OF KNOWN FUR FARMS IN YOUR AREA AS WELL AS SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION.

THE "ACTIVISTS GUIDE TO DEFEATING THE FUR TRADE" BOOKLET IS IN HOT DEMAND AND IS AVAILABLE FOR $2.00

MEMBERSHIP IS $15 A YEAR ($10 FOR STUDENTS)

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ STATE___ ZIP_____

PHONE(OPTIONAL)_____

P.O. Box 40641, Memphis, TN 38174

DIRECT ACTION SAVES LIVES!!

2B DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE, ROCHESTER, N.Y., SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1995

FBI enters probe into local vandalism

By DONNA JACKEL
STAFF WRITER

The FBI is working with local law enforcement officials to solve a campaign of vandalism — apparently conducted by an extremist animal rights group — against three local businesses.

The vandals left similar graffiti at all three businesses — the letters A.L.F., which stand for Animal Liberation Front.

In the latest incident, two Mack trucks were set on fire last week at Conti Packing Co., a meat packing plant at 2299 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Road.

The interiors of the truck cabs were heavily damaged, said Monroe County sheriff's Sgt. Michael Conner. The words "We're just getting warmed up" were spray-painted on a trailer, Conner said.

This was the second time Conti's was vandalized, apparently by animal rights activists. On Dec. 22, the suspects smashed the windows of six trucks and three trailers, causing more than $5,000 in damage at the packing firm.

In November and December, Conti's; Hillcrest Turkey Products, 3808 Rush-Mendon Road, a meat distributor in Mendon; and Berman's Fur Fashions, 2326 Monroe Ave. in Brighton, found their windows smashed and buildings and vehicles defaced with graffiti, causing thousands of dollars of damage.

A.L.F. has claimed responsibility for sending mail bombs in England, Conner said. Published reports say members of the group have also released laboratory animals.

It is because of A.L.F.'s involvement in such acts around the country that the FBI has entered the case, Conner said. A spokesman for the FBI in Rochester declined to comment. ❑

B.C. stores pull turkeys after rat-poison threat

The Canadian Press

Vancouver

Thousands of Christmas turkeys were yanked from Vancouver-area supermarket shelves Friday after an animal rights group claimed it had injected birds with rat poison.

The threat came in a letter on what supermarket brass say is the biggest day of the year for turkey sales. The letter from a group calling itself the Animal Rights Militia was delivered to two chains — Save-On Foods and Canada Safeway — and to media outlets.

A Vancouver police spokeswoman said the group claimed it was acting "in the name of turkey rights, avenging the senseless slaughter of millions of turkeys."

"Attention meat-eating scum," the group's letter begins. "This is no prank. Ignore this warning and you will be accountable. Nobody eats the turkeys, nobody gets hurt."

Canada Safeway spokesman Don Bell said the threat related to turkeys sold in his firm's more than 50 stores in the last week.



Anyone who bought the turkeys can return them and get a refund.

A new supply of turkeys was being offered today.

Greg Smith, Health Canada's regional director of health protection, said no contaminated turkeys had been found so far.

When asked why Health Canada was treating the threat so seriously, he replied: "We have to take it as a serious threat. We don't have any evidence on hand that the birds have either been contaminated or that they're all safe."

HE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Police free three protesters

A trio of fur-industry protesters have been released from custody following a weekend demonstration at an East Memphis mall.

About 50 young people gathered outside Goldsmith's at Oak Court Mall Sunday, bearing posters — and the skinless bodies of foxes which they said had been killed for their furs.

Shawn Shahklin, 18, of 3627 Mallory, was released from the Shelby County Jail on his own recognizance. Two 15-year-old girls were also taken into custody by Memphis police. All were charged with disorderly conduct.

—Rob Johnson

A LOOK AT THE PAPERS

The Second Front

NUVO

NUVO NEWSWEEKLY NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 7 1994

POP CULTURE

LOCAL ANIMAL ADVOCATES PROTEST FUR SALES

Usually the biggest conflict to arise when shopping — especially at the holiday times — is whether you will have the cash needed to pay off the credit card purchases come January.

For some shoppers who took advantage of the "biggest shopping day of the year" — the day after the biggest food consuming day of the year — there was a mild confrontation with anti-fur protesters outside of the Keystone at the Crossing Mall here in Indianapolis.

According to the Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade, about 50 anti-fur protesters showed up as a part of the "dramatic coast-to-coast" action slated for Fur Free Friday in a variety of malls across the U.S.

Fur Free Friday demonstrators tried to protest at Jacobsons, but were escorted by security off the Duke property and out on to the median on Keystone Road — near the Fashion Mall on 86th Street. Duke Properties is the landowner of both the Mall and the adjacent Radisson Suites where a large fur liquidation sale was in progress.

According to an employee of the Elan Furs Store, located in another shopping center on 86th Street, store employees were hoping the fur protesters would come no closer than they already were. Day Furs of Carmel did receive a visit from about 20 demonstrators who relocated from the mall later in the day.

Shane Lamers, a spokesperson for the Indiana Coalition to Abolish Fur Trade, said the chanting, sign holding and leaflet distribution, seemed to irritate some fur customers at the Carmel fur store, as police were dispatched twice to the location during the demonstration.

