LIBERATE!

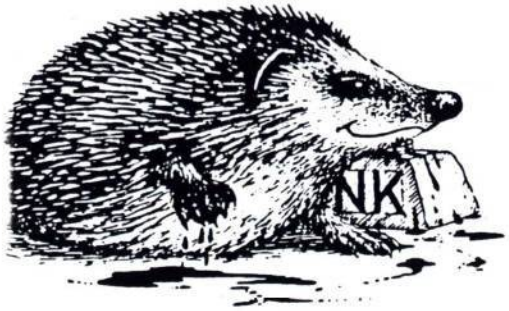
The Magazine of Grassroots Animal Activists ISSUE #5 MAY 97'

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IN THIS ISSUE

- **NZAVS RELAUNCHED IN CHRISTCHURCH ! !**
- **World Day for Laboratory Animals: Riot Police at Wellington Anti-Vivisection Demo**
- U.S. FUR WARS
- How to hand rear an orphaned Possum
- **THE MYTH OF NON-VIOLENCE**



WELCOME!

Disclaimer

The views expressed within do not necessarily reflect the views of Auckland Animal Action, the producers of the magazine or any other group or organisation.

Contributions

The deadlines for submissions for the next three issues are:

June 16, August 17 , October 17

You can send submissions in writing or on 3.5" MSDOS formatted floppy disk (Text or Word format OK).

Magazine Production

Layout & Collation: Dee
Art: Jeff

Financial Help

Thanks heaps to Betty Rowe

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

NEWS AND INFO

Local News 3-4
Group Reports 5-7
NEWS - Animal Rights news from overseas 16-17

REGULARS

Practical Hints for Animal Activists
Hand-rearing orphaned possum's 19-20
Letters from Readers 25
Readers Rants
Grrr... 26
Violence is Wrong 27
Drawing the Lines 28
Why Vegan? Why Straightedge? 29
Did You Know this was Vegan? 30
Contacts 31

ARTICLES

World Day for Laboratory Animals 8-9
Ridgeways Circus : A Death Camp for Chimps 10-11
Marineland - NZ's Dolphin Prison 12
Fur Wars - U.S. activists battle to end the fur trade 13-15
The ALF, Animal Rights, the Media and YOU 18
Total Non-Violence - is it a realistic approach 21-24

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"It's time to kick ass and chew bubblegum - and I'm all out of gum"

- DUKE NUKEM

HELLO THERE,

i CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THIS iS ISSUE fiVE, ALREADY! LOTS OF OVERSEAS NEWS THIS iSSUE, MAiNLY CAUSE OF WORLD DAY FOR LAB ANiMALS WHiCH SAW MAJOR RiOTS HAPPEN OUTSiDE ViViSECTION PLACES ALL ROUND THE WORLD - THE RiOT POLiCE EVEN TURNED UP TO A WELLINGTON DEMO! ALSO THE FUR WARS ARE HEATING UP iN THE U.S. WITH HEAPS OF ACTiViSTS JAiLED AND ON HUNGER STRiKES. TONY WONG IS NOW FREE YAHOO YOU MADE IT DUDE! ! AWESOME - TONY WONG A 16 YR OLD ACTiViST WAS PLACED IN A BOYS SCHOOL 'INDEFiNiELY' FOR CHAiNING HiMSELF TO A FUR SHOP, AND DID THE LONGEST HUNGER STRIKE OF ANY U.S. ACTIVIST EVER, EVENTUALLY BEING FORCE FED, HE NEVER GAVE IN! A TRUE VEGAN WARRIOR

DUCK SHOOTiNG SEASON IS UPON US AGAiN ACTiViSTS FROM MAJOR CiTiES WILL BE TRYiNG TO GET OUT ON THE LAKES AND SAVE SOME LiVES AND EVERYONES HELP iS NEEDED. ALSO, I HOPE PEOPLE ARE INSPIRED BY ALL THE OVERSEAS NEWS CAUSE A HUGE PRO-VIVISECTION CONFERENCE IS COMING TO AUCKLAND IN SEPTEMBER AND WE ALL HAVE TO BE READY TO GET INTO ACTION. BE THERE OR BE SQUARE! DEE

LOCAL NEWS

NZAVS RELAUNCHES!!

by Phil Clayton, National Secretary, NZAVS

In 1995, the New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society (Inc.) began winding-down due to a lack of enthusiasm for the often tedious work involved in running a national organisation.

NZAVS, founded in 1978 by Bette Overell, was the only New Zealand voice calling out for abolition of vivisection on the grounds of scientific fraud. For 15 years the Society organised protests, held stalls/displays, distributed information (such as Slaughter of the Innocent, computer software, Hidden Crimes videos etc.), and publicly supported activists such as the ALF. The Society showed up the conventional channels as being protectors of vivisection with its two petitions to Parliament, the second gaining over 100,000 signatures. The government response was to issue its policy prior to the farcical hearing of the Petition to Abolish Vivisection. That policy was in the form of a MAF co-published booklet Animal Research Saves Lives. In 1993 NZAVS published the rebuttal ANIMAL RESEARCH T A K E S LIVES - Humans and Animals BOTH Suffer. Bette Overell's 368-page book demolished all the vivisection industry's claims using scientific arguments provided by doctors and scientists and even vivisectors themselves.

While in the wind-up process NZAVS received news of a generous legacy from Australian member Mrs. Isla Dight. With the Christchurch Anti-Vivisection Campaign becoming established in the South Island, it was decided that the regionally-based organisation be, in effect, expanded. The advantages of modern technology and the reputation of an internationally-acclaimed group, together with the advantages in being able to secure some stability by purchasing premises for a permanent (until vivisection is abolished!) office for NZAVS made it too good an opportunity to pass up.

NZAVS will now be operating from Christchurch and will support activists promoting the scientific arguments against vivisection nationwide. We will be launching the NZAVS world wide web site on World Day for Laboratory Animals, issuing regular newsletters, and acting as information and resource distributors for both activists and the general public. The foundation-stone of NZAVS, its abolitionist policy will remain unchanged.

Contact details for NZAVS will be available shortly, in the meantime use the following:

New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society (Inc.)
PO Box 22-076
CHRISTCHURCH
e-mail: phil@ch.planet.gen.nz
Membership is $15 per financial year.

EASTER SHOW RODEO

This year the Auckland Easter Show invited a fully fledged Rodeo to attend its annual event. Rodeo is an out-dated and barbaric form of 'entertainment'. Rodeo's are actually banned in the UK (since 1934), parts of Europe and even some US states. Why? Because of the cruelty that is involved.

Various groups contacted the Easter Show to complain about the presence of the Rodeo. Save Animals From Exploitation (S.A.F.E.) was present outside the Rodeo daily handing out leaflets about the cruelty involved with Rodeo's and asking people not to attend or support the event. Most of the public who were spoken to agreed that the Rodeo was a cruel and unnecessary thing to have at the Easter Show. Rodeo staff however were very threatening, telling the protesters that they should go home early as they would not want to still be there when the Rodeo finished and the guys had had a few drinks!

The Rodeo actually involved was a particularly barbaric one. In Rodeo the animals do not buck because they are wild - as the rodeo organisers would have people believe - they actually buck because they have straps tied around them that are so tight they are painful. One practice is to tie the strap around the penis or genitals of the animals as this is a particularly sensitive area. Gary Reese, SAFE coordinator was taken round the Rodeo on its first night and claims that this practice of tying straps around the animals genitals was routinely practiced at this rodeo. All the animals he saw were infact having the straps tied around their penises. This rodeo also has steer wrestling at its show, an activity so cruel and stressful on the animals that it has even been banned in Texas, the home of Rodeo!!

A.A.A. faxed off complaints and several pieces of information about Rodeo's to the Easter show organiser Mr. Kevin Kholmondeley-Smith. In reply A.A.A. received a three page statement from 'Metro Cowboys Association' defending the Rodeo. The statement was to say the least, absurd. For example the Metro Cowboys Association actually claim that "Rodeo saves animal lives!" Apparently sometimes animals destined for slaughter are bought to be used at the Rodeo. Such animals would obviously provide a cheap and inexhaustible supply of animals for the Rodeo. It is logical that the Rodeo would not want to invest in young healthy animals when they can be injured often. The Association also stated that "Rodeo has provided important funds for charity and community groups" and that if Rodeo were cruel then the SPCA would condemn them. They noted that SPCA personnel are present at Rodeos to ensure that the welfare of the animals is looked out for. Several calls were made to the SPCA who **DO NOT** support Rodeo's. Deidre Bourke from A.A.A. rang the SPCA to hear their position. "I was told that the SPCA do not support or condone Rodeo, infact they dislike such practices. I was told that most inspectors actually dislike having to attend such events. They are only present to safeguard the animals welfare as much as they can given that Rodeo are legal in NZ". The Metro Cowboys Association believe that it is false to say that Rodeo perpetuates the idea that animals exist only for human use and abuse. I don't think these guys are living in the same space time continuum as the rest of us if they can't see this one!

RIDGEWAYS CIRCUS

Ridgeways Circus held shows in Auckland at Easter. They appeared at a railside fair. Ridgeways is one of the few animal circuses left in New Zealand (see article page 10-11) and SAFE and CUPA organised a demonstration outside the fair grounds. In general the presence of protesters was understood by people attending the fair, most agreed the circus was deserving of such attention especially once they heard a bit about the circuses history - which is appalling. News media did arrive and talked to SAFE spokesperson Gary Reese for several minutes. Unfortunately they spent the rest of the day talking to the Ridgeway family which led to very biased reporting on TV3 news that evening.

MONKEY KILLED

On the 8th April New Plymouth Police shot and killed the last remaining free Capuchin monkey who had escaped from Brooklyn Park zoo after a hole was cut in their enclosure. Several monkeys escaped; all but one were quickly recaptured. One explanation for the shooting expressed on National Radio was that the monkey had been out of captivity for too long and would not easily re-adjust again to life in the zoo. What an extraordinary reason!!! Perhaps if the zoo had provided a more spacious and natural environment for the monkeys to live then the readjustment needed would not have been so great. Again the animals suffer for bad management and a general lack of concern for animal welfare and suffering. Animal rights organisations have long criticised zoo's for their treatment of animals as mere commodities for human entertainment. Commodities that when cause too much inconvenience or cost are disposed of. The flippant killing of this capuchin monkey seems a prime example of such an attitude. Brooklyn Park zoo is owned and maintained by the local council. Capuchin Monkeys are small monkeys from South America. They have one of the most diversified diets of all monkeys eating fruit, nuts, flowers, leaf buds, stems and insects. There is every possibility that having being freed this little monkey would have survived, especially as local residents would no doubt have left food out for him. There was no immediate welfare threat to the monkey. Local residents informed the zoo of the whereabouts of the monkey, they later expressed regret they had told the authorities.

SWEET REVENGE

April, 97' NZ: A 59 yr. old freezing worker was mauled to death by a dog. He died of serious wounds to the abdomen and neck. So fellow animal murderers could attend his funeral AFFCO's Rangiuru freezing works was closed for the afternoon. Double wammy for the animals!



KAIMANAWA HORSE DEMO

By Mark E Poo

Kaimanawa Horse Action Network (KHAN) with support from animal rights group Wellington Animal Action held a demonstration outside parliament over halting the cull of the Kaimanawa horses. About 100 people were present.

The anti-horse conservation brigade were also present. The BOTSOC (Wellington Botanical Society) had a counter demo with signs saying "shoot the Nags" and "Too much horse shit in the Kaimanawa's" and equally intelligent slogans. A boisterous afternoon insued as the two groups began arguing fiercely. A.R. activists started shouting eco fascist and abusing the BOTSOCs. Everyone joined in and the media swooped on the conflict. Scuffles broke out with media as media pushed in to get their story. One photographer roughly pushing a W.A.A. activist. A man from an iwi whose land the horses are on, started spitting on a reporter. The reporter was actually rather enjoying himself as he had just started a scene for all his media mates.

Just as things calmed down John Banks (a National MP) then came out, grabbing the megaphone and attracting all the media. Parliaments steps were filled with people all arguing and grumbling (BOTSOC vs everyone, reporters vs activists, folks trying to tell other folks not to spit on reporters) Then people realised that John Banks was claiming to be an A.R. activist. People started shouting at Banksey, asking him about his well known homophobia and his equally offensive racist comments. One activist (a vegan animal liberationist who HATES John Banks) suddenly realised he was on national TV vigorously defending John from attack by angry BOTSOC people, and had to run away only to come back when the media had gone and lead a rampaging attack on Banksey who was saved from foul mouthed vegan hooligans by his guards who held people off. When BOTSOC people assembled behind John Banks with their signs, A.R. folks jumped in to block their signs.

Meanwhile the media interviewed BOTSOC who came across as calm and rational - in the background scatter groups of grumpy people hurling abuse at John Banks could be seen. It was all very exciting BUT... The Botsoc dicks were saying the choice was horses or plants, A.R activists responded with 'save the horses' instead of pointing out that both the horses and plants could be saved and DOC were liars. There was a physical fight on the national media between "greenies" and "animal lovers" both single issue groups with no idea of how the media worked or how the state divides groups so it can win. Everyone did exactly what the state and the media wanted. Meanwhile a whole bunch of W.A.A. activists who are into animal liberation and environmentalism (including one who had been arrested with helicopters and police dogs only days before for trying to save the west coast rainforest that was being logged) were off down the road chasing John Banks. Hmmm

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS:

4th May **Duck Shooting Season begins, and lasts until late June**

30th May **World Anti-Fur Day - Fur Free Friday**

4th July **World Day for Captive Dolphins and performing animals**

Group Reports



This space is reserved as a place where Aotearoa's grassroots animal rights groups can have a blurb about what they have been up to lately. We are always keen to hear from new groups active around the country.

AUCKLAND ANIMAL ACTION



PO Box 34-641 Birkenhead, AK.

♦ **LETTERS WORK!!!!!!** When a local Primary school decided to bring Emu from an Emu farm to their school fair AAA faxed them a complaint and threatened protest action if they went ahead. On the day of the fair no Emu were to be seen. The following week letters of apology were sent out to parents of the school. The letter apologised for the absence of the Emu who had been used as a major draw card for the fair - kids come and pet the Emu before we kill them type thing. The school said they had to withdraw the Emu as they had been threatened by an animal rights group with protest action at the school fair. Wahooo!!

♦ **In support of Tony Wong** (see article page 13) about 12 people from AAA turned up outside the American Consulate on Shortland St. in Auckland. The consulate has limited opening hours and were closed when we turned up at 12.30 p.m. The plan was to burn the U.S. Flag but this seemed silly as no-one was there to see us. We remained to hand out leaflets about Tony Wong to people passing by.

♦ **Rodeo & Circus in Auckland.** Easter was a busy time since not only did the Rodeo come to town but the local animal circus also made an appearance at another fair. Seldom does the Rodeo actually come into central Auckland but this year the Easter Show decided to host a Rodeo instead of the usual animal circus. Infact it was through checking out to see if the circus would at the Easter Show this year that we found out about the Rodeo in the first place. Activists spent Easter going between Ridgeways Circus and the Rodeo (see local news). The fact both were going on at the same time unfortunately meant they both got off much too lightly.