Fur Free Friday participants were prepared to risk arrest by blockading and attempting to shut down major department stores here in Indianapolis, and in two dozen other U.S. cities because they feel department stores can easily give up the sale of furs without hurting their business.

In reference to the recently publicized arrest of TV talkshow host Ricki Lake and the use of famous fashion models posing nude to promote the fur free message, Lamers put his twist on the popularity of being anti-fur. "Nude models and civil disobedience get the public's attention but it won't do it alone. We want the public to know that (animal) death is not a fashion," he said.

Lamers was prepared to go to jail for the fur free cause and he plans to continue expressing his beliefs about animal abuse just as he does whenever he sees someone wearing fur.

"First, I ask them if they are wearing real fur. Then, if it is real fur, I ask them if they know how the animals die," said Lamers who then describes the animal "concentration camps" complete with animal electrocutions, gassing and neck breaking.

— JENNIFER EVANS

SYRACUSE HERALD-JOURNAL

Anti-fur protest at Carousel Center ends in six arrests

Six fur protesters were arrested Sunday for blocking the entrance to a Carousel Center clothing store that sells furs.

About 30 activists with the Syracuse-based Animal Defense League chanted outside the store before security officers at Bonwit Teller warned them to leave, said group president Kris Qua. Syracuse police arrested the six people who continued to block the entrance.

The people charged with trespassing about noon Sunday were Nicole Rogers, 18, of Liverpool; Denise Lynn, 18, of Syracuse; Sara Rounds, 18, of Syracuse; Danielle Copeland, 18, of Cazenovia; Dan McCallum, 20, of Liverpool; and Bryan Pease, 16, of Liverpool.

They were held in the Public Safety Building until Sunday night, when other activists posted their bail, which was $100 apiece.

— *John O'Brien*

The local Animal Defense League has a membership of about 90 people, most of whom are under the age 25. The group holds protests, passes out leaflets and writes letters on behalf of animals.

League members say they prefer one-to-one conversations and education to confrontation, but that is not always possible.

It was the first time any of them had gone to jail.

The league's activities have intensified in the past year with frequent demonstrations at Georgio's Furs in downtown Syracuse.

League members speculate that if the movement continues to grow, their cause will become the cause celebre of the 1990s, eclipsing the environmental movement and groups like Green Peace.

Friday, December 9, 1994 MOSCOW-PULLMAN DAILY NEWS 10A

Coronado to go free on $700,000 bail

BY KEN OLSEN
Staff Writer

Rodney A. Coronado should be free early next week on bail worth more than $700,000.

A federal judge in Kalamazoo, Mich., set bail this morning, apparently deciding Coronado is a flight risk but is not a threat to the community, according to Coronado's support group. U. S. District Judge Richard Enslen held two hearings Thursday and one today, consulted with attorneys in chambers and listened to testimony from Coronado and his father before making the decision.

Family members will put up the deeds to six houses, with equity worth $680,000, said Ray Coronado III, Rod's brother. The judge also is requiring $50,000 in cash to assure Coronado's appearance at trial, which should be in March or April.

Electronic monitoring and personal monitoring will be required, and Coronado won't be allowed to speak at any rallies, the support group said.

Coronado will be allowed to return to Tucson, Ariz., where he was doing social work with youth on the Pascua Yaqui reservation, Ray Coronado said. But he will not be allowed to leave Pima County, Ariz., "so we'll be spending Christmas in Arizona," Ray said. But "I'm really happy Rod's going to get out."

Two judges in Tucson, where Coronado was arrested in September, refused to set bail. They said they considered Coronado a flight risk because he has used aliases.

The judges also apparently agreed with government arguments that he was a danger to society because of the nature of the charges against him.

A 28-year-old self-described spokesman for animal rights issues, Coronado pleaded innocent to charges of arson, interstate travel to commit arson, extortion, use of fire to commit a felony and possession of stolen property. Those charges stem from the February 1992 firebombing of a mink research laboratory at Michigan State University in East Lansing.

Coronado also is a suspect in the 1991 Animal Liberation Front raid at Washington State University, which did not involve any fires but included $100,000 damage to two U.S. Department of Agriculture offices. Twenty-three animals also were "liberated."

He says threats to his life from the fur industry prompted him to go underground and change his name. His attorneys characterize him as a strident spokesman for animal and environmental issues that is being unfairly targeted by the government.

Mink convention disrupted

Four demonstrators ticketed for trespassing at show

By Mike Flaherty
Wisconsin State Journal

A group of animal rights protesters burst through the doors of the Sheraton Inn in Madison on Saturday in an attempt to get arrested and publicize their opposition to the International Mink Show being held inside.

They were successful.

Four demonstrators were ticketed after handcuffing themselves together and refusing to leave when police arrived and cut their handcuffs.

"I'm against what they're doing, so it's worth getting arrested," said Kiara McFarland Caldwell, Minneapolis, holding a $269 ticket for trespassing.

The Alliance for Animals, a national animal rights group with an office in Madison, arranged a rally of more than 50 activists from cities around the Midwest — Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Chicago, Indianapolis and several smaller cities around Wisconsin — to picket the Sheraton and the gathering there of 250 mink producers from the United States and Canada. "Fur is dead," said one sign.

The rally got tense for a brief period as the group attempted to force its way past mink farmers and hotel security officers into the mink convention.

Bob and Linda Zimbal, mink producers from Oostburg (near Sheboygan), filed a complaint with Madison police charging that one activist lectured their 10-year-old daughter in an elevator and refused to let her leave.

"She was in tears. It's pretty awful if they can come in and intimidate children," said Linda Zimbal, comforting her daughter, Valerie.

"We tried to disrupt their convention," said Freeman Wicklund, Minneapolis, who was also cited for trespassing. "(The mink farmers) need to be held accountable for their actions."

Both Wicklund and Caldwell said they'd been arrested before at animal rights protests.

Inside the hotel, the mink producers said they were used to the group, which regularly protests their meetings.

"They're as predictable as the winter," said Marsha Kelly, a spokeswoman for the mink producers. "I guess the difference is that the group now has to rely on importing people from other cities. Left to their own devices (in Madison), they'd probably only get 10 or 15 people to show up.

"We don't talk to them. I think people are getting tired of having to tolerate other people's extremism."

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation released a statement protesting the group's actions, noting that the groups, including the Alliance and the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (a co-sponsor of the rally), favor treating animals as humans — and are opposed to the use of animals for any type of food, clothing or medical research.

Vandalism blamed on animal-rights militants

Windows broken, graffiti painted at fur, meat businesses

By DONNA JACKEL
STAFF WRITER

Police believe a group of radical animal rights activists is responsible for a rash of vandalism at area businesses during the past month.

Within four weeks, thousands of dollars in damage has been done to a meat processing plant in Henrietta, a meat distributor in Mendon and a fur shop in Brighton. Windows were smashed. Buildings and vehicles were defaced with graffiti.

The letters A.L.F., which investigators believe stands for "Animal Liberation Front," were spray painted at all three incidents:

■ On Nov. 30, "Fur is Dead" and "Stop or be Stopped" were scrawled in black paint along the walls of Berman's Fur Fashion, 2326 Monroe Ave., Brighton. The vandals broke a storefront window with a brick and poured streaks of red paint along the ground, resembling trails of dried blood. An unidentified beige substance was smeared on windows, police said. And on Dec. 22, vandals again threw a brick through a window of the store, damaging a fur coat.

■ Two days after the first Berman's incident, Conti Packing Co., a meat packaging plant at 2299 Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road, was vandalized. The vandal or vandals smashed the windows of seven trucks and three trailers, causing more than $5,000 in damage.

"Meat is murder" and "Veggie power" were painted in green on the trucks and building, along with more threatening messages, such as "Stop or Be Stopped" and "This is Just a Warning," police said. The owners declined to comment.

■ On Dec. 22, vandals also hit Hillcrest Turkey Products, 3808 Rush-Mendon Road, smashing the windshields of two trucks and pouring sugar into both gasoline tanks.

Owner Elena Lombardo said she is not sure whether the sugar destroyed the engines, which are worth a total of about $35,000. "Meat is murder" and "We're going to come back to get you and your turkeys" was painted on the trucks and the sides of the building, said Lombardo, adding that she was "devastated" by the vandalism.

Ronnie Poploc, president of Animal Advocates of Upstate New York, a local animal rights group that has peaceably demonstrated outside Berman's for several years, said her group is not involved in the recent attacks.

"We don't break the law. We don't destroy property," said Poploc, who said Animal Advocates has about 400 local members. "I understand the frustration that leads to those tactics, but it's just not our style."

Jenny Woods of the national advocacy group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals said PETA does not "condone or condemn" A.L.F.'s vandalism. A.L.F. is a nationwide group, but members hide their identities. The members sometimes send PETA anonymous communications alerting PETA to their illegal activities, such as breaking into laboratories to get lab animals, Woods said. She said she had not seen any such letters regarding the Rochester-area incidents.

Brighton police Capt. James Cavallaro agreed it is unlikely Animal Advocates vandalized the businesses. That group notifies the police before its marches and demonstrates peaceably, he said.

"For all of a sudden the group to turn militant and start doing damage doesn't make sense to me," Cavallaro said. "The person or persons doing this are obviously a lot more fanatical and willing to break the law to make their point."

Harold Berman, owner of Berman's Fur Fashion, said he is concerned about the violent tactics used against his store.

"I feel they will return and do this again, only because they want the publicity," he said. "They used acid to cut 'A.L.F' into my windows.

"We do not have a right to destroy other people's property, and that's what they're trying to do. Their biggest vehicle is intimidation." ❑

The Militant Vegan - Issue Eight

February 1995

The people at Militant Vegan sent this material to be printed in this issue. Apparently the staff at MV were unable to get issue 8 out in time before one of them moved and another went to Mexico to work with a peasant group. It was put out over internet, but that's all. A reduced group may do # 9 in April/May but it may not be able to continue much longer. There was more material sent, but we didn't count on having the space in here for it. We had to leave out some things to fit these 4 pages in. Hope you like it. -D.I.B.

How did the *Militant Vegan* start?

In 1991-92 the Animal Liberation Front had done a series of raids on the fur trade, and they got little to no coverage in the movement or mainstream press. Also, those years were kind of a lull for the movement in general, and we wanted to help get things going again. The first one came out right after New Year's in 1993. It was a big success right away, so we've kept it up since then.

Why is every issue so short?

Most of the distribution is done not by us, but by grassroots activists all over. The 12 page limit keeps xeroxing costs down. We do pack a lot of info in each one.....