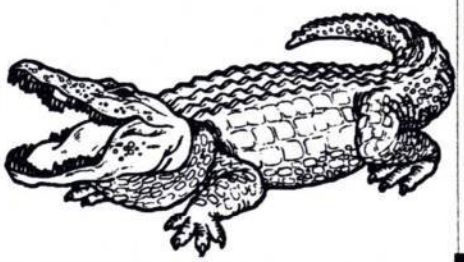
♦ **Supporting the ALF**. The ALF went on the rampage in Auckland recently, destroying the windows of 12 animal abuse establishments in one night and getting much media coverage in doing so. A.A.A. was contacted by media for a response and opinion over the attacks which we were only too pleased to give. Aaron Koolen also went on BFM (the local student radio station) and was interviewed on air about the incident. Initially BFM wanted to hold a debate with one of the butchers who got their windows smashed, but none were willing to make an appearance, saying that they didn't want to give the ALF any more news coverage or publicity than they had already had. The interviewer asked the usual questions - including the compulsory; what would we do with all the animals if people stopped eating meat?!!! The interviewer stated that in using such tactics the ALF was only going to alienate the public and it would definitely not make her more sympathetic to animal rights. This is a typical response, people don't seem to understand what the ALF is trying to do and that it is not about publicity or a protest. Aaron explained that ALF actions are NOT primarily designed to be media stunt, that public opinion was beside the point and probably mattered little to the ALF activists whose main aim is to put economic pressure on abusive businesses with the long term aim of making them so unprofitable that they will shut down. He stated that the ALF's main objective was to try and save animals lives here and now, not wait until public opinion was on side. He also reiterated that no one had ever been physically harmed by the ALF and that the ALF as a policy never harm people or animals in any of their actions. The interview lasted about 1/4 hour.

♦ **60 Minutes** are doing a special on radical animal rights in N.Z. and where the movement is going. They are focusing on the ALF and groups that support them. Deidre Bourke and Aaron Koolen from AAA have been doing interviews with 60 minutes. Everyone watch out for it!

♦ **Gluckman trial - the continuing saga.** Yet more excitement with our lovely justice system. OK the quick recap...last year we leafleted the neighbourhood of a vivisector - Peter Gluckman - and then tried to deliver one to his door. Gluckman wasn't home. His wife was but she didn't come to the door, she immediately rang security who arrived after we had been there about 10 minutes. Security were big and scary and told us to leave or else, so we did. We actually thought we were being very obliging and well wimpy really. Anyway, on the way home police arrested six of us, one a minor was released. The rest of us were taken to the downtown police station. This was where three of us were strip-searched etc. Fun Fun Fun. Five of us are charged with trespass - apparently Mrs. Gluckman yelled "Piss off you Bastards" at us, which is an official asking us to leave and we did not (we didn't at the time decipher the abuse). We have also been charged with intimidation. The intimidation charges were laid afterwards and came quite frankly as a surprise, but the other day one of us received some briefs of evidence from the police and now we know where the intimidation thing is coming from. Seems you can't trust the wives of vivisectors - they lie. We should never have left the security people and her to chat, they have come up with a wild and wonderful dialogue of what we said on the day. Here's a sample excerpt: Frederick KEIL

ALLIGATOR FUN!

Georgia, US: A metre-long wild alligator was observed to spend 45 minutes playing with the drops of water falling from a pipe into a pond, stalking the pipe, snapping at the drops, letting them fall on his snout and then snapping at them in mid-air."



one of the security guards states: "They were yelling out, 'I'm going to fuck'n get you Peter!'...they were yelling out words like 'you fuck'n cunt!'...They said 'We'll be back' and 'We are going to get you Peter.' " The other security guard and Mrs. Gluckman say similar stuff, you get the idea. Now, lets set it straight, we might have said we would be back, but we did not say we were going to 'get him' - that would've silly to say in-front of security! Neither did we use language like 'cunt' I'm sure I would remember. Our trial over the trespass and intimidation charges was scheduled for March 14, but by that time the police were still withholding information regarding their evidence against us. By law they must disclose all information relevant to the case. Three of us filed letters requesting the information, only one received any. They are now saying that they never received the other letters - even though we got replies in the post stating they had been received!! Also our lawyer Colin Amery could not make our case at the last minute as another trial he was doing was dragging on. We therefore asked for the trial to be adjourned for another date. The police were extremely 'agitated' having gotten all their witnesses ready to appear - 6 in total. The officer again offered to let one charge drop if we pled guilty to the other. They don't care which. The police just couldn't keep away from us outside the courtroom constantly trying to persuade us to plead guilty. The prosecuting officer soon sussed out we weren't going to cooperate. Angry that the trial had to be rescheduled he asked the judge to ensure that if it was postponed again that we would incur the costs to the police witnesses.

To put it as nicely as possible, the judge we got on the 14th of March was an arsehole. Colin was in another courtroom in a jury trial at the same time we were trying to get our trial adjourned. He had told the police present that he could not make the trial, and come out of his trial once already to sort things out. Despite this the judge decided to pull Colin out of his case again - just to confirm. Colin also had a bastard judge who was incredibly irritated by Colin's having to leave and Colin is now being taken to the Law Society after the judge laid a complaint against him for leaving the courtroom. Once our judge accepted that Colin could not attend he okayed the adjournment. Colin our lawyer, the police officer and the judge set a new date: the 24th of July. We then all left the court. Two days later I got an early morning phone call from Colin's wife saying that warrants for all our arrests had been put out and that the judge had asked the police to come and arrest us all. (perhaps the judge had played a game of golf with Gluckman over the weekend? I don't know). We were told that it was the judge not the police that were being silly and that the police would probably give us a few days grace to make a voluntary appearance at the court to get it sorted out. After checking with the court it was found that there would be no one with the authority to lift the warrants from us for about a week, and so for a week we all walked around with warrants out for us. This is no fun, it effectively stops you from doing animal rights things. Several of us became so paranoid that we did not attend demo's - as if a police officer there wanted to take our names they would find out about the warrants and we'd end up in jail for a week till it could get lifted. When we finally got to court to get it sorted out we found that there had been a bomb scare and the whole building had been cleared and it was not going to be possible for us to make an appearance. This meant another week waiting around still with warrants on us. I have to give the police some credit here☺, they were patient, if they ever wanted the chance to raid our houses this was the ideal time, infact most of us expected to see them in the first few days. Eventually we got into court. Luck of all luck we got to appear before the same overly friendly judge. He told us we had left the court before the date had been firmly fixed - apparently he wanted to tell each of us separately about the date and get an individual reply from all of us, the group 'okay' hadn't been good enough. He then told Colin that he wasn't prepared to fix it all up now but that Colin had to go away and get something called a 'special fixture'. We were allowed to sit outside the courtroom while Colin sorted it out. Colin rang and checked out exactly what a 'special fixture' was, only to find that they don't exist, haven't for ages. Back into court we went. Even though the judge knew the date we had all agreed on was the 24th July he went through all the procedure of checking it again with Colin and the police who I must say looked baffled at the rigmarole. He then got each of us to individually get up on the stand, addressing each of us repeating the same thing, telling us when we were to appear and asking if that was O.K. What should have taken a few minutes to sort out took all morning! But, at least we are free again. The trial seems ages away now though, no one has gone back to Gluckmans as we can't get enough interest from people who are all intimidated. I for one am deeply regretting ever signing a bail form stating that I won't go within 100m of Gluckmans house until the trial, I think others feel similarly. Gluckman has basically got off scott free for over six months, with no demo's or leafleting in his neighbourhood.

♦ **Monthly social event:** dinner at the Chinese Tofu Vegetarian House. About 10 people came along, good to see ya guys.

♦ **Monkey Killed.** I sent off a complaint to the local council who was responsible for the killing of the Capuchin Monkey who escaped from Brooklyn Park zoo in New Plymouth. As yet there has been no response and we don't really expect one even though we did ask them to clarify several points - The reasons for the shooting; whether the method of killing was approved by a MAF veterinary officer as the codes recommend. I also hassled them over the rule in the codes that specifies that animals being 'euthanised' should be rendered unconscious in a "rapid and pain free manner" which is hardly being shot down by police! This incident is probably one of the more blatant acts of cruelty and disrespect for animals that has happened this year, everyone I've spoken to was appalled. And whoever knew New Plymouth had a zoo! Hopefully the incident has done some damage to their reputation.

♦ **Current campaigns** AAA has several campaigns up and running. Anyone interested in helping out welcomed.

1. People for Possum Campaign
2. Anti-vivisection Campaign. This has three points of focus at the moment.
   -vivisector's at the medical School
   -the Cancer Society
   -Ciba Geigy, a big animal tester in NZ
3. Veganism - esp. dairy and egg industries
4. Emu and Ostrich farming
5. Support and PR for the ALF

NOTE: we've picked harder issues as few other groups are tackling them, we're trying to fill some of the gaps we saw, On other issues we work closely with SAFE and CUPA supporting their campaigns up here in Auckland **If you are keen to help out with any of these or want to start up a new campaign on something that interests you get in touch and we'll sort something out!**

☺*Deidre*



SWEET REVENGE

April 97', NZ: The owner of a deer farm was mauled to death by a stag, Beverly was found crushed to death in a paddock where she had been repeatedly butted by a deer.

Wellington Animal Action

PO Box 6387 Te Aro Wellington

♦ **WAA Newsletter.** We have been very busy since the conference doing lots of boring stuff that will hopefully allow us to be a lot more organised in future. We now have a newsletter for our Wellington supporters, nothing fancy, just a little list of what we have been up to, also we will be sending out a bunch of info to all the people who attended the conference, its been a while but you should get it in a couple of weeks if you were at the conference.

♦ **On Friday 4th April, we had a protest at the United States Embassy in support of Tony Wong,** a sixteen year old animal rights activist from Indiana, USA. He was jailed on Feb. 24 for at least 2 months at the Plainfield Indiana Boys' School for protesting against animal cruelty at a fur store last November 29th. Tony is also on a hunger strike in protest against the US Governments' continued opposition to a ban on the barbaric leg hold trap. Several members of Wellington Animal Action set fire to a US flag in front of the embassy.

♦ **On Monday 21st of April we arranged for Simon Cottle from the New Zealand Anti Vivisection Society to give a talk** on how activists can effectively argue that vivisection should be abolished on medical and scientific grounds. This went quite well although we didn't have the amount of people we would have liked. It is really important to know what you are talking about so training sessions like this one are just as important as attending protests.

♦ **We had fifty people at our anti vivisection demo on April 24th.** We marched across the road and up the driveway of the Malaghan Institute (part of the Wellington School of Medicine). The cops had put barriers across the driveway and there was a row of cops behind the barrier and a bunch of riot cops behind that with PR24 riot batons and riot helmets etc. on. We made lots of noise and chanting etc. Then we burnt a cardboard effigy of a vivisector and everyone started chanting "vivisection, lies and death!, Burn it down! A-L-F!" and some vivisection instruments were added to the fire. After some more chanting we left and moved off down the road as a group, several plainclothes cops followed us down the road and as we passed the main entrance of the hospital a row of riot cops appeared and lined up across the hospital entrance, we carried on down the road and were followed by cops for about a kilometer as we made our way back into town. There was heavy surveillance of us the whole time, cops with cameras, plainclothes cops following us everything. Also according to a TV3 reporter who interviewed some of us there has been a claim that Proctor & Gamble products have been contaminated with weed killer. No other details were given.

MARKY.

CHECK IT OUT

AUCKLAND ANIMAL ACTIONS SPUNKY WEB PAGE

NEWLY REDESIGNED BY PROGRAMMING MASTER AARON KOOLEN.

FEATURING

LITTLE SWEET MICE RUNNING AROUND AND REALLY CUTE PUSSY CATS

oh yeah, plus news of demo's, links to other cool A.R. web sites and overseas groups, stuff like that etc.

http://crash.ihug.co.nz/~aaa

Russia: The gold leaf on the domes of the Kremlin were being scratched off by hooded crows. No they weren't stealing the gold leaf, they had simply discovered that it was great fun to slide down the sides of the rounded domes!!



THE Vegan SOCIETY

Membership is $10 per anum and includes free magazine subscription to

VEGAN VOICE

their awesomely cool mag.

Vegan Society of N. Z.
PO Box 876, Auckland

GoGo VEGAN PLANET!



WORLD DAY FOR

USA

Yerkes AIDS vivisection lab protest. Atlanta, Georgia.

Police opened fire on woman and children with gas grenades and stun bombs, and 50 activists were arrested at a demonstration outside Yerkes primate center. The Yerkes demo turned the woods surrounding the primate center into a war zone. Police shot tear gas grenades from launchers into activist's backs where they exploded. Several were injured, one seriously. **"Lab Day is Like Waco,"** said Aaron Stone, "The cops fired indiscriminately on women and children." DR. Jerry Valasak, Cres & Sheila Vellucci, Sue McCrosky and fifty others were arrested for malicious mischief, trespass and resisting arrest as they chanted :

"1-2-3-4,
This is vegan war.
5-6-7-8,
Destroy Yerkes - liberate.
9-10-11-12,
Blow Emory straight to Hell!"

"There was no reason for the frontal assault against us by the Emory Police," said Cathy Raffety. "They held my 15 year old friend Jennifer Aronson face down in the mud and kicked her. They broke Ian's foot and ground it making him scream. It was awful," Miss stone continued. All TV stations and several newspaper reporters were on site to witness the scene. "All Americans except animal rights people are shocked and appalled by Emory's police state tactics." Said Crescenzo Vellucci of the Activist Civil Liberties Committee from his Jail Cell. "Activists have always known that vivisectionists were brutes - now the people know it too - its all on tape," Mr Vellucci added. On CNN Headline News, activists were seen throwing a metal barricade through a cop car's windows, struggling to get the barricades out of the cops hands, and getting tear gassed and maced. The news had this footage running about every half hour with updates. Eight women who were arrested have been charged with Felony charges of "incitement to riot."

World Day for Laboratory animals was an especially important day for every activist in the animal rights movement in Aotearoa - it marked the return of the New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society. A society we cannot do without and whose vital work will bring new life into the anti-vivisection movement in NZ.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACTION
JOIN IN THE FIGHT TO ABOLISH VIVISECTION IN AOTEAROA

CONTACT NZAVS NOW!!



NZAVS,
PO Box 22-076
Christchurch,
Aotearoa/NZ



All around the world animal rights activists came out to show their anger at the insanity that is vivisection. In England and the US in particular World Day For Laboratory Animals was a day of mass riots. This report doesn't even get into the huge demo's and arrests in London and Seattle!! With such passion surely we must win in the end?