How do you manage that distribution?

We mail it out to groups and people who xerox copies and sell them to raise money for their groups, events, etc. Right now we need more distribution in Texas, the Rocky Mountain States, the Plains states, Chicago, Detroit, the Deep South except for Tennessee, and upper New England. The circulation is getting into several European countries as well.

What should the movement concentrate on in 1995?

The fur trade must be confronted with more force, it's a battle that has gone on far too long and it's time to put a stop to their killings once and for all. More generally, the meat and dairy industries are responsible for most of the animal suffering in the U.S., so the pressure against those industries must continue to increase.

Internally, we're seeing the big groups from the 80's like PETA go mainstream, with huge memberships and increasing influence. We should all support that necessary aspect of the fight to save animals, but the real task for all of us is to strengthen the growing grassroots movement. Ideally, vegans in every city should set up a group that maintains contacts and coordinates campaigns with others around the country. Aggressive campaigns and stylish, innovative approaches can win over young activists and set the stage for more to come. The Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade, Vegan Action, and SOAR are all good examples of radical groups started in the past year.

Won't the government crack down on activists, like they did with Earth First!?

It is inevitable that the FBI, local police, and private security agencies will spy on, and in some cases seek to disrupt the movement. People should read books on the subject and be prepared. That said, most people will never be bothered and fear of the government must not be a damper on our actions to stop cruelty to animals.

Since you mentioned Earth First! as an example, we'd like to add our opinion that they sort of boxed themselves in for a crackdown and an internal collapse by a combination of infighting, irresponsible rhetoric, and an attitude that cut them off from the majority of people. If the animal liberation movement continues to support different levels of activity, and maintains its image as highly ethical, responsible, and positive, then we will have the numbers and public support to prevent or lessen the effects of FBI activity. The critical difference between positive radicalism that is inclusive and constructive and the anti-social nihilism of some movements is the difference between whether we remain in the fringes, like Earth First!, or succeed in making our radical message accepted, like the gay/lesbian movement has done over the past decade.

What about direct action and the ALF?

We can't encourage crime in this magazine, but its possible that daily attacks on furriers along with well-directed strikes against key points in the industry could put the fur trade under, like the British ALF did in the late 80's. Actions against the meat trade increase awareness of the barbaric conditions farm animals suffer under and are a warning to the butchers of what will come in the future.....

DIARY OF ACTIONS

Please Note: The Diary of Actions is intended to report the news of direct action to save animals, not to encourage crime. All reports come from other publications, the internet, or communiques sent to animal rights groups.

As we reported in the last issue, it seems that the Animal Liberation Front, which made headlines in the 1980's with scores of lab break-ins in California and the east coast, has changed tactics and spread to many other areas of the U.S.

Since around the middle of 1993, a flood of small actions concentrated against the meat and fur trades have taken place at the rate of 8-15 a month. A state/province breakdown for 1994 alone from reported actions is as follows:

Arizona: At least 1 action. Unclaimed.
Arkansas: 2+. Animal Liberation Front active.
British Columbia: 6+. ALF, Animal Rights Militia active.
California: 77+. ALF, ALF Stockton Unit, ALF Golden Gate Unit, ALF Southland Unit, ALF November 26 Cell, Crustacean Liberation Front, Farm Animal Revenge Militia active.
Colorado: 3+. Paint Panthers active.
District of Columbia: 5+. ALF U.S. Congressional Cell active.
Georgia: 1+. Unclaimed.
Indiana: 3+. ALF active.
Illinois: 1+. Paint Panthers active.
Kentucky: 1+. Unclaimed.
Maryland: 9+. ALF U.S. Congressional Cell active.
Michigan: 1+. Unclaimed.
Minnesota: 7+. ALF active.
Missouri: 2+. Paint Panthers active.
Nebraska: 1+. Paint Panthers active.
New Jersey: 2+. Unclaimed.
New York: 10+ ALF, Paint Panthers active.
Ohio: 6+. ALF, Paint Panthers active.
Oregon: 1+. ALF active.
Pennsylvania: 6+. ALF active.
South Dakota: 2+. Unclaimed.
Tennessee: 11+. ALF active.
Utah: 3+. Vegan Revolution active.
Washington: 3+. Paint Panthers active.
Wisconsin: 5+. ALF active.
location unspecified: 2.
Totals: At least 171 actions in 23 states, D.C., and 1 province.

This increase in actions since mid 1993 corresponds to an increase in actions across Europe, which has seen numerous arsons, break ins, and smaller attacks across the continent, and in England, where the already high level of actions increased with tens of millions of pounds of damages and scores of bombings and arson attacks in 1994.

News and Comment

More than anything else, the story of the animal liberation movement over the past year has been the phenomenal growth of radicalism among young people across the country. New grassroots groups barely a year old like Vegan Action, Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade, and SOAR set the pace of the movement and have inspired a level of activity not seen since the mid 80's, if ever. Now the second wave of this new activism has begun with the formation of even newer groups like the Animal Defense League in New York and SEAL in Ohio. The interest in animal protection among college students and teenagers is skyrocketing, promising a brighter future for animals in the years to come. Far from the media-created stereotypes of young people as "slackers" and apathetic potheads, these new activists are among the best and brightest of our generation. And believe it, we've only just begun!