ENGLAND

500 Activists attack Consort Beagle Breeders Facility. Herefordshire.

On 19th April there was a demo outside 'Consort' a company that breeds beagles for vivisection. At least 500 loud, angry, compassionate people prepared for anything turned up. A force to reckon with.. Protesters gathered outside the premises. There were a number of police present. Protesters initially moved off down a track and around to the back of Consort. There they met police who had put up a fence, with barbed wire. Some 15 police, some with dogs, tried to keep the crowd off but people stormed past police to the razor wired wall and fence. Some tried to climb it (a few managed), most got stuck outside. Two guys managed to enter the compound, take a beagle dog and flee up onto the roof of one of the buildings inside.

It was now the riot police moved in (as people were seriously tearing on the fences outside). Riot police surrounded the building with the two men and the dog visible on the roof. When the protesters saw the dog and two men surrounded by police and barbed razor wire, they showed their true strength of feeling: as they tried by all means possible to get into the place and free the men and the dog.

Part of the fence was torn down and people got inside wrecking two sheds, destroying everything inside it, dragging it out and setting it on fire. This included a small tractor. Riot police managed to stop the protesters getting further inside the area, although they were showered with rocks.

One has to imagine the scenario at this stage. There are these two masked liberationists on the roof with the beagle dog. The house they are on is surrounded by 50 riot police in full gear, with helmets, shields, batons, the lot. There are 50 or so police buzzing around inside, with many police crews filming, and a helicopter above the scene. All round the police is a heavily protected fence with a rock wall on some parts, and razor wire and rolls fixed over it. This is being besieged by an angry crowd of protesters, attacking from all sides, determined to get the men and the dog out

The protesters then attacked the entrance gate again smashing up the windows of the employees cars. At this point there had been only one arrest Protesters were not aware of the arrest as police had pushed him firmly to the ground so that he couldn't show himself. Otherwise protesters might have de-arrested him.

For those not used to such protests, in order to give you a full picture I would like to add that most protesters were totally masked up. Also, it was not just one or two throwing rocks, no, it was really everyone. People shouting "go on, do it, don't be afraid, smash the bastards" etc. It was mayhem. Protesters constantly changed clothes with each other so no particular protester could be pointed out. Protesters are constantly on the

LABORATORY ANIMALS

In loving memory of all those innocent who died and continue to suffer in the name of a fraudulent and barbaric science.

We will not forget



alert against police snatch squads, and effectively de-arrest people immediately when such a squad try their luck.

Eventually protesters broke through the razor wire by dragging a bath tub to the fence, tearing the fence down and putting the tub over it. Within minutes, hundreds of protesters entered the inner area, surrounding the house with the two men and the dog on top. A line of police posed little resistance, and soon hundreds of people reached the side of the house, smashing up the garden fence and invading the front area. Police with batons stormed in from one side, riot police from the other, but protesters resisted. A wall was broken down and split into handily sized rocks used as missiles. Another fire was started in the garage and sheds just beside the house.

The two men on the roof were able to lower the doggy straight into the arms of the protesters who managed to resist riot police attacks long enough for one of the guys from the roof and the dog to be hidden in the crowd. Half the protesters moved off, broke through police lines and managed to get the beagle safely out of the immediate area. About 40 people made off with the beagle. When police followed the 40 protesters took their jackets off and rolled them up and held them in front of their hands as if they had a beagle dog and made off in different directions. This confused police for a time but there were so many cops each person was eventually caught and checked. After a two mile chase the people with the beagle dog were discovered. A police dog was set on the people and two were severely bitten. 13 protesters tried piling together into a heap to hide and protect the beagle beneath their bodies. More police were drafted in and eventually they moved in, beat the 13 away and took the dog. All 13 were arrested under suspicion of theft. In the mean time the protesters continuing to fight police at the beagle breeding farm were CS gassed, many protesters ended up needing hospital treatment.

Later on that day, 3 employees and the manager of the Beagle facility had home visits and got their houses thoroughly smashed up.

Altogether 24 people got arrested. One was immediately released. The other 23 were charged with with various things from theft to burglary, criminal damage and assault.

One activist with the beagle was driven to the police station with the beagle dog still on his lap. He was hand-cuffed so unable to comfort the poor soul in the way she would have needed it. The dog was a young female, and pregnant. Later during the night she was retrieved by an unknown man from the police station. Protesters who besieged the police station managed to drive him off at first, but eventually, with a heavy police escort, the dog was removed. Most likely, she will be dead by now.

This demonstration show's what 500 compassionate people with bare hands can do against an army of well-armoured riot police with batons and CS gas, and barbed razor wire. One protester remarked...

"There was no fear, there was just simply no fear."

AOTEAROA

Riot Police called out as 50 Angry Protesters visit Malaghan Institute, Wellington

Thursday the 24th of April was World Day For Laboratory Animals. 50 activists turned up to Wellington Animal Action's anti-vivisection demo at the infamous Malaghan Institute. Protesters marched across the road and up the driveway of the Malaghan Institute (part of the Wellington School of Medicine). Police had pre-erected barriers across the driveway of the institute and there was a row of cops behind the barrier. Also in attendance was a bunch of riot cops with PR24 riot batons and riot helmets on. Activists greeted the police with lots of noise and chanting, also cardboard effigies of vivisectors were burnt to chants of **"vivisection, lies and death!, Burn it down! A-L-F!"** and some vivisection instruments were added to the fire.

After some more chanting the demonstrators moved off down the road as a group. Several plainclothes cops followed them down the road. As they passed the main entrance of the hospital a row of riot cops appeared and lined up across the hospital entrance. Activists carried on down the road and were followed by cops for about a kilometer as they made their way back into town. There was heavy surveillance the whole time, cops with cameras, plainclothes cops following demonstrators and everything.

** TV3 also report that there was a claim that Proctor & Gamble products have been contaminated with weed killer. No further details were given.

PRO-VIVISECTION CONFERENCE COMING HERE

September 19-21

Auckland University Conference Centre.

The combined conference of **ANZCCART** - Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching - and **NAEAC** - National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee. **Two of the largest PRO-VIVISECTION lobby groups in Australasia. Vivisectors from all around the world will be attending the conference.**

Contact your local group for details - if they aren't doing anything **change your group!! IT'S GONNA BE BIG. It's on a weekend: accommodation billets and workshops on scientific anti-vivisectionism will be available. PUT THE TIME ASIDE NOW! LETS KICK SOME VIVISECTOR BUTT!!**

GET INVOLVED!!

RIDGEWAY'S CIRCUS - A DEATH CAMP FOR CHIMPS

Ridgeways Circus features several abusive animal acts involving chimpanzees, Pony's and dog's. A small motley bunch in comparison to the large collection of magnificent creatures once a part of the Ridgeways freakshow. At one stage in the dark past Ridgeways created a hell on earth for exotic animals such as camel, Llama, monkeys, baboons, elephants, leopard, tiger and lions - all disposable commodities now dead or missing.

Currently Ridgeways has four chimpanzees. Sonny, a 7 year old male, Mr. Muggins a 4 year old male and Lola (their natural mother) a 32 year old female who is nursing a newborn. In the recent past two chimpanzees have been destroyed. Charlie (Lola's partner) at 36 years old and Bubba (Lola and Charlie's son) at just 7 years of age. Death reports gave the reasons - too old and too aggressive.

The Circus has been based in a dilapidated lot at the back of a West Auckland timber yard. These chimps have NEVER known freedom. The briefest taste of it is during their trained performances. Yet in the wild chimpanzees spend 80% of their time exploring, playing, communicating and grooming each other, establishing strong bonds within their group. At Ridgeways they have been forced to live their entire lives in the back of a trailer. Dark damp rusty cages with constant banging and barking and shrieking from other circus inmates also kept in isolation. Unable to even touch each other through their barred homes.

Seeing Mr. Muggins (Ridgeways youngest performer) ride a bike, brush his teeth, comb his hair, drink chocolate milk through a straw and walk on wooden stilts does nothing to extend the limits of chimpanzees intelligence. Neither animal nor child has anything to learn from this disgusting exhibition. What are kids supposed to learn from being presented with a chimpanzee in nappies? Out of its natural environment it teaches us nothing about how they live, where they come from or how they interact with their own species. Circuses with performing animal acts teach children that it is all right to disregard the feelings of animals and to view them merely as objects of our amusement.

Ridgeway claims that the chimps are "All part of the family". But the point is, these animals already have their own family and are deprived of contact with each other. Mr. Muggins, like all the others, was torn from his mothers arms at a crucial point of development only to be hand reared by a human member of the Ridgeway family who now claims that Muggins 'is my baby, I'm his mother. He doesn't need Lola.' All this horror in preparation to Muggins debut under the big top. Animal acts are pathetic and degrading. These beautiful and intelligent animals who, are the most closely related primate species to our own sharing 99% of their genetic composition with us, have been used, abused and transformed into pathetic performing robots. What mother would do this to her baby?



Many parents may fantasize about putting their kids down as they hit puberty but at Ridgeways it is a reality.

When the chimps begin to show signs of aggression or simply become too big to handle the appeal of a cute endearing baby chimp wears off and a quick sell to a random buyer or euthanasia has been Ridgeways answer to the puberty problem. Chimps mature at 7-8 years of age, that's when Bubba was killed, that's why Sonny is being discarded now. The youngest and newest addition to the chimpanzee saga will take the place of the deceased animal.

Roll up, roll up to see the saddest show on earth!!

GET INVOLVED!!

For many years MAF and the SPCA have carried out routine inspections of the animals in Ridgeways care. Recently these reports have been made available under the Official Information Act. Despite numerous recommendations made by MAF and the SPCA every year, aimed at improving the care and management of these animals, conditions at the circus are still disgusting to say the least. By the large recommendations have not ever been followed. Of particular concern is the absence of a behavioural enrichment programme, the lack of an adequate exercise regime and the isolation of some chimpanzee.

What can we do?

It is blatantly obvious that neither MAF nor the SPCA have any inclination to do anything about the situation so it is up to us, we have a core group of dedicated activists around the country who have and will continue to battle for the chimps freedom but we need public pressure in order for Ridgeway to hand them over.

LOLA HAS A DEATH SENTENCE HANGING OVER HER.
MAF have already recommended her euthanasia once the newborn is weaned - another 8-9 months. Their reasoning? -

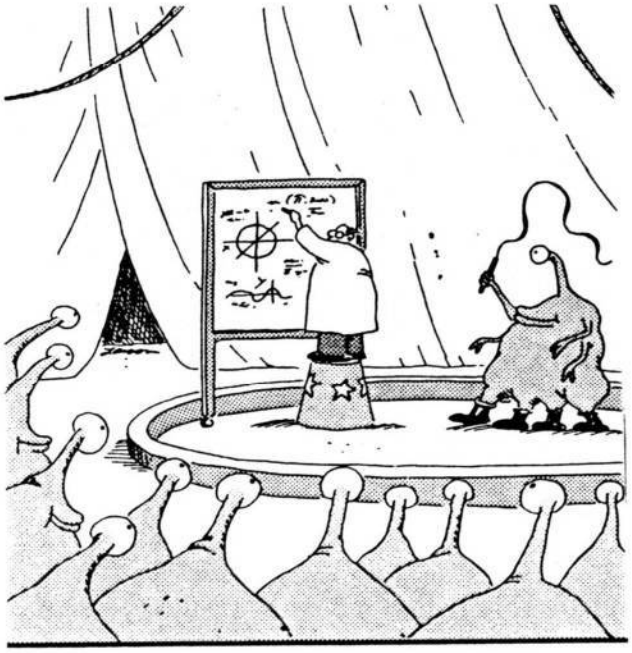
"Lola's partner Charlie was euthanised...Lola has spent her entire life with other chimpanzees and humans. With the male chimpanzee Charlie's absence and the limited time staff have to spend with her, the quality of her life must be questioned."

Her son Sonny is due to be sent overseas to an unknown destination. Both situations are extremely urgent WE CANT let this happen.

THE SOLUTION?

TWO SANCTUARIES HAVE OFFERED TO TAKE LOLA AND HER CHILDREN. One in Africa and one in Texas. Both sanctuaries have open and aired acres of forests with masses of trees for them to forage in. This is their only chance of freedom, an amazing opportunity, but more importantly THE ONLY CHANCE AT LIFE THAT LOLA HAS LEFT.

All parties are on hold waiting for Ridgeways to fold. But unless we hurry up our campaigns and put public pressure on Carey Ridgeway all is lost. Lola, Sonny, Muggins and the newborn all deserve this opportunity. They have lived a life of hell locked away from each other, forced to perform unnatural tricks, all simply to entertain a few pathetic punters. Please help us with this campaign. It is a chance to do some real good and see the positive result in the future.



Abducted by an alien circus company, Professor Doyle is forced to write calculus equations in center ring.

Groups are combining their effort to get rid of Ridgeways circus and free the Chimps. For up to date information on the issue and to join the fight to bring freedom to Lola, her newborn baby, Sonny and Mr. Muggins contact either:

Save Animals From Exploitation (S.A.F.E.)
50 High St,
Downtown, Ak
(09) 309 7738

Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (C.U.P.A.)
PO Box 508
Albany, Ak
(09) 473 5646

Auckland Animal Action (A.A.A.)
PO Box 34 641,
Birkenhead, Ak.

GET INVOLVED!!

MARINELAND - N.Z.'S DOLPHIN PRISON

JULY 4TH IS WORLD DAY FOR CAPTIVE DOLPHINS

Try and imagine the life of a dolphin in the ocean where nature evolved it to be. Living by a world of sound. Traveling, communicating and locating your food, all by the sense of sound. You send out a series of clicks, and listen to the returning echoes when the clicks hit something. The difference in the echo tells you what the object is and its distance away. This is called echo-location and is essential to your well being.

One day you are swimming with your family and social group. Humans in boats with nets, want to capture and put you in a dolphinarium tank. Sly and ruthless, they will call you an ambassador for dolphins. However you didn't volunteer, you are about to be forcefully taken, you will never see your family again or the ocean again.

A dolphinarium tank, a barren environment will be your new "home". Everything you understood has been taken away: your family, the sounds and currents of the ocean, the other plant and animal life, and the desire to swim in a straight line as far as you wanted to. Even your world of sound is no longer the same. You don't need to use echo-location, eyesight can get you around a tank, anyway what variation is there in an echo coming back from a wall? Your new life is one of swimming round in circles, performing several shows in a day, being fed unnaturally with dead fish and vitamins. You will never leave this pool until the day you die.

This is exactly what happened to each of the four captive dolphins currently being held at Marineland in Napier. Kelly, Shona, Selina and Cassana were all ripped from their natural habitat in the Hawkes Bay to live out a life of deprivation and misery in Marineland

AREN'T YOU GLAD THAT YOU'RE NOT A DOLPHIN IN CAPTIVITY?

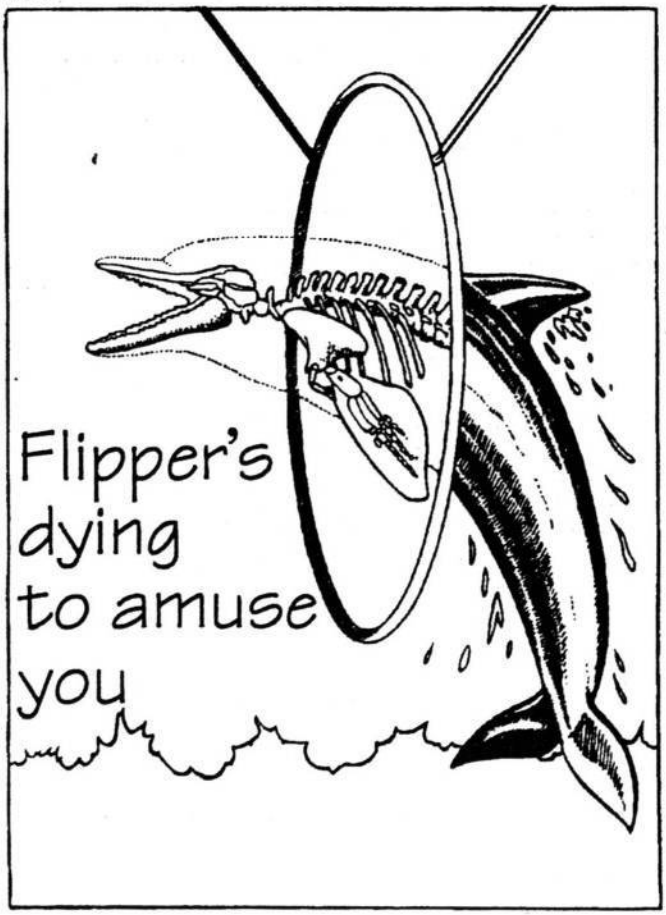
Dolpinaria are part of the problem not of the solution in protecting dolphins. They pretend they fulfill an important educational, scientific and conservation role. However its because dolphins have been studied in their natural habitat, and we have learnt of their true behaviour, that people who really care about dolphins advocate freedom.

FACT: Dolphins live on average 5.8 years in captivity as opposed to 40 years in the wild

FACT: Of the 76 dolphins captured in New Zealand, four remain alive today, that's a "success" rate of 6%

FACT: 50% of Dolphins captured die within two years.

FACT: Marineland keeps four dolphins captive. Females are preferred as they are generally easier to handle and less aggressive. All four dolphins were caught from the wild in the Hawkes Bay region



HELP CLOSE DOWN MARINELAND!

What is the level of interest out there in doing something about Napiers Marineland? I know most people live in other main centers but we could still try and organise something for World Day for Captive Dolphins. I have material we can use for posters, leaflets etc. as I have been keeping in touch with Cetfree who run the "Born to be Wild" campaign here against Marineland as well as several overseas groups that campaign on this issue. In the past the campaigning against Marineland has been very low key - lets kick up a bit of a fuss this year!

Anyone interested contact:
Deidre at Auckland Animal Action,
PO Box 34-641, Birkenhead Auckland.

U.S.FUR WARS

In recent months, numerous activists in the US have been stepping up their opposition to the fur trade. This has resulted in many imprisonments and subsequently hunger strikes. Here we will focus on 2 of the more predominant ones. By A.K.

16YR OLD ACTIVIST HUNGERSTRIKES!

The Background

On the 29th of November Anthony Wong took part in a peaceful protest outside Castleton Mall and Lazarus Dept. store in the US. Tony locked down with other protesters in order to halt trading of the store, all his actions were completely non-violent. He was subsequently arrested and charged with trespass and obstruction, and found guilty of both. Tony had previously been arrested and jailed for 12 days for another demo against the store, but this time, in a very unusual move the Judge sent Tony to a boys detention "school" for an indeterminate amount of time. Tony was offered a plea bargain but he refused all conditions of probation, including all fines, restitution, community service and other conditions like staying away from other animal rights activists. He believed that these were a breach of his right to peaceful protest.

"It was an easy decision," said Wong, an 'A' student. "I could not agree to conditions which make a mockery of the Bill of Rights and our right to political dissent in this country, even if my decision means I will be jailed" he added.

Upon entering the detention school, Tony immediately went on hungerstrike. In his previous incarceration he did the same, and was released after 12 days. This time it was going to be different..

The Hunger strike

The hunger strike that Tony embarked on was incredible - it says a lot about his dedication to the animals. He was eating nothing and drinking only water, a tough thing to do for a young guy weighing only 61 kg. To give the hungerstrike a direction and reason, Tony, along with the other activists who were already in prison and on hungerstrikes, made 3 demands to the US government.

1 That there be a federal ban on the leghold trap.
2 That the US Trade Office stop challenging the EU Wild Fur Ban. The European Union passed a law years ago th said no wild caught fur could be imported in to the EU from nations that hadn't banned the leghold trap. The EU ha not effected this law cause the biggest fur suppliers (US, Canada and Russia) keep threatening legal action.
3 The third demand was that the State of New York stop contemplating a 'Beaver Butchery Bill'. Assemblyman Michael Bragman from Syracuse keeps introducing a bill to legalize underwater snares to drown beaver's with. He also wants to extend the trap check limit to 72 hours.

Tony's hungerstrike continued for many weeks. By day 29 Tony's plight was getting very serious from a health point of view. By this time he had lost nearly 20 percent of his weight, down to 50kg! Still, Tony was refusing to eat. This must have obviously worried the authorities, and so on the 27th of March Tony was forcibly held down and fed a liquid supplement through a tube up his nose and down to his stomach. The process of jamming the plastic tube up his nose caused some medical problems of its own. His right nostril became so bloodied with infected mucous that medical personnel had to start using another nostril of his nose to force-feed him.

"It is painful, especially now. The jails only response to my pain, and the blood, was to use my other nostril. What are they going to do when it gets infected?" **said Tony.**

Throughout this ordeal he passively resisted the force-feeding, but did not fight it because of a vow of nonviolence. The "excuse" given by the State of Indiana was that they began force feeding Tony because they wanted to ensure his health. But their methods were far from empathic and caused some serious harm to Tony. ***"There is a major question as to the ethical grounds, and now medical grounds, of the force-feeding,"*** said Crescenzo Vellucci, director of the Activist Civil Liberties Committee, a group of lawyers and non-lawyers supporting political activists. All this was even opposed by Tony's father, who seriously objected to the force-feeding. On top of this some of the ingredients in the liquid supplement were not vegan, and this was attacked as a major violation of Tony's very, very deeply held beliefs. Lawyers may pursue this in court as the state must not violate peoples religious beliefs and by definition, "deeply-held beliefs" are considered "religious" under case law. They will also complain about the force feeding itself.

The Sentence Length

Tony had already served more time than an adult with similar charges. He had served more than 60 days of "home detention" prior to his incarceration at the Boy's School. Superior Court Judge James Payne left the sentence "indeterminate," something virtually unheard of in either juvenile or adult court. ***"If Mr. Wong had been convicted as an adult, he would not have received a sentence involving as much in custody time,"*** said Laudig (Tony's lawyer) in his brief, adding that ***"he is entitled to credit"*** for his 60 days-plus of home detention.

The End

On 26th of April, after more than 60 days of incarceration, and continual hungerstriking even while been forcefed, Tony

was released. He had lost a lot of weight, and obviously needed to recuperate but the same day of his release Tony was already gearing up to do more demonstrations against the fur trade.....at Lazarus. We wish you well Tony and admire your guts. What follows are some snippets from Tony's journal that we receive via the internet. The are unfortunately incomplete, but its all we've got ..

Messages from inside...

- **1st March : Day 5 inside** "I'm still being separated from the rest of the unit in a segregation cell. I am also put on "suicide watch" for the night. **The light in the cell is kept on all night, and I am forced to sleep in only my underwear with one blanket and a pillow.** I figure this is their weak attempt to get me to give in and cooperate e.g. start eating, let them take urine samples. Anyway, I am unable to sleep for more than five or six hours at a time because music is played over the intercom in the hallway and it blasts right through the cell door. Not only this, but it gets quite cold without sufficient clothing and a decreasing amount of body fat due to my refusal to eat. I think these conditions have caused the runny nose I am having to deal with today. I'm hoping it isn't a cold or a nasal infection ....I was given a psychiatric evaluation test to use in court when the jail applies for a court order to force feed me. Saying you're on hunger strike is not enough when you're under 18. You have to first be tested as to whether you are suicidal and "mentally incapable of making decisions" and is just another chance for the state to lock us "juveniles" up in a mental ward.... I'm still feeling good about not having to pay the capitalist murderers Lazarus, the police department, and the fire dept. I am confident I will win this one, but have still prepared myself for being imprisoned for weeks. I doubt they want to be force feeding me for two or three months, but I'm sure as hell not going to release myself on probation or parole restrictions. This is the only thing I'm afraid of.... The showers today were freezing cold, and I am not provided with vegan/ cruelty free soap and shampoo, so I just use the washcloth. My hair is accumulating grease, and it feels kind of nasty...my body hasn't craved food and has adjusted well. As for my mind, I spend much time dreaming about fantastic vegan dishes...I can't wait to get out!
- **10 March : Day 15** "I've become much more comfortable with the time I'm facing. In the past, I was always too confident I'd get let off for doing civil disobedience, and never would have to do any real time. Now, after being on house arrest for 2 months and spending almost a month total time locked, up, I have a more realistic approach. Not compromising requires being prepared to really put up a struggle with the system. I'd say I've experienced this in the past few months. These are the risks we must be willing to take."
- **19 March : Day 24** "all the juvenile jails and prisons are at max. capacity and here they are, keeping me locked up for fighting against the murder of innocent life...The people working here are telling me about how my organs will start to fail and how I'll get hypothermia and die. They really don't take me serious when I tell them that I'll be on hunger strike as long as I'm being held prisoner. It's probably starting to worry them -- Good!...The thing that probably sucks most is the "group sessions" we go to 3 times a week. We sit around in a circle and discuss any problems, etc. we're having. It's with this psychologist Dr. Craig. He's always making accusations and judgments about me....Keep fighting those bastards! Soon we will stand together to yell and shout and disrupt the bloody, animal murdering businesses. ANIMAL LIBERATION NOW!"
- **27 March : Day 32** "Hello friends. It's important that we draw the parallels between animal rights and environmentalism, and work together as a united front. For my part, I won't compromise my actions or ideals in the face of obstacles which may confront us in the struggle for liberation. I urge all you to do the same. The system is attempting to make an example out of one individual who fights for freedom but if we show the system we won't bow down to their demands, and fight them even harder, we will achieve total liberation for the earth and the animals."

Actions in support of the activists

- **25 February:** Activists do a 'Phone Blockade'. Calls from all over the country began flooding the Juvenile Detention Center -- and the home of a judge. Friends, and activists are participating in a "phone blockade".
- **8 March:** Cincinnati activists stormed the front entrance of the Boys School housing Tony Wong. The superintendent of the school came out flanked by police and security, and shaking and stammering that they should leave, or they would be "escorted" off the premises. The Superintendant admitted that Tony could be released whenever the school wanted to. This is why its vital that people call that jail and ask for that superintendent its up to him.! He seemed especially nervous when a Cincinatti activist told him that Amnesty International had been made aware of his human rights abuses, and they were becoming involved in Tony's case.
- **11 March:** A militant underground animal liberation group claimed responsibility for the early morning firebombing of the second largest fur feed company in Sandy, Utah, U.S. The action was carried out to support demands by four hunger-striking anti-fur activists -- including Anthony Wong. The bombs leveled offices and destroyed at least 4 trucks, at the Utah Furbreeders Agricultural Co-Op. Early estimates suggest damages exceeding $1 million.
- **12 March:** The ALF claim responsibility for 7 actions, all carried out on the same night. The communique stated that "Non-violent activists are imprisoned while murderers of animals are free to commit their horrible deeds. Free the hungerstrikers now!" A hunting shop, a taxidermist shop, several fast food outlets and a butcher shop were superglued and sprayed..
- **24 March:** Support for the hunger strike includes at least two firebombings, one at a Salt Lake City fur feed manufacturers' facility (March 11, causing $1 million in damages) and another at a research lab under construction at the University of California, Davis (March 19).
- **29 March:** An effigy of Judge Payne is burnt outside the prison, three different news stations reported it. Although police took the protester aside for buring the effigy no one was arrested.
- **Early April** Some of the more militant African-American Groups in the U.S. such as the African Collective and Black Panther Militia come out in support of Tony. Joining in with various protests which are happening round the country, helping torch the American flag and such.

SWEET REVENGE



April 97', NZ. A 42yr old man from Palmasteron North was hospitalised after being shot in the chest while out hunting in the Tararua ranges.

JEFF WATKINS

Jeff is currently serving a 7 month sentence for criminal mischief. Upon entering prison, he started a hungerstrike that ultimately ended with him in hospital. Here is his story. By Aaron Koolen.

Jeff's story is one of police harassment and of a VERY dedicated activist. We start with his actions on Fur Free Friday...

The Buildup to Arrest

On Fur Free Friday, a national day of action against the fur trade in the US, Jeff and a friend Joel Capolongo were identified as organisers of a demonstration. Simply because of this fact, both were arrested and charged with disorderly behaviour and criminal trespassing and Jeff was also charged with a misdemeanor of resisting arrest. Jeff already had previous wrongful arrests so this brought his existing charges to seven. They spent the night in jail and were released about 24hrs later.

Jeff also receives charges against him concerning an incident in a large grocery store where a woman wearing a black 3/4 length fur coat was doused in red paint. Jeff was arrested at the supermarket and was taken to the police station where his clothes were taken as evidence. He was intensely interrogated, denied the use of the bathroom and his hair was pulled. Officers told him his girlfriend was outside crying - they tried everything to coerce him. He was held for 5 days and his bail was posted at US$3,500. He was released eventually but the charges he had were dangerously accumulating - including an account of harassment, two misdemeanors and a felony - criminal mischief.

On January 2nd a group of activists congregated for a demonstration against the fur trade which ended in eight activists being violently arrested. The activists were held several days and went on thirst strikes in protest. None of the activists had ever been in that particular jail having come from other parts of the country for the demo and they were also being mistreated. Jeff attended a demonstration in their support. At the support demonstration Jeff climbed atop a police car outside the court house and confronted the police as vocally as possible - needless to say he got arrested pretty quickly. Once inside, Jeff helped get the other activists in the jail out of the psychiatric wards and into the correct ward, and joined the hunger and thirst strike. 3 days later they were all released. He knows people will criticise his action of climbing on the police car but believes by doing so he helped keep media focus, got to confront the police and got himself into jail where he could help the activists inside.

The Plea Bargain

A little later Jeff was offered a plea bargain; The police would drop 11 of the criminal charges pending against him if he pled guilty to the felony of criminal mischief, but in so doing he would have to accept a six month sentence and pay restitution on the fur coat that was damaged. Jeff plead guilty to the criminal mischief. Although it is not usual for activists to admit guilt Jeff made this decision as it meant the other 11 charges would be dropped and because it would have been virtually impossible to get off the criminal mischief charges (throwing of red paint on the fur coat had been taped on the grocery stores video camera's).

Jeff was highly criticised for his actions because the "No Compromise" stance is one most US activists adhere to, and by accepting a plea bargain, Jeff was going against the grain. But to understand Jeff's actions people should know about the situation in Syracuse.