It's not our intention here at the *Militant Vegan* to cut down anyone who works for animals. But it has to be said that grassroots activism for animals declined in the early 90's, even as interest in animal rights increased. Why? because groups which led the movement in the 80's, like Last Chance for Animals and IDA, lost their sense of urgency and direction, sunk into ritual protests, spent too much time on costly lawsuits and neither-here-nor-there issues like pet theft, and therefore ceased to attract and inspire the huge numbers of people who became concerned about animals. We can all learn from this, and keep our activism stylish, innovative, ever-creative, and committed to increasing the number of vegans and the number of activists.

We encourage everyone out there to write to and donate to these new groups, and learn from them how easy it is to set up an active group in your city or state. We've made a lot of progress, but many states still have no regular groups, protests, or actions. You and your friends can accomplish so much, so give it a try!

Fur Free Friday on November 25 saw the most radical day of protest against the fur trade yet, bringing new energy to a ritualistic event which has accomplished little in the past few years. Groups of people blocking store entrances and occupying fur salons were met with riot police, helicopters, and paddy wagons as around 50 people were arrested in about 25 actions in the U.S. and Canada.

The arrests included 5 in San Francisco, 4 in Memphis, 4 in Atlanta, 7 in Minneapolis, 8 in Washington, D.C., 3 in Virginia Beach (although they were not charged afterwards,) 2 in Albany, NY, 1 in Columbus, OH, and 1 in New Orleans. Perhaps the most effective action was in Newport Beach, CA, where 48 people sat down in the fur salon of Nieman Marcus and blocked it for 30 minutes before the police arrived. Media coverage was heavy, including CNN. The event was sponsored by CAFT (see address on inside cover,) The National Activist Network (PO Box 19515/ Sacramento/ CA 95919,) Animal Defense League (address below,) SOAR (235 CMU/ 300 Washington AVE. SE/ Minneapolis, MN 55455,) Orange County People for Animals, and several others.

Three days later, activists in Minneapolis dumped animal carcasses outside Dayton's, which sells fur, to highlight the brutality of the fur trade. Two activists were arrested as the action brought shocked reactions from passerby and heavy media coverage.

A similar action was done by the Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade in Memphis on January 8 after CAFT members obtained skinned fox carcasses from an Arkansas fox farmer who went out of business. When activists arrived at Goldsmith's, a department store which sells fur, police were waiting in force. Three women who ran up and dumped foxes in front of the store were tackled by the police and arrested. Two others were cited, and protesters on the sidewalk showed two dead foxes to tv crews.

Activists from across the Midwest raided the International Mink Farmers' Convention in Madison, WI, on January 7. As a large crowd demonstrated outside, 30-40 activists stormed into the room where 60 fur farmers were meeting. The fur farmers attacked the crowd, and the two sides chanted back and forth at each other during the scuffling. Three activists who chained themselves to a stairwell were arrested, and one of them had her wrist fractured by the police, who violently dispersed the crowd. The disruption of the convention, which is the main yearly event for the fur farm industry, was sponsored by Alliance for Animals, CAFT, and SOAR.

Two hunt saboteurs from the Fund for Animals may be charged under the new federal "hunter harassment" law after a protest at the Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts in November. Mike Markarian and Todd MacDonald tried to convince hunters killing Chinese pheasants to stop, and Markarian was hit with a rifle butt and threatened. The activists will try to file charges against the hunter while they wait to see what they themselves will be charged under. Contact: Fund for Animals/ 850 Sligo Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910.

In a blatant protection of animal abuse, on January 9 the Supreme Court let the ruling of a Montana court stand in defense of that state's "hunter harassment" law, even though it bans speech on public lands by those who protest against hunting. With legal ways of protest shut off, activists may now find no other way to stop the killing than to sabotage hunting vehicles, shops, and equipment.

After months of work, Vegan Action in Berkeley, CA got UC Berkeley to agree to serve vegan food at every dormitory meal. Berkeley is the first large university to adopt a vegan policy, and the victory reflects the enormous interest that young people have in animal issues and veganism. The campaign received heavy local news coverage last fall, and Vegan Action looks set to become the leading vegan issues group in North America. For information on running a campus campaign, information on going vegan, or a mailorder of diverse titles, send a SASE +2 stamps to Vegan Action/ PO Box 4353/ Berkeley, CA 94704-0353. Yearly membership is $15, and we highly recommend donations to one of the best animal rights groups around.

Indiana and Ohio activists have been busy putting pressure on the fur and meat industries, with several militant protests a month. Contact: SEAL/ PO Box 2611/ Dayton, OH 45401, and Animal Defense League/ PO Box 30214/ Indianapolis, IN 46230.

On December 10, 6 members of the Animal Defense League were arrested while blocking the entrance to the Bonwit Teller department store, which sells fur. 24 people blocked the door until the police arrived. The Animal Defense League is one of the best up-and-coming groups, so contact them at PO Box 6845/ Syracuse, NY 13217 or PO Box 66302/ Albany, NY 12206.
Dressed in Black, is available from the Syracuse address for $1.50.

Prisoner Support

Rod Coronado was bailed out in December, and returned to the Yaqui reservation in Tucson. His trial will start in the spring for the February 1992 ALF raid at Michigan State, so send donations and write him at Rod Coronado Support Committee/ PO Box 1891/ Tucson, AZ 85702.