There has been such a crackdown on anti-fur protesters that in recent months it had become impossible for activists to do any sort of demonstration. When Jeff gets out he is planning on moving city - it had gotten to the point that it was impossible for Jeff, Joel and other Syracuse activists to go anywhere without harassment. Joel has been woken up by ten police in his bedroom and dragged to jail for minor charges of 2nd degree harassment which isn't even a misdemeanor but similar in status to a traffic infraction, a charge which was later dropped completely. Jeff went to pick Joel up at the station and noticed he was being followed by a car with a "I love NY state trapping" on it. When he stopped to confront the person he found it was the head of the independent fur harvesters of central NY, they argued and the man goaded Jeff to punch him, which Jeff did not, yet months later Jeff found an harassment charge had been filed against him. Jeff has been stopped on his way to work for speeding - 5mph over the limit - by three police cars and had his car searched. Jeff and Joel have several petty traffic charges against them under similar circumstances. Joel was fired from his job later to find out that ATF agents had been to the store where he worked to meet his boss, asking him questions about a gun Joel had purchased.

Given all the harassment Jeff had faced, and the blatant abuse of other activists by the cops at a demonstration that hadn't even started yet, it's no wonder he got on top the police car and voice his anger.

The Sentence

On Feb 28th Judge John Brunetti sentenced Jeff to seven months jail for his actions. Upon entering prison Jeff went on hunger-strike until joint demands made by several hunger-striking activists, including Tony Wong, were met. When starting it he asked that unless others are also incarcerated they not go on sympathetic hunger strikes. Instead he wanted action, he wanted people to have energy to do things, anything that they wanted.

Jeffs hunger-strike continued for around 26 days before anything happened, then on the 26th day, Jeff was hospitalised after complaining of intense abdominal pain. He was checked and refused intravenous feeding.

"The hospital staff told me I had made my point, and that I should eat," said Watkins in a phone call to his legal staff. **"But, as long as there is someone buying fur coats in Syracuse I haven't made my point enough,"** he added, pledging to continue the hunger strike. Two days later Jeff started convulsing. He was rushed to hospital and spent 5 hours being checked and looked after. During his time in hospital a blood sample was taken from him which he didn't authorise, and because he was passing in and out of consciousness it is unknown if he was force fed. Upon his return to prison, the authorities decided to punish him and placed him in a solitary confinement/medical wing of the jail with most of his privileges revoked.

Obviously by this time, Jeff had lost a lot of weight and was looking tired. His vision was starting to go and although he could still see colours, he couldn't define objects well. The hunger-strike was definitely taking it's toll on Jeff, but it was working. Protests both in support of Jeff and against the fur trade had escalated. People were starting to get really pissed off and realise that if Jeff could put himself through so much for the animals he loves then those lucky enough to be outside should be doing something comparable. Soon after his last stint in the hospital, Jeff decided to call off his hunger-strike. He received some flak for this, but in my opinion a live activist fighting for the animals, does a hell of a lot more than a dead one rotting in the ground. On top of this the hunger-strike got things happening and helped empower a movement.

Jeff buddy, you have a fuck of a lot of guts to go through that and It'll be another happy day for me on July 15th when you are released. **WRITE TO JEFF AT**

PO BOX 43
Jamesville
NY 13078
U.S.A.

TAIJI ORCA UPDATE

Animal rights activists continue to fight for the release of five Orca captured by in Taiji, Japan. Although the Orca were supposedly caught for 'scientific' reasons, they have been sold for large sums of money to marine parks. If the TAIJI FIVE are to have any chance at all of returning to the ocean and their family, they have to stay alive. Orca often go into deep depression when captured and separated from their families in the wild. Some literally starve themselves to death. There is great concern that some of the whales are not eating properly.

On the 8th of April an official of the Fisheries Agency reported that one female in particular at Shirahama Adventure World was only eating 10kg of fish per day. This is extremely disturbing as the whales have been in captivity for some months now. The female is probably still resisting her captors at Adventure World and being force fed. Let me tell you what force feeding an Orca means. It means that a rope or piece of wood is being forced between her jaws, and fish is being shoved down her throat. Sea World's infamous Orca captor Don Goldsbury used to force a piece of 2"x4" lumber between the jaws of resistant Ocras so that he could force fish into them. Something like that is probably what's happening to that poor female at Adventure World. The procedure probably begins with the Orcas being crowded into a corner of the tank with a net, or with the tank being drained, in order to restrict movement. Then, the application of force begins, until the whale's jaws are open wide. Then, fish are shoveled into her mouth and stuffed down her throat. Much of the fish is probably vomited immediately, but some of it stays down. 10kg a day, if the report is to be believed No wonder there is so much resistance to outside observation of what is happening. The condition of that poor female at Adventure World is thought to be deteriorating rapidly. Even if she is consuming 10kg of fish daily, that amount of food is far below what her body needs. How much longer can she last? SHE MAY BE STARVING TO DEATH. AND, IF SHE IS PREGNANT, WHAT OF HER BABY?

On the more positive side Independent observers confirm that another female at Izu Mito Sea Paradise is accepting fish, and is allowing the aquarium staff to touch her. This is GOOD NEWS, as it represents a definite improvement in her situation. She is, however, still moving very little and generally appears lethargic.

RINGLING BROTHERS

Washington DC. Sat 29th March: More than 50 activists from Compassion Over Killing (COK) protested against the Ringling Bros. Circus. Five C.O.K. activists locked themselves together with steel pipes on the loading dock where the animals are brought into the arena. It took police approximately two hours to remove the five activists from the loading dock, thereby seriously delaying the show. While some animals were able to be skirted around the activists, the majority could not be used. The circus did manage to retaliate by strategically placing a blocked elephant just uphill from the activists and allowing her to urinate. Needless to say, all five activists continued to lay boldly, as they marinated in elephant urine for more than an hour. The five activists: Dan Beben, Miyun Park, Paul Shapiro, Ryan Shapiro, and Franklin Wade were arrested and held in police custody for nearly 11 hours before being released on their own recognizance. Miyun, Ryan and Franklin have been charged with "unlawful entry". All charges against Dan and Paul were dropped, as they are both minors. NBC, Fox, and ABC all had clips on the evening news regarding the demo and CD. Local radio station WTOP also had updates every thirty minutes letting listeners know what the situation was. These updates included interviews with COK spokesperson Mike Markarian. In all, it was a great day for the animals who had part of the day off as a result of COK's event.

News

8 ARRESTED AT GIORGIO'S FURS

Syracuse activists have recently been hit hard with arrests. Most local activists had restraining orders against them so could no longer protest at Giorgio's furs in downtown Syracuse. To help out, animal rights activists from all over the US gathered in Syracuse to demonstrate solidarity with some of the most active protesters in the nation. More than 40 people ALL willing to risk arrest assembled and prepared to march through the center of town. Police quickly converged at their meeting spot and escorted the activists in. On arrival at Giorgio's furs police tried to disperse them. As people tried to turn and position themselves on the footpath police began throwing activists on the ground and brutally kicking them, handcuffing them and dragging them through snow and water to awaiting vans. At the police station 5 of the 8 arrested refused to give any details - including their names. Each was slammed into a brick wall to await processing. Activist's were taken to the psychiatric "pod" of the jail facility. The 2 women arrested were released on bail and another was bailed by his parents against his will. The remaining 5 had bail set at US$1500-3000 all refused to pay. Activists decided to go on thirst strike instead of a hunger strike, which is much more dangerous and so designed to really put the pressure on. The human body can be seriously damaged after only a few days without water. After two days two activists had passed out and required emergency medical intervention. News media suddenly got sympathetic and reported the plight of the activists in jail. At this point the 5 jailed activists were joined by another activist who at a support demonstration had jumped atop a police car to incite other protesters to action. Their court date had been set for 7 days later but after 5 days there had been several more hospitalisations all but one was released without bail, walking out of jail to awaiting news camera's and supporters with food and water. A hasty meeting saw another protest outside the same fur store the next day to once and for all establish the right of free speech in Syracuse. Local human-rights organisations and sympathetic attorneys turned up with about 20 protesters, including many of those just released from jail. The police were now on their best behaviour, no arrests were made despite loud picketing for about an hour. All activists are now free. When the charges are beat lawsuits will be filed for the infringement on civil rights.

TAKEOVER AT MACY'S

San Francisco: On 16 March 12-15 activists entered the fur Dept. at the Big downtown Macy's. Once inside they began filing suggestions and using their "courtesy" phone, security followed them inside where no less than 20 or more undercover security cops and nearly an equal number of SF police were counted. They surrounded the activists effectively closing that part of the floor down - THANK YOU!! After a 2nd "final" warning and a standoff which lasted nearly 3 hours six activists still refused to leave, and were arrested. One said "We had no real plan, just the resolve to do something for Tony and the rest of the hunger-strikers - to show them (the store) that we are NOT going away, and that we are in solidarity with the others...If Tony, Nicole, Jeff, Freeman and Stacy can risk their health, and their very lives, the least we can do, the very least, is risk a few hours of our freedom, showing the animals and our oppressors that we have the resolve to fight on!!!" The six were arrested and hauled off. They have been cited and released on charges of trespassing. (see pg 13-15 re the hungerstrikers)



HUNT BALL TRASHED

U.K. On 17th March Sussex-based Foxhunters tried to have their hunt ball. But the 150 guests were attacked by almost the same number of demonstrators. One attendee, Brian Trafford, 65, a businessman said: "My business takes me all over the Soviet Union, and I've had a few brushes with the Mafia over there - but that was nothing compared to this. Our car was surrounded by 50 or more, banging on the roof. They smashed the back windscreen and the side window and the glass went all over my daughter-in-law. Then one jumped on the bonnet and smashed the windscreen. Then they yanked open the door and tried to pull me out. My driver is only a young chap and he was petrified." Everyone was balaclava'd up and bricks were thrown at guests and car windows were smashed. Damage was estimated at thousands of pounds. Despite eighty police being present to protect the premises, no-one was arrested. The police did say they had video footage and might be making arrests later on, though. An unnamed sab spokesperson was quoted as saying: "Last night's hunt ball was a celebration of cruelty. Our demonstration represented public opinion slapping back."!!!

CHINCHILLA BREEDERS CONVENTION STORMED

Indiana. U.S. 19th March. 24 activists from Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade (CALF) stormed the Ramada Inn where members of the 'Chinchilla Breeders Association' (CBA) were holding their national convention. Two adults and two juveniles were arrested. Police said activists smashed windows, toppled furniture and shouted insults at members of the CBA. They are charged with trespassing, criminal mischief and misconduct. CBA members expected the protest and had hired an off-duty police officer as a security guard. "They punched the windows out. At least one of them cut their hand on the glass. They called us pigs and murderers. They spit in our faces. It was a scary scene," said Dave Woods president on the nationwide organisation. Inside the Ramada meeting room were individual, bird-size cages for 300 chinchillas, rabbit-sized mammals whose luxurious fur makes them a prize for fur coat makers. It takes about 80 animals to make on full-length chinchilla jacket, which costs between US$10,000 and $20,000.

SABBING NEWS

On March 1st several activists were viciously attacked by fox-hunting scum from the Oakley hunt while out sabbing. Several were seriously injured and hospitalised. So on March 4th when the hunt went out again more than 30 sabs decided to attend. Towards the end of the day some 20 more sabs joined in. The hunt had about 20 hunt stewards out 'Stewards' are usually local farm hands paid by the hunt to hassle, attack, hinder and block sabs where-ever they can. The hunt must have expected a larger turn-out of sabs than usual, because of the incident the week before; the 'normal' amount of stewards is half that. Police were present, running through fields warning sabs of section 69 CJA and also warning them with regards to the 'abuse' of footpaths (i.e. footpaths are there to cross from A to B and not for any other use, in their mind). Intimidated the hunt chose to spend much of the day running away from the sabs rather than trying to hunt - good! Sabs managed to keep up and were always present and able to intervene when animals were threatened. Most sabs running into the fields were stopped by stewards, and hence there were regularly minor scuffles with them (at least until the reinforcement of 20 sabs arrived!). Sabs always got through as there were more sabs than stewards (and sabs generally have much better stamina!) Sabs were able to repeatedly distract the hounds from the hunt. One sab had a close run in when, in all the chaos he found himself alone in a field some 300 yards behind the hunters on horseback. Two male riders rode their horses into him. To escape the sab dived underneath a hedgerow only to find a female hunter waiting and galloping along the hedge row aiming straight at him. Although he jumped aside the horse's front caught his legs, sending him somersaulting through the air. Although shaken, no bones were broken. At one point the hunt went into the woods and found a fox's scent. Sabbing in a wood is always dangerous because it is difficult to figure out where everyone is and who is who, it is possible to accidentally scare an animal straight towards the hunters and hounds. When sabs caught the hounds they were only 10 yards behind a fox. Fortunately the fox was able to make a 90 degree turn pretty close to the sabs so they could get between the fox and hounds - something usually very hard to maneuver. That was the only time the hunt was ever able to get really close to a fox, the rest of the time they were too busy running away from sabs . he he he!!

THE ALF, ANIMAL RIGHTS THE MEDIA AND YOU

By Dee

The ALF were busy in April. Auckland butchers felt the crunch as the ALF claimed responsibility for smashing 12 windows in one night. Days later the NZ Herald reported more butchers had been hit. This brings the estimated total damage the ALF have done this year to $150,000. The news of these attacks was on all major TV stations and the topic of debate on talkback radio up and down the country. And this is where YOU fit in..

Whenever an animal rights issue - not just the ALF - hits the news you can bet its going to be talked about all over the airwaves for days. It is important that 'animal rights' people - vegetarians and vegans participate in these discussions. When you ring a talkback station you get a unique opportunity to educate people about the abuse of animals, and raise ideas that most people will have never thought or heard about. **Animal rights views are NEVER properly represented,** the 'animal' perspective generally comes from cat and dog loving weirdo's who haven't got a clue. They can't counter even simple arguments the host advances, crumbling easily and giving the impression that the 'animal rights' side is weak - but we know its not. Too few of 'us' ring up at present, yet it's us who should be directing and influencing the discussion. **THIS IS WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT**, the general public have no idea. When our points of view are absent what happens is SCARY. Very false ideas and perspectives are promulgated. Here's some recent examples from when the butcher shops got smashed. They illustrate how crazy the terms of reference and direction of talk can get, and how damaging this can be to the A.R. movement. It's vital we get in there and change this ridiculous situation...

Radio Pacific had some very disturbing conversations on the smashed butcher shops and who the ALF are. A whole day was spent trying to figure out why some people who care about animals smash things. The main answer they came up with and talked about for HOURS was this: when people go vegetarian their diet can suffer. Many vegetarians are unhealthy and don't get enough of crucial vitamins and minerals. When people suffer from dietary deficiencies it can effect them in all sorts of ways. Imbalances can occur. Hitler was a vegetarian, look at what he did, it was probably related to dietary imbalances... Eventually they figured out that vegetarians smashing up butcher shops has nothing to do with animal cruelty but is due to people suffering from an 'imbalance' related to diet which unstabilises them and makes them act irrationally. I told you it was a scary conversation. Talk avoided discussing the real reasons people smash up butcher shops, instead marginalising and labeling the ALF as 'mad'. If A.R. views had been present, the discussion could have been swayed into talking about: the root of the violence - the butchers and what they do; the healthiness of a vegetarian diet; welfare issues of farm animals and factory farming... It was an open opportunity missed, instead some very weird ideas about vegetarians were reinforced.

Radio Pacific also did an interview with Bob Kerridge, director of the SPCA on the ALF, here's the transcript:

HOST: Bob Kerridge what are your own views on eating meat?
KERRIDGE: I think the question of whether one should eat meat or not is a personal thing, it's a personal choice. I happen to eat meat, it happens to form a part of my diet and it is a personal choice I have made and I don't thrust that view on anybody and I certainly don't expect a vegetarian to thrust their views at me. I respect their decision and that's as far as it should go.
HOST: In Auckland, the windows of some 12 businesses were smashed on Saturday night causing damage that the Animal Liberation Front have estimated at $10,000. Animal rights activists are attacking butcheries and other shops,. even a place where bees are kept, I understand. The Bee Shop in Dominion Rd, which seems extraordinary really, as the owner Tim Jones says, "It's not as though we have bee hives on the premises with starving bees." And we've got John Calvert who owns Calvert Butchery in Swanson saying that damages to the tune of $650 has happened and he's been targeted twice. Your views on this type of activism.
KERRIDGE: Absolutely disgusting. I think there are a number of things with this, Jenny. Firstly this is a totally destructive activity, it is anonymous and I really do abhor people that have to do things in secret. They are breaking the law and they know it. I would love to be able to pop them, whoever these people are, because they are in fact bringing animal welfare people into absolute disrepute. There's a BIG difference between an animal welfare organisation whom I represent and an animal RIGHTS group. I do not like the 'rights'. Animals would be the last to stand up on their hind legs and say 'I demand as of right' and the activities of this particular group reflect that particular attitude.
HOST: Of course its impossible to speak to them because they're such a secret underground movement that nobody knows who they are. I seem to recall this happening in Christchurch some years back also, the A.L.F. were busy there.
KERRIDGE: Yes, their ugly little heads pop up every now and then. I think about nine years ago we were called out to a bombing of the National Women's Hospital, where they had some animals there for medical research, which is not something we particularly like or support. Nonetheless, it was very destructive, it put the lives of those animals and other people in danger. That was the same organisation. Just as secretive, just as destructive.

Ok, I'm sorry but I have to lapse into a rant here...

Is the Auckland S.P.C.A. the Society For Protection of Animals or Assholes?

I don't expect mainstream groups like the SPCA to come out and support the ALF. I'm not mad! But Auckland SPCA has long been confused about who they should be focusing on supporting. Not only are they sponsored by 'The Mad Butcher' who is at all their big events Bob Kerridge now seems to be openly anti-animal rights!!

I hope people see why it is so crucial that A.R. attitudes are voiced and represented. Its really not so scary to ring up and its just so important to get public attention on the animals whenever possible. All year A.R. groups try to highlight the issues, and yet so often open avenues to rant about A.R are missed. Its not just up to the A.R. groups, **its up to us all.** Talkback topics last for hours sometimes all day, the A.R. groups only get one phone call each It just needs more general support out there, so that stations are bombarded with **the right viewpoint - OURS.** We need to keep butting our noses in and keeping the conversation on the right track, countering these ridiculous ideas that come out time and time again - i.e. eating meat is good for you; ALF are fringe lunatics. (NB if you do ALF stuff don't ring in and support it. You don't want the association made☺).



Hand-Rearing Orphaned Possums

Possums are one of our most common wild animals. Unfortunately and all too frequently, they are the victims of road accidents. Usually baby possums are left to die. Whenever you see a dead possum you should always check its pouch to see if there is a baby possum inside. Carry a pair of gloves with you in case you find a dead possum. Hand raising orphaned possums is by no means a difficult task, it does however require a certain amount of love, care and devotion - things needed and eagerly sought by all young mammals. This goes especially for juvenile possum which have a close physical contact with their mother during pouch life. Also be aware that in NZ possum are regarded as 'pests'. Although under ethics codes a vet must always treat a wounded animal they will often refuse to do anything but euthanise a possum you bring to them. So be careful about your choice of vets, there are some compassionate vets who will help you out. In any case people should always be on the lookout for sympathetic vets. Just be a little wary. If the possum is very sick there's little else you can do but take it to a vet anyway. Once you have a possum you have two options. You can release it back into the wild - this takes much rehabilitation and preparation but is perfectly possible if you can put in the effort. The other option is to keep it as a 'semi-pet'. That is, if you cannot find a safe place to release the possum as all local areas lay poison, or have doubts as to whether it would survive in the wild - i.e. it is too people friendly etc.; another option is to try and find an alternative home for it. This is preferably with someone who has a farm or section backing onto bush from which they can continue to supplementary feed the possum. Strictly speaking you are not allowed to keep a possum as a pet but no one is to know if you have a large backyard and it hangs out down the back in your fruit trees. Also remember that if you are planning to release it back into the wild you will need to be careful about telling people about it, most will probably dislike this. The aim of this article is to describe as briefly as possible how baby possum's can be successfully hand raised and released back into the wild. Lastly don't let people put you off by telling you it is impossible to rehabilitate a possum or that they are dangerous and vicious animals, these are stupid myths, the propaganda of a possum hating nation. There are people all around NZ who rehabilitate possum regularly and often. Also remember it is common practice in Australia where possum are protected. I hope this article helps saves some lives.

First Aid and Shock:

When a baby possum is first found it will be cold, hungry and in shock. Immediately place the orphan in a warm sock or some other warm garment and carry it close to your body. By tying a sock into a sling, positioned around your neck you can create an artificial pouch that rests snugly in the indentation of your chest under your clothing. This is an ideal position as it creates a dark and warm environment similar to that of the mothers pouch. Under such conditions the progress and activity of the possum can be continuously monitored and it will settle down quickly, drawing security from the beat of your heart. If this method is impractical, alternatively the 'artificial pouch' may be placed on a heat pad, or electric blanket. Note: **The temperature should be set at 30-32 degrees celcius.** Any type of radiator or gas heating is inadvisable as this will cause the animal to dehydrate quickly. If the joey has a dry skin, a regular application of a lubricant i.e. baby oil, vitamin E or paw paw cream should be applied to the affected area. During this period, avoid handling or disturbing the possum as much as possible and in the event of a broken limb or serious illness seek veterinary assistance as soon as possible. In any case if you cannot help the animal and it is in pain you have little choice but to seek medical care.

Feeding

Once the possum has settled - which might take quite a few hours, you should start a feeding programme. For the first 24 hours it is best to feed a glucose and water solution only : example 1 teaspoon of glucose to 100ml of water. Note: the water should be boiled first. This should settle the possums stomach and prepare it for the artificial formula. Try to get the possum to lap up the fluid from a small container or spoon. If this is not possible or if the animal is too young you can substitute the mothers nipple with an eye dropper or a syringe with a small piece of rubber tubing attached to the end. NEVER FORCE FEED. If the possum really resists it may be very ill. Seek veterinary attention. Often they will not immediately adjust to being artificially fed and will fight and struggle. This can be dangerous for the animal as it may inhale the fluid and it could get pneumonia. A lot of time and practice is required, feeding one drop at a time. Do not allow the formula to run into the nose. Feeding a struggling possum can be messy business, especially if it is your first attempt. If you have problems try only allowing the possums head to protrude from the sock during feeding sessions, this can greatly reduce any resistance. The amount of food ingested and the number of feeds required varies depending on the age health and size of the possum. If the possum is very young (completely unfured) or weak it would probably need 2-3 hourly feeds of approximately 1-2ml, whereas a few weeks later it would need one feed every 4 hours of approximately 4-5mls. It is very important to remember that before and after each feed the cloaca which is located at the base of the tail is gently massaged with a wad of cotton wool. This induces urination, as all baby marsupials are unable to urinate unless stimulated by the mothers grooming. Quite often a hand raised possum will refuse to drink if its bladder is full. Possum are feed best in a room that is warm and quiet with few distractions and soft lighting.

MILK FORMULA's

If after the first 24 hrs the possum is ingesting the glucose solution and appears well, it may then be introduced to a weak milk formula. This formula should be gradually strengthened over a period of one week or more depending on the condition of the animal.

Carnation Milk (evaporated milk)

Days 1-2 50ml Carnation milk, 150ml boiled water, 1/2 teaspoon of glucose.
Days 3-4 50ml carnation milk, 100ml boiled water, 1 teaspoon egg yolk
Days 5+ 50ml Carnation milk, 50ml water, 1 teaspoon glucose, 1 teaspoon egg yolk.

NOTE: fruit juice should not be given to young possum as this does not contain sufficient nutrition
NOTE: Do not mix milk formula with fruit juice as post-mortems have indicated this can curdle in the stomach causing blockages which can be fatal (particularly with dehabilitated animals).

Diarrhea (Scours):

By increasing the strength of the formula there should be no digestive problems although diarrhea may occur. If the diarrhea is not severe (faeces a little looser than normal) decrease the feeding strength to the day 1 formula or do not increase it any further. Feed this formula for 24 hrs and only then gradually increase as normal. A small amount of yoghurt added to milk is extremely beneficial in developing stomach flora and has shown to be very beneficial with possum suffering from diarrhea. Natural yoghurt NOT the flavoured variety. However, as there may be a number of causes of diarrhea it is best to have the faeces checked by a vet as soon as possible before the animal weakens. In cases where severe diarrhea is evident the possum should be taken off the milk formula immediately and be fed a glucose solution or preferably an electrolyte solution such as "Lactade" which may be available from vets, for the first 24 hrs. Following that the orphan should be started on the milk formula from the beginning. However it is not wise to feed the glucose/electrolyte solution for more than 48 hrs as the possum may become very weak. Diarrhea is not always due to dietary problems but may be a symptom of stress or disease. If it persists and the possum becomes weak then it is best to consult a vet.

Growth and Development Chart:

This is approximate, variations occur depending on environment, food supply and the general health of the individual animal.

10-11 weeks	Initial hair growth, usually around the head.
14 weeks	eyes opened, completely furred
16 weeks	weaning, temporary emergence from pouch
20-24 weeks	fully independent.

Weaning:

By the time the possum is 4 months old it should have a full coat of fine dense fur. At this stage it should be introduced to solid foods and weaned off milk. It is preferable for two possums to be grouped together for warmth and companionship but this will probably not be possible. Possums can be weaned on soft fruits and vegetables and gain weight rapidly with this, however they should also be fed on native plants endemic to the area of their final release if that is what young intend on doing. At this weaning stage they should ideally have a caged enclosure so if you are planning on weaning possum regularly it is a good idea to build something. An aviary or hutch equipped with branches securely arranged leading to a high shelf on which to place food and a nest box in one corner. This allows the possum to adjust to its natural arboreal way of life and the external environment gaining experience in balance, mobility and acquiring a new sense of independence. Milk and later water can be placed into a small container for lapping. Foods such as a high protein baby cereal mixed with the milk formula, sliced apple, mashed banana, young rose leaves, young red tips of bottle brush, tea tree flowers, blossom and soft gum tips are eagerly accepted. By the time the little dude is 6 months old the nest box should be placed in a high sheltered corner of a large outside aviary (approximately 2 metres wide, 3 metres long and 2 metres high) to enable the possum to adapt to weather and space. Bread and apple can be spiked on branches or placed in hanging baskets with leaves draped over branches. This will encourage possums not to eat on the ground where they are in danger from predators. Dried leaves and bark should be available for the possums to carry to their nest box. At this stage they should be fully independent with no human contact and accustomed to a diet of tea tree, bottle brush, wattle and what ever native trees are in the area they are to be released into.

Release:

If the possum is kept too long in a cage situation it may become aggressive, depressed or too cage orientated i.e unable to cope with unlimited space. On the other hand it is inadvisable to release the possum during the winter. Late spring and early autumn are ideal times when the possum is 10-12 months old. When releasing, place the nest box high in the fork of a branch in a bushy tree. If possible possum should be released on private property where the owner can continue to supplement their diet with bread and apple until the possum have fully adapted to their environment. So try and locate possum friendly friends with sections backing onto bush or huge backyards with fruit trees etc.

'PEOPLE FOR POSSUM' is a nationwide network of people who care about ALL animals including possum and whose aims are to increase the public's awareness of the plight of these beautiful animals in N.Z.by distributing true facts and images of possum. For more information about possum in N.Z. or to join the 'People For Possum' campaign contact:

PEOPLE FOR POSSUM

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AOTEAROA



"The Myth of Non-Violence"

This article looks at traditional theories about non-violent resistance, examining whether they can be applied to animal liberation. It is an analysis of the usefulness of civil disobedience in the fight to free animals. In previous issues we have looked at how CD CAN be used to get media attention, and stop certain abusive events from occurring (disrupting circuses, rodeo's e.t.c). But is this type of non-violent activity in itself enough to halt worldwide animal abuse?

(NB Well thought out opposing or different analyses are wanted.
Also see: Readers Rant on pg28 'Violence is Wrong")

For thousands of years people have wrestled with human cruelty and tried to find an answer to it all. **How do we make sense out of the madness of the world we have created? How are animal lovers going to live in this world? If your family is doomed to suffering and death, what can you do about it?**

The Christian view is that "God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil." The foundation of the peace movement is found in these quotations from the Bible. There is recognition that evil exists and a belief that God will judge all evil. When you throw in the Christian ideal of turning the other cheek and loving your enemy, you get the following strategy. **Live peacefully, refrain from killing, and love oppressors as your brothers, for all evil will be judged by God.The real meaning of this strategy is more true to human nature. It means you should cover your own ass by obeying God's commandments, so that when your day of judgment comes you will be a shoe in to Heaven. On the other hand, the evil oppressors will get theirs when God gets His hands on them. In other words, let God do the dirty work of punishing the evil bastards - keep your record clean!**

Many people who hope to end the suffering and killing of animals are attracted to non-violence. Their modern day hero is Gandhi. Others use Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as a model. Since King was essentially a Black American Christian clone of Gandhi, and quotes Gandhi on many occasions, the following analysis of non-violent resistance will concentrate on Gandhi as the originator of the modern day peace movement. What was Gandhi's non-violent resistance approach about?