Lise Olsen has been moved to a new address. Write her at Lise Olsen B48426/ PO Box 1200/ Dixon, IL 61021.

Darren Thurston was released from jail in Canada in January.

International prisoners would love to hear from you; two stamps will cover air mail.

Keith Mann was sentenced to 14 years in jail, the longest ever sentence for an ALF activist. See his statement later in this issue and write him at Keith Mann EE3588/ HMP Wandsworth/ PO Box 757/ 23 Heathfield Road/ Wandsworth, London SW18 3HS ENGLAND.

Angie Hamp was recently sentenced to 4 years for ALF actions, write to her at Angie Hamp TW1687/ HMP Holloway/ Parkhurst Road/ Holloway/ London N7 0NU ENGLAND.

Gurjeet Aujla is awaiting trial for "conspiracy to cause explosions," write him at Gurjeet Aujla HV 2047/ HMP Birmingham/ Winson Green Road/ Birmingham/ B18 4AS ENGLAND.

Allison McKeon RE2370/ HMP Askham Grange/ Askham Richard/ York/ Y02 3PT ENGLAND.

Max Watson BJ2477/ HMP Haverigg/ Haverigg Camp/ Millom/ Cumbria/ LA18 4NA ENGLAND.

Terry Helsby EF0761/ HMP Risley/ Warrington Road/ Risley/ Warrington/ WA3 6BP ENGLAND.

Dave Callender HV3314/ HMP Birmingham/ Winson Green Road/ Birmingham/ B18 4AS ENGLAND.

Greg Avery HV3313/ HMP Birmingham/ Winson Green Road/ Birmingham/ B18 4AS ENGLAND.
The above two are new prisoners awaiting charged of conspiracy to cause criminal damage. Two others, Colin Chatfield and Annette Tibbles, will be near release by the time you read this.

A Statement From Keith Mann

As you'll probably be aware by now, on the 19th of December I was sentenced to a total of 14 years at the Old Bailey having pleaded guilty previously to a number of offenses. I'll explain how this came about in a moment, I'll have to go over some old ground which has been briefly reported herein so you'll have to excuse me if I repeat myself. The whole story does now need to be explained so it's fully understood what happened here.

It all started to go to pot in October 1991 when, as a result of a number of arson attacks on lorries [English term for trucks/vans - ed.] in the Kent area, police attached themselves to me and my codefendent in that case, Vivien Smith. Their information led them to suspect that we were about to attack a fleet of lorries at the Stonegate farmers battery farm at Stelling Minnis. Surveillance of our movements and at the farm gave them a good idea what we were planning and they lay in wait. "Farm" isn't really the best description of a place that keeps one hundred and fifty thousand hens in cages but that's what they call it. They also have a fleet of eleven lorries on site, and the night we went to try and straighten matters out a touch they were there unloading the cages of their disturbed inmates and sending them off to be slaughtered. It was bad enough having chosen to sit there this night watching all this happening but the situation deteriorated even further when we realized the police were there too-watching us watching them. It was one of those nights when things didn't seem quite right from the offset, it didn't help that there was this gang of thugs terrorizing chickens but something else wasn't quite right, we were at odds over whether or not to go ahead with plans and stayed there for an hour and a half weighing things up. It was the behavior of the bird catchers that made up our minds-pure anger at the sight of upturned birds being manhandled and making the sort of noises they make when things aren't good sealed it. Had this business not been happening that night we'd likely have come back another time. Because it was or rather because these people were on site we didn't want to risk them discovering our devices before they went off. We were using candles as the fuse and would possibly attract attention while they flickered on the seats of the lorries so we opted for a maddy: we'd bypass the fuse and instead light the sponges, which were attached to plastic bottles full of petrol, and petrol bomb each lorry in quick succession, taking the windows out with a spring loaded center punch. Before they worked out what was happening their fleet would be alight and we'd be off. Everything was in place with a device by each vehicle awaiting launch when I spotted two people who shouldn't be watching me. Viv was on a hill overlooking the area in contact through a two way radio, and we established that it was time to leave-things definitely weren't right now. We legged it back to our vehicle and made off but were quite soon joined by several others in pursuit, we were blocked in a country lane by two cars but Viv managed to outmaneuver them and a five mile chase followed. Eventually they forced our car to a stop, and we both alighted. Viv was pounced on there but I made off over the fields and far away. A few hours later I was arrested when I ran back into them at our safe house which never really was.

We were initially charged with a conspiracy to cause arson between January and October of that year, including all the incidents in Kent through that period. This was on the basis that similar devices had been used at all but one of these attacks. We were remanded in custody and after the usual palaver in the magistrates court we reached the committal stage and called the forensic witness to court to explain how he could tell that all these devices (most of which were remnants) were made by the same hands. He couldn't. Although they were similar, so many have been used elsewhere and there was no way to proving beyond doubt that they were made by us. The prosecution then offered to drop the conspiracy plea for a plea of guilty to attempted arson. Given that we were going to be convicted of at least that at trial it seemed the best option available. We'd been under observation throughout, Viv was nicked in the area and I reeked of petrol when I was arrested so we would have been pushing our luck to fight it.

At Maidstone Crown Court in June 1992 Viv was sentenced to six years for attempted arson, at least that's what we pleaded to; the judge was obviously sentencing her for something more. He gave her some extra time for having four years previously and not learning her lesson [Smith was convicted in 1987 of conspiring to place incendiary devices in stores which sold fur -ed.]-that there are laws in place to protect the unacceptable violence of the underworld of animal abuse. Six years he thought would sort her out because he's in a different atmosphere and missed the point entirely. She spent two and a half years in Holloway and was eventually allowed out to go to college around the time she was told that the appeal court thought that 6 years was acceptable. She went out one day and hasn't been seen since. And the best of luck wherever you are and whatever you are doing.

My sentence at Maidstone was deferred because during the time I was held in Kent I was arrested by Manchester police who had an intensive surveillance operation ongoing throughout the North-West during 1991. My sentence was to wait until the conclusion of the Manchester trial. They charged me with incitement to commit arson/incitement to commit criminal damage between December 1, 1988 and October 15, 1991; criminal damage to lorries at a slaughterhouse in June 1991 and arson to a rabbit farm in January 1991. Nine others were charged with a combination of some of these and other offenses. This provided the Manchester Conspiracy which has been covered in the [English] ALF Supporters' Group newsletter previously and will be in more detail at a later date. These charges were altered several times before they best fit into the available evidence, and as that went so did the charges, not unreasonably. The first to go was the rabbit farm charge, that went at committal when the police turned up suggesting that they had found one bit of dubious evidence they had somewhere-they hadn't found it.

The incitement charges against me were the base around which the general conspiracy against all of us fell together. They consisted of a number of TV interviews I'd done, items I'd put together for *Arkangel*, documents and photographs I had in my possession and the suggestion that I was going to distribute nine copies of *Into the 90's With the ALF*. The theory was that I'd incited the others charged with me to do all kinds of stuff which we were now charged with in part. To quote the committal papers: "It was a continuing campaign, as on occasion was clearly stated. It started in December 1988 when incendiary devices were placed in several department stores. Having successfully decimated the fur trade by their unlawful acts, their attention turned to meat manufacturers, meat wholesalers, and the meat retail business. This case is concerned with damages to those businesses on a massive scale."

To prove my handwriting was mine they used some interesting examples: two sets of papers I'd written on at different DHSS offices when claiming social security, a complaint I'd signed for the Police Complaints Authority over a number of arrests I'd been subject to which went nowhere, and a custody record I'd signed. Also a letter I'd written to a friend which they recovered from his house during a root around. Photographs were ordered from newspapers of events they'd covered which were potentially useful for *Arkangel* etc., including attacks on lorries. These were sent to PO Box 87 in Rochdale. This was a mail drop used by numerous groups and the mail was collected by whoever was available. The police set up surveillance cameras in the sorting office and they followed me there on two occasions to prove it was my responsibility and that I must therefore be linked to the ALF and so illegal.

The main video evidence they relied on came from Granada TV. In 1989 they ran a documentary about the ALF entitled "Playing With Fire." This included an interview with four masked men. With the help of a hunt supporter, who said he'd had dealings with me on over a hundred occasions (and so knew me well enough to be able to identify my voice and mannerisms,) two police officers, and a voice expert, I was placed in that interview. The researcher for that documentary, Bary Woods, gave guarantees that the voices would be disguised before the police came calling for the tapes. They weren't.

By the time they'd finished, the unused evidence amounted to one and a half million pages. The pile they used wasn't quite so hefty but the set of six foolscap files that made up one bundle was duplicated at least fifteen times for all defendants and council, then as the charges changed new bundles were introduced. They code named at least ten static observation points on homes and offices in and around Manchester, used mobile ones, listening devices,

and vehicle tracking devices. It was a long and involved police inquiry code named "operation lance." It was designed to become a show trial to several defendants leading to exemplary sentences, but things didn't go quite to plan.

I'd been in custody for twenty months when I was again arrested by Greater Manchester Police, this time in Walton prison two months after a visitor was found to be carrying out papers I handed over which were inciting. They wanted to charge me further so off we went to Stretford police station so I could be charged with attempted incitement. Later that day they proposed to take me to the central detention center for court the next day. I was escorted to the "secure yard" outside the station to the van. While PC Smith reached for the van's doors holding one arm I turned on him and reached for the top of the gate enclosing the yard that was ten feet in height. I don't know exactly what PC Smith was doing but I was over the top before it ocurred to him that it was remotely possible he'd lost his prisoner.

Ten months later we were traced to an animal sanctuary in East Sussex, Angela Hamp was at large too, having absconded in April 1992 facing a number of charges in different courts. We lived and worked at the sanctuary. During their trawl of the place they uncovered yet more of my bright ideas for tormenting bullies (i.e. people who bully animals:) hit lists, components for making incendiary and explosive devices (weed killer being the closest to explosive,) a police scanner, and a voice changer-all things which look bad when put together in one place with us in our situation. The Crown said for the benefit of the Manchester trial judge that I have "an obsessive and morbid fascination" for economic sabotage and other such civilized activity. I was alone in being charged with possession of explosive substances under suspicious circumstances.