The main force Gandhi used was called Satyagraha, or passive resistance. Satyagraha is a word he coined, it means soul force, or truth force. At its root is the view that "(Ones opponent) must be weaned from error by patience and sympathy. For what means truth to one may mean error to the other. And patience means self-suffering. So the doctrine came to mean vindication of truth not by infliction of suffering on the opponent but on ones self." A key point of Satyagraha is that "It excludes the use of violence because **man is not capable of knowing the absolute truth and, therefore, not competent to punish."** Gandhi explains, "Everybody admits that sacrifice of self is infinitely superior to sacrifice of others. Moreover, if this kind of force is used in a cause that is unjust, only the person using it suffers. He does not make others suffer for his mistakes"

To illustrate the effectiveness of using soul-force, Gandhi told of his wife, Kasturba, who was suffering from a malady. Gandhi felt she should stop from eating salt and pulses to purify her body as a treatment. Asking her to give up pulses and salt was like asking the average Kiwi to give up meat. Gandhi tells the story "she challenged me saying that even I could not give up these articles if I was advised to do so. I was pained and equally delighted - delighted in that I got an opportunity to shower my love on her. I said to her: 'You are mistaken. If I was ailing and the doctor advised me to give up these or any other articles I should unhesitatingly do so. But there! Without any medical advice, I give up salt and pulses for one year, whether you do so or not.' She was rudely shocked and exclaimed in deep sorrow; 'Pray forgive me. Knowing you, I should not have provoked you. I promise to abstain from these things, but for heavens sake take back your vow. This is too hard on me.' Gandhi replied 'It is very good for you to give up these articles...you will be all the better without them. As for me, I cannot retract a vow seriously taken. And it is sure to benefit me, for all restraint, whatever prompts it, is wholesome for man...It will be a test for me, and a moral support to you in carrying out your resolve.' so she gave me up. 'You are too obstinate. You will listen to none,' she said, and sought relief in tears." Gandhi called this an example of domestic Satyagrahi. Its key elements are the same for all forms of this technique.

Much like a child who holds his breath until turning blue, Gandhi engaged in self-suffering to get what he wanted. **He played on another's love and pity.** As he said "Force of love and pity are greater than the force of arms". In other words, give others a guilt trip. Say to them "If you don't do what I want I'll hurt myself, and it will be on your conscience." **It is extremely important that the ones to whom you apply self-suffering tactics have a conscience.** The basis of the technique is that others will learn the truth in what you are tying to communicate by empathising with your pain and suffering. **Empathy and identification are essential for self-suffering to work.**

To have empathy and identification there must be a sense of oneness between individuals, and a mutual love. Gandhi referred to this as ahimsa - a universal love. It is a typical Eastern religion term, with many nuances of meaning foreign to Western minds. For example, it means dissociating oneself from all worldly possessions and relationships. Here ahimsa is the realisation of a kinship with all people, and, infact, with all animals.

Gandhi gave an example of the power of ahimsa and non-violence associated with dealing with a thief. "Instead of being angry with him you take pity on him. You think that this stealing habit must be a disease with him...You, therefore, keep your doors and windows open, you change your sleeping-place, and keep your things in a manner most accessible to him. The robber comes again and is confused as all this is new to him; nevertheless, he takes away your things. But his mind is agitated. He inquires about you in the village, he comes to learn about you broad and loving heart, he repents, he begs your pardon, returns your things and leaves off the stealing habit."

Yea right, Gandhi! Even social workers don't believe that crap about people. Gandhi was probably only talking about Indians, not Americans or other Western peoples. In fact he did say that his experiment in non-violent resistance had the best chance of working in India. And he said near the end of his life, **"I am but a poor mortal. I believe in my experiment and in my uttermost sincerity. But it may be that the only fitting epitaph after my death will be 'He tried but signally failed'"** This description of how to deal with a thief illustrates Gandhi's belief that "3/4 miseries and misunderstandings in the world will disappear, if we step into the shoes of our adversaries and understand their standpoint. We will then agree with our adversaries quickly or think of them charitably." In other words, empathy will bring understanding and peace.

To be this ideal person, full of love and forgiveness, is to be a Satyagrahi, a practitioner of Satyagraha. The Eastern equivalent of Christ. **Gandhi did not think of himself or his followers as real Satyagrahis.** It takes alot to be a Satyagrahi, a true passive resistor. Here are some of Gandhi's rules. A Satyagrahi, i.e. a civil resister will harbour no anger, He will suffer the anger of the opponent, He will put up with all assaults from the opponent, never retaliate; but will not submit, out of fear of punishment or anger. When any person in authority seeks to arrest a civil resister, he will voluntarily submit to the arrest, and he will not resist the attachment or removal of his own property, if any, when it is sought to be confiscated by the authorities. If a civil resister has any property in his possession as a trustee, he will refuse to surrender it, even though in defending it he might lose his life. He will however, never retaliate. Non-retaliation excludes swearing and cursing. A civil resister will never insult his opponent and not take part in any cries contrary to the spirit of ahimsa. In the course of a struggle if any one insults an official or commits an assault upon him, a civil resister will protect such officials from insult or attack even at the risk of his life.
Those were Gandhi's words, I have not exaggerated them.

What may seem strange is Gandhi's insistence that **non-violent resistance is only possible when those resisting are absolutely loyal to the State.** Gandhi got this idea from Thoreau, who coined the term **civil disobedience.** He believed a man of honor, who normally obeys moral laws, has a right to disobey immoral laws. Gandhi said "The privilege of resisting or disobeying a particular law or order accrues only to him who gives willing and unswerving obedience to the laws laid down for him." Unless all moral laws are obeyed scrupulously, the resister is ineffective. This is because **public opinion is tremendously**

important in this non-resistance approach. "Experience has shown that mere appeal to the reason produces no effect upon those who have settled convictions. The eyes of their understanding are opened not by argument but by the suffering of the Satyagrahi. The Satyagrahi strives to reach reason through the heart. The method of reaching the heart is to awaken public opinion. Public opinion for which one cares is a mightier force than that of gunpowder." If the Satyagrahi was not pure of mind, spirit, and action, if he was not a model human being, then it would weaken the pity that the public would feel at his suffering.

When a theory seems too naive to stand on its own, you can bet God isn't far behind. Naiveté in theory becomes faith in God. Gandhi's theory is no exception. He believed a faith in God was essential for non-violent resistance. Gandhi believed that only believers in God could be Satyagrahi because Satyagrahi had to be "prepared in the name of God to stake their all for the sake of principle...To bear all kinds or tortures without a murmur of resentment is impossible for a human being without the strength that comes from God... only those who can cast their cares and their fears on that immeasurable Power have faith in God." Suffering and dying only make sense if there is a God to pass judgment on it all after.

Gandhi discussed the use of Satyagrahi in for the German Jews struggle with Nazi Germany. "Can the Jews resist this organised and shameless persecution? Is there a way to preserve their self-respect, and not to feel helpless, neglected and forlorn? I submit there is. No person who has faith in a living God need feel helpless or forlorn...As the Jews attribute personality to God and believe that He rules every action of theirs, they ought not to feel helpless. If I were a Jew and were born in Germany and earned my livelihood there, I would claim Germany as my home even as the tallest gentile German may, and challenge him to shoot me or cast me in the dungeon; I would refuse to be expelled or to submit to discriminating treatment...If the Jewish mind could be prepared for voluntary suffering, even the massacre I have imagined could be turned into a day of thanksgiving and joy that Jehovah had wrought deliverance of the race even at the hands of the tyrant. For the God-fearing, death has no terror. It is a joyful sleep to be followed by a waking that would be all the more refreshing for the long sleep."

It is doubtful whether the multitudes of activists who speak in favour of Gandhi's approach and its application to the animal movement have ever read his writings. Let's examine some of the details of non-violent resistance and look at its appropriateness for freeing animals from human oppression.

First, **His approach demanded a purity and perfection of soul that even highly spiritual people, such as Gandhi's followers, had not yet achieved.** It required the giving up of all worldly possessions in order to be "indifferent whether we have the wherewithal to feed or clothe ourselves." Resisters would need to give up their jobs, cars and homes and live simply by their faith that God would provide. Gandhi expected his civil resisters to do so. **Civil resisters do not pay taxes that support the evil system. They all practiced non-cooperation.** This entails withdrawal from society. Basic steps in the first stage of non-cooperation included the surrender all titles and honorary offices, non-participation in Government loans, suspension by lawyers of practice, settlement of civil disputes by private arbitration, boycott of Government schools by parents and the non-participation in Government parties and such functions. While some of these prescriptions for non-cooperation were designed for the Indian problem, their intent was clear. **Thoreau** in his essay 'On The Duty Of Civil Disobedience' a work which highly influenced Gandhi said "I do not hesitate to say, that those who call themselves abolitionists should at once effectually withdraw their support, both in person and property" **The message is clear: participation in an unjust system must stop for those who want to change the system.**

The typical person concerned about animals is white, middle class, and not about to give up property, titles or wealth. Animal rights groups are deeply entrenched in the system. Many national animal organisations have thousands of dollars, which they invest in stocks, bonds or real estate. **This isn't a non-participation society.** Professionals capitalise on credentials to gain public respect as when doctors speak out against animal research. **This isn't surrendering all titles of honour or honourary offices!** The fact is, no one in this society who proclaims a belief in non-violent resistance practices anything like true Satyagraha. Does it make a difference? It does if they are supporting Gandian tactics. **So long as people participate in the society which they condemn they are nothing more than hypocrites.** Gandian non-violent resistance demands that resisters behave in a self sacrificial, self-denying manner. People in Western society just don't behave that way.

The second reason Gandhi's approach is inappropriate for the animal liberation movement has to do with his appraisal of human nature, which is central to his philosophy and approach. **He believed that humans are basically good.** If you show them you are suffering because of their action, then they will feel pity and change their ways. He also believed that oppressors lose all pleasure in their actions when the victim betrays no resistance. "The wrong-doer wearies of wrong doing in the absence of resistance" You might agree with Gandhi's assessment of human nature. You might even, like Gandhi, make stealing easy for the thief, so as to reform him. **But success of that approach depends on the ability of victimisers to empathise with their victims.** Perhaps in a small village, with mostly well intentioned people, such an approach could work. **But get back to reality - late 20th century animal abusing reality.** People see animals as exploitable objects, they eat them, something that the British didn't do to the Indians (at least not in public) **The level of respect for animal life is so low that a reliance on human empathy for non-humans is more than naive - it is destructive to animals.** Over the millennia during which animals have been butchered by people for one reason or another, their **oppressors have never grown weary of their deeds of terror, despite animal non-resistance.** If anything, domestication has led to strains of animals which are more easily manipulated than older ones, making their slaughter even simpler for humans to perform.

Gandhi was dealing with the sensibilities of humans towards humans. Guilt, or pity, only work when there is a connection between oppressor and oppressed. Gandhi gambled that even the most blind oppressor would eventually stop his aggression when he met unselfish, pure, non-violent resisters. Who is a better non-violent resistor than a dog about to be experimented on, sitting helplessly in a cage at a laboratory, or a cow anxiously waiting in a feed lot to be slaughtered? Animals are the ultimate Satyagrahis! They have no possessions, they do not participate in the system, and, despite their abuses, they still have the capacity to love humans. Some, like dogs, can even love those who abuse them. Kick them and they will apologise for hurting your foot. Gandhi would have been proud of such self-suffering creatures. Despite their cries, blood, and dead bodies, people are unmoved. Empathy is essential for pity to work, and animals receive little empathy from humans.

People who support non-violence are confusing the objects of oppression with the agents of liberation. Gandhi's Satyagrahis were both the oppressed and the liberators. **When it comes to animals, humans merely act as the agents of liberation.** Humans can suffer for animals but the oppressors will see this suffering as vicarious. If the oppressors have no respect for animals, will their hearts be melted into compassion by seeing other humans suffering for them? No! **When people have no empathy for animals, they see humans who have empathy for animals as lunatics.** Telling a vivisector that you love rats is like telling him you love rocks. If you fasted and engaged in all sorts of self-suffering to demonstrate the truth that you hold about animals needing to be free, then the oppressors will pity you - as mad.This is one problem the animal movement has that Gandhi's civil rights movement did not have. The liberators aren't the same as the liberated. Humans have sympathy and pity for other humans (sometimes), but they won't necessarily extend that sympathy and pity to rats, mice, goats, pigs and dogs. Remember, it is important that the ones towards whom you apply self-suffering have a conscience. Unless they already have a conscience about how they treat animals, which most people do not have, human self-suffering will never get the job done of raising consciousness.

Another problem which occurs when people act as agents for the animals is that there is a different responsibility being an agent for someone else, than merely acting as one's own agent. If it is your own life under fire, you can use non-violent tactics if you wish. You have a right to attend your own funeral! But what if it isn't your own life for which you are responsible?

People practice non-violence for personal reasons. It's a way of life, a strategy for dealing with the world. When acting as an agent for others, however, a dogmatic adherence to non-

violence can work against the best interests of the individuals being protected. A good agent must do whatever is necessary to protect his wards. One's personal preferences regarding non-violence may have to be overridden if the circumstances demand it. For example, consider a situation in which ten innocent children are about to be slaughtered by an insane killer. A non-violent woman has accepted the responsibility for protecting the children. She does everything peaceful that she possibly can imagine to stop the massacre. Unfortunately, her efforts are useless. While she could stop the man with force, she rejects such intervention. He lifts a machete and prepares to decapitate the first child, who is bound and gagged. Watching the slaughter, she prays to God for the children's and murderer's deliverance. A few moments later the children are all dead, and the murderer leaves the scene to terrorise and destroy other lives. In this situation, non-violence may have made the protector feel virtuous. But it resulted in the death of the children, whose protection was her responsibility. **Non-violence may be chosen as a personal way of life, but it makes for lousy protectors.** In short, it is fine to risk ones own life with non-violence. But do not endanger others in need of physical intervention by declaring yourself their savour. **Its animal abuse when non-violent animal supporters allow animals to die simply because these self-appointed guardians value non-violence over fighting for the animals lives and liberty.**

Gandhi said that human uncertainty is a root cause for accepting a strategy of non-violence, since we have no right to inflict our potentially erroneous assessments on others. The purpose of non-violence, then, is to live by your own beliefs and let others live by theirs. As others see you suffering due to their oppressive behaviours, they will come around to seeing things your way. But when you are agents of animals who are being slaughtered by the millions daily, can you take such a live and let live attitude?**Not intervening to protect animals is to allow crimes against our wards to take place. Indeed, it is a live and let die attitude to accept non-violence in the struggle for animal freedom. Animals need us to save them, by following a belief in non-violence we stop animals from receiving our help.**

Despite these arguments, some readers may still reject the use of force to stop animal abusers. Some people are dogmatically committed to a pacifist position when it comes to saving animals. The dilemma for these conscientious objectors, who consider themselves protectors of the animals, is easy to resolve. **If you feel it is wrong to use force to stop animal abuse, that's fine. Just don't consider yourself a protector of animals. Innocent members of our family are being abused and killed en masse, they don't need people who are afraid of asserting, in a physically meaningful way, that such treatment of our family is wrong and must stop.**

Those readers who have studied Gandhi may object to the implication that Satyagrahis only fought for their own liberation. In fact, Satyagrahis were instruments for other social change, acting on behalf of other disenfranchised groups. One example was their efforts to gain equality for the "Untouchables", a caste of people discriminated against and generally treated "like animals". Some might reason that Satyagrahis acting on behalf of "Untouchables" is a similar situations. Could this justify non-violent resistance for the animal lib movement? Gandhi believed that the "Untouchables" needed social reform, rather than political reform. He observed that "social reform is a tougher business than political reform. The atmosphere is ready for the latter, people are interested in it...(yet) **people have little interest in social reform, the result of agitation does not appear to be striking** and there is little room for congratulations and addresses. **The social reformers will have therefore to plod on for some time, hold themselves in peace, and be satisfied with apparently small results."** The common feature of the "Untouchable" struggle with the animal liberation struggle is that one group is acting on behalf of another. The difference is that "Untouchables" are human. To analogise the two struggles is an error. Despite having this human advantage, Gandhi recognised the process would be slow and arduous. The "Untouchables" still suffer in India. **Why was he willing to accept the small results of non-violent resistance?**

Partly because he believed God would have the final say on justice. Also **Gandhi expected the people who are resisting, and the group they are representing, to always remain a part of the society they are fighting.** This is made clear in his advice to Jews that they should not leave Germany, but should stay and accept their nationality and convert their oppressors with love. **This is a crucial feature of non-violent resistance. It assumes that the resistors, and the groups they represent, ultimately want to live with the people who are now their oppressors.** That is why non-violent resistors are to obey all laws rigorously, except for the immoral ones. They are model citizens to show that it is out of loyalty to country and love for others that they suffer. This approach considers it better to accept small moves in the right direction, than risk alienating society in an attempt at getting more. Remember, alienation is the opposite of identification, which is needed for empathy. In order for non-violence to work, the oppressors need to feel connected to their victims. In that way the victims suffering will cause suffering in the oppressors. Gandhi was trying to get people included in the power structure of Indian society. It was a movement of inclusion. If you get inclusion through violence, then it will always be an uneasy relationship. True love between people can only be reached by peaceful means. This was essentially Gandhi's position. Gandhi may have been correct, as far as humans living with other humans are concerned. But correct or not, this point is irrelevant for the animal movement.