The trial judge in Manchester was an unpleasant individual named Alliot, he was obviously hand picked for the job as being the most unsuitable from our point of view: when he was at Oxford, he used to be a Master of Beagles, now he hunts and shoots and farms sheep. Earlier on in the case the trial date was arranged so he could be home for lambing. As if that wasn't enough he made his feelings known in no uncertain terms during an IRA trial he did in October 1994. An IRA defendant was questioning someone from MI5 [British anti-terrorist police -ed.] about their future now that there's no future for them in Northern Ireland. Before he was able to answer, Alliot did: "I can make a suggestion; the Animal Liberation Front need a good deal of attention. That s my next major trial." Clearly, he's preoccupied and not the man for the job. He was infuriated that the appeal court saw fit to release Clare Rush to be with her baby after he sent her to prison for two years, just a year after she gave birth and had admitted having caused fourteen thousand pounds worth of damage to shop windows. Because that's the kind of guy he is. He also made it clear he was keen to have me hung should I be recaptured, whether or not I was convicted of anything. At the end of what was left of the Manchester trial he gave out sentences of between two and three and a half years.

Under the circumstances you would expect to be able to apply to a higher authority and have the judge replaced, but the options I was given were to either put up with him or ask him to agree that he was out of order and step down. He was asked to declare his interest in animal abuse and to go away but predictably refused to comply. The only choice I had then was to refuse to have any further part to play in the trial due to the obvious bias of the judge. Only Alliot was happy to go ahead with the trial regardless, even the prosecution were against the idea of a trial lasting between two and four months with no defendant present. They were offering a deal whereby, if I pleaded to possession of explosive substances under suspicious circumstances, attempted incitement, damaging three lorries, and escaping lawful custody they'd drop the incitement and conspiracy charges and the judge would be replaced for sentencing. This really wasn't much of a deal but all things considered it was as good as it was going to get. To run a trial on outstanding charges and probably further allegations wasn't an option. It was an impossible situation, the most difficult decision I've ever made. By pleading guilty as opposed to being convicted a third is cut from the projected sentence.

The replacement judge in court at the Old Bailey on December 19th was Mr. Stephen Mitchell, a "fair man," I was told. Towards rapists maybe. He was given a copy of *Naked Empress* to look at so he under stood a bit of what bothers me. The book has been a great motivating influence on me and it moves most people who dare look, but the judge clearly wasn't affected. He was provided with a collection of character references and a probation report which countered the police line that I'm a raving lunatic. The probation officer I was interviewed by thought six years would be about right, the screws in court thought seven or eight after they heard all the evidence, mitigation, etc. Mr. Mitchell thought differently. I was given six years for attempted arson, four concurrent for causing six thousand pound damage to three lorries, three years for attempted incitement, two concurrent for escaping, and five years for possession of explosive substances. I asked him when he'd finished if he was going to do the animal abusers next, but he didn't commit himself. Alliot's clerk was in court to relay the good news back ASAP: and they call me obsessed.

It is ironic that for all their efforts all the Greater Manchester Police got out of me from the original indictment were the lorries. All told, in the time I was on remand I was acquitted at one trial of riot and had several others dropped through lack of evidence: conspiracy to cause arson, inciting arson, inciting criminal damage, conspiracy to cause criminal damage, and criminal damage. The prosecution called me the leader of the ALF, and even though they got Ronnie Lee on that one in 1987 to justify giving him ten years, the judge accepted that there is no such thing. He instead described me as a dedicated ruthless, full time activist, "a determined and therefore dangerous fanatic." Determined and therefore dangerous, eh?

I haven't been sentenced so much for the offenses to which I pleaded guilty as for the things the police said I did, and planned to do, for the benefit of like minded activists. Well, good. I've never thought that there were enough hours in the day to make such an impact, hence my desire to distribute information and incite others, but clearly we are having the desired effect. In theory at least, this sentence is intended to deter others, but in practice it is only going to have the opposite effect, if the feedback I've heard is any indication. I don't have any regrets for trying to do what I did, evidently it has hit home. Although the animal abuse in itself should be enough it would be comforting to see a deeper level of anger generated by yet another attack on our movement.

In reality, although some may rejoice, the authorities are well aware that deterrent sentences don't deter; look at the IRA. It seems likely that the current climate in Northern Ireland has some relevance here; the intelligence services-MI5 for example-are well aware that without a terrorist threat there will be job cuts. They've laid the groundwork by calling us terrorists and trying to link us to the IRA. Now, hot on the heels of their cease fire the ALF have two category A prisoners and a fourteen year sentence is considered necessary to counter the threat. Its an unfortunate coincidence that activity against the abusers has been destined to increase for some time anyway. "Special Branch officers have told farmers and hauliers not to talk about the increasingly serious attacks-they've imposed a news blackout on attacks," reported the Observer on the 18th of December. There has long been an air of expectation that vivisectors would soon start to expire, its irrelevant that some within the security forces would like it to happen so they can justify their existence. Because it will happen sooner or later whatever they do, and we have to be prepared to suffer and sacrifice a great deal more before they'll leave the animals alone. Victims of our own success.

I was in jail on the 18th of December and so on the 20th nothing's changed-it just happens that I've now got an idea of when I'll be let out. The most important thing now is that the threat is ignored and the underlying message heeded. The powers of darkness are desperate to put a stop to our onslaught into civilization; we must be on the right track if they are so keen to interfere. So stoke the fire, turn up the heat, and let there be light. I'm going to have a quiet night in. I am going to appeal the sentence, and although I'm not expecting any joy stranger things have happened. Love and respect, Keith