We are not working for the inclusion of animals in society. But to free animals from human interference in their lives. From the animals point of view, they contend, it doesn't matter why animals are left alone, so long as they are. Having a loving revolution is only important if you want to be around afterwards to love one another. Animals don't want human love, only freedom from human exploitation.

So long as humans are the agents of the animals there is a problem. **The animals need freedom, but their human agents are concerned about living with other humans.** To put it bluntly, **humans have a conflict of interest when they help animals.** Humans are part of the society which abuses animals. They want to get along with other humans. Every animal supporter wishes the world consisted of other animal respecting humans with whom they could live peacefully, in harmony with other animals. Yet, the society in which humans live will never stop abusing other creatures, in fact it has vested interests in continuing that abuse.

There is no way that people will stop eating flesh, driving cars, wearing leather, hunting and generally abusing animals simply because a handful of "lunatics" feel compassion for beasts. Even Gandhi admits that you can't get through to everyone. When it comes to animals, you can't get through to most of the people in the world.

What is the conscientious animal defender to do?

One solution is the use of physical force. Force is a necessary method for defending animal beings against their human oppressors. The fact that we are human need not stop us. But it does demand, that each person reassess his or her loyalties. **If you are of the family of all creatures, brother or sister to other animals you must stop cooperation with society and participating in the slaughter and fight for your family.People who are of the family of man engage in tactics designed more to keep peace with other people than to free the animals.** This is why most animal organisations are concerned more about public opinion than their effectiveness in liberating animals.

As to Gandhi's belief and trust in God to rescue the suffering and bind their wounds even unto death - **a mouse about to be scalded by boiling water in the name of science is not comforted by a human's belief in God. To rely on divine judgment is to cop out.** Gandhi and people in the New Age movement who are influenced by Eastern religions, have an answer for the mouse. The purpose of the suffering is to provide sensitive humans with opportunities for growth. It is all a learning experience, helping us raise our consciousness and love for others. Gandhi even believed that life's evils were planned by God to test us. **Can you see how human centered such thinking is?** The world's problems are just here as a test for us! **Tell the mouse that he is dying, not for science, but for a test of the moral fiber of human beings.** Ok life's natural disasters are opportunities for personal growth. But are they planned for our growth? To regard them as such is to see the world and all its inhabitants as a resource for humans, objects placed in our way as obstacles to be overcome in the process of personal growth. **It**

is an age old theme of anthropocentrism.

Clearly non-violence will not work for the animal liberation movement. Yet people still insist on its use. Why do people hold onto non-violence as a tactic when it is so clearly inappropriate? Face the truth, most people are cowards. They are comfortable sitting on their fat sofas, sipping beers and watching rugby games on TV. If a person likes cats and dogs he may give $20 to some animal group, particularly if its one that sends pictures of animals being experimented on. It's easy for some people to disagree with animal research. They don't have to change their behaviours, like the food they eat, or the fact that they drive through the living rooms of animals each day. Of course, they still want their prescription drugs when they are sick, even if the drug company does test them on animals. Complacent people like this, who constitute the majority of people in this society, are too lazy and unthreatened in their own lives to engage in any real struggle for the animals.

The civil rights movements in India and in the U.S. were by the people for the people. Indians fought for independence from the British, women for equality to men, blacks for the enforcement of their constitutional rights, gays for equality among straights. Most of these struggles continue. **They are struggles of people wanting power in society. They are self-serving enterprises, only occurring when a group of people feels threatened and oppressed enough to rise up against their oppressors.** The animal liberation movement is entirely different. **It takes courage and conviction to fight for someone else's freedom when you are free yourself.** Most people don't have what it takes. So they hide their lack of courage and commitment behind a trust in God, or vows of non-violence.

There is another difference between human civil rights movements and the animal liberation movement. While no civil rights movement has been totally without the loss of life, the level of carnage suffered by the animals is infinitely greater than anything experienced by humans. Thousands of people may die in the cause for liberty; but **billions** of animals are systematically, thoughtlessly, and brutally exterminated every year, which translates into the millions each day! **Animals are bred for slaughter, fed for slaughter, and led to slaughter. The level of oppression experienced by animals is greater, more pervasive, and longer in existence than any human oppression against other humans. For people to fight on such a bloody battlefield for their fellow creatures takes great courage and conviction. Few humans have what it takes.**

Animal exploiters know this sad fact about people.That's why so many conversations with animal abusers end with the abusers saying, "I'll respect your right to live according to your beliefs, but I expect you to respect my right to live according to mine" What they are saying is that we humans are entitled to a disagreement over choice of lifestyles. But lets not get too serious about this animal business. Imagine how it would sound if they said, "I expect you to respect my right to treat your brothers and sisters as mine to use as I wish" You wouldn't merely shake hands and agree to disagree. But, that is exactly what happens each time a debate between animal abusers and animal supporters is conducted. Be peaceful and respectful at all cost. Don't get the public thinking that you are a bunch of fanatic's. You have to live with your neighbours, even if they are animal exploiters, don't you?

Abusers know what choices most people will make. People have made them in the past. Abusers know most people will never put their lives on the line for animals. They want to ease their consciences concerning animal suffering, but still participate in the cruel system.

It's hard living in a cruel society as a participant, while trying to maintain sensitivity to animals. It is impossible for a moral person to live in an immoral society. How can you eat in a restaurant as an animal supporter, when most restaurants are serving members of your family on platters with assorted sauces? How can you shop in a grocery store, when an entire department is devoted to selling body parts of your loved ones? The more sensitive you are to animals, the more difficult this participation becomes.

The idea of non-violence as an effective means of gaining freedom for animals is a myth perpetuated by people with vested interested in making life in a cruel society easier for humans. The myth is promoted by four different factions in society. One is the abusers invested in maintaining control over the oppressed. They prefer sign carrying, hymn singing protesters to bomb throwing, gun shooting liberators for obvious reasons. If the peaceful protesters feel their signs and songs are doing some good, then the protest will vent their anger and hostility to animal abuse, allowing them to blow off steam. This will keep them from engaging in more serious, violent and effective action.

The second faction is the moderate animal lovers, they stand to lose whenever the status quo is upset, but they are uncomfortable with all features of the existing regime. They see non-violence and compromise as the best means for maintaining their comfortable lifestyles, while at the same time relieving their consciences. Cowards and insincere people prefer non-violence to physical intervention. Talk is always cheaper than action.

The third group is the religious people who believe that God will punish the sinners and reward the virtuous. They essentially pass the buck to the big man upstairs, and speak words of love and peace to make themselves seem pure and holy when their time comes up for judgment. To these people, non-violence helps them get to heaven, which is more important to them than helping other creatures get free from human bondage.

The fourth faction consists of "New Age" peaceniks, who style themselves according to their Westernised, oversimplified interpretation of Gandian non-violence. They believe that no peace can come from war, a point which Gandhi espoused. Like the religious people they want to leave judgment to God so keep their personal records clean, these spiritually minded people want to leave everything to karma and maximise their personal growth. They don't reflect on the inappropriateness of their tactics to animal liberation, they are too busy reflecting on their own spiritual enlightenment and development. They may see the animal movement as a branch of their own growth in becoming more peaceful and loving people. Their interest in animals is secondary to their interest in becoming loving beings. When animals are being abused, they will speak out for love and peace, but will do nothing to physically stop the abuse. Sometimes, they are not even willing to face the destruction that exists all around them, since they want to keep a positive outlook and "good vibrations" in their lives. Of course, the animals gain nothing by this fair weather, anthropocentric love. The animals need liberators, not people who stick their heads in the sand, denying that the world is filled with evil, horrible acts committed against innocent creatures.

Every massive, successful movement was never exclusively peaceful, even when it was designed to be. Gandhi's movement was consistently associated with violence despite Gandhi's appeals for peace. The black civil rights movement had Martin Luther King, Jr., but it also had Malcolm X. There were peace marches, but there were also race riots and Black Panther actions and threats. It is popular for non-violence supporters to accept the credit for gains made in these movements. But would the gains have been made without the specter of violence, real and threatened? Gandhi, for example, had millions of followers eager to fulfill his every command. Despite his message of Satyagraha, Gandhi, and the British officials, knew that the possibility of violence breaking out was real. How much of Gandhi's influence was due to the officials fear of this potential for violence?

The use of militant intervention is the only way to make people conscious of the fact that they cannot continue to exploit other creatures. One can't raise consciousness until there is consciousness. People are unconscious to the pain and suffering of non-humans. They are only conscious of the pleasures and pains that directly affect their lives. Its time the lovers of animals make the abusers conscious of pain when they hurt our family members.

It is time to physically stop human oppressors and allow our brothers and sisters, and the environment in which they live, to heal; it is a time to love animals with deeds and not mere words, and a time to hate humans for their callousness, bigotry, and greed; and it is a time for war on humankind, and a time for peace in our hearts by freeing ourselves from this massive destruction machine called society, whose wheels turn with the blood, sweat, and tears of animals.

Excerpt taken from "A Declaration of War: Killing People to Save Animals and the Environment" by Screaming Wolf. Note in condensing the chapter some parts have been altered and kiwised.

Letters from Readers

DEAR LIBERATE!

I'm a vegan from a small town who goes to school. My first comment is: If you have vegan friends with you, be thankful! I can't tell you how great it is when I go to other towns and cities and see my vegan friends again, or meet seemingly countless more. It's really hard being the only vegan I know of in my town, and definitely the only vegan my age. I get hassled all the time, comments like "are you sure it's got no animal products in it" when I ask for a bite of someone's apple may not seem bad but when I get it all the time it really starts to wear me down. "We were designed to eat meat", "who cares they're gonna die anyway", "do you only eat green stuff?". These comments are so typical they're almost laughable but I do get them and it's really hard to come up against such a wall of ignorance. I put up leaflets and they get torn down. I put stickers on things and they get ripped off. The worst incident happened recently when me and my friends art space got sabotaged and gratified with messages like "I love meat" painted across a t-shirt we had screen printed and "Pork Rulz", "Vegans suck", "Fry up at Penny's this weekend bring pork" etc on the walls. So basically my point is if you live in a major centre such as Auckland or Wellington, appreciate your vegan friends and the things you can achieve as a group. A daydream of mine is to have all the great vegan people I've met with me to battle it out with the meat eaters at school. When there's 10 people yelling at me that cow's are gonna die if you don't milk them so I'm actually the one being cruel, and there's only me to try and fight back, it's not easy. What I would do for one other vegan to fight with me and actually understand so I don't feel like I'm the crazy one. So to all the small town people - I know how you feel! And to all the city people - you're lucky! It's important for us all to communicate and work together.

Love from Penny

PS: dudes I'll say the cheesy remark - great mag! (but really it is, it's really inspiring and informative - GOOOOOO VEGAN!)

DEAR LIBERATE!

Hi there -Many thanx for the liberate you sent me. It was a good read, its good to see people everywhere take a stand against animal abuse. And about time too, abusers could do their "job" for ages without any harassment! Lets give them a taste of their own medicine!!

You talked about CD in issue #4, I want to tell you about my thoughts on this. People, don't be afraid about the police and jail. CD is a very effective way to express your feelings towards animal abusers, it almost always gets alot of media attention which is very good I think. Also you learn lots of things about the animal abusers, which is very good because you can use it in discussions etc. For example if you go to a slaughter house to take action you see how they work, treat animals, who's working there and how the building etc looks like. This information you can use very good against them, you can pass it on to ALF activists and use it for you education. And if you get arrested for CD, so what!! How long can they put you in jail? A few weeks maximum, and what's that compared to what the animals have to endure. And you learn alot by being arrested, about yourself and how the system works.

I am now 1 year in prison for actions against the meat industry and its worth it! So don't be afraid to take action, the more people join the better.

Look what happened in Germany with the nuclear transport, because of civil disobedience it cost the state about 170 million marks altogether to protect it. Now the German government is talking about how they must go on. They can't pay for much more castor transports.

OK. Take care and keep strong.

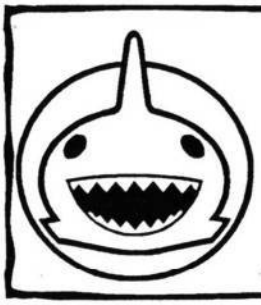
Liberation!

Frank Kocera

Frank is currently in prison over various arson attacks against the meat industry as well as painting anti-meat slogans on a butchers trading centre. he he he ! Way to go Frank.!! Anyone wanting to write to Frank, write to:

Frank Kocera - #1648820, Penitentiaire Inrichtingen (Over Amstel) Post bus 41901, 1009 CE Amsterdam, Holland.

Erik van der Laan is also serving time in prison for the same offenses. Erik was sentenced to 30 months and is being held in a juvenile prison at the other end of the country. He's been incarcerated far away from family and friends so he needs all the support he can get. Write to Erik at :
Erik van der Laan - #1648819 p.i. Nieuwe Vosseveld, Lunettenlaan 501, 5263 NT Vught, The Netherlands.



SWEET REVENGE

Last month 3 anglers drowned after being swept into the sea while fishing off the rocks at beaches around the country.

READERS RANTS

A space where animal activist's from around the country can share views and ideas about the animal liberation movement in NZ. IT'S YOUR SPACE, USE IT.

GRRRRR . . .

Well, I haven't ever had a rant before in your magazine, mainly because there wasn't much I wanted to say. But after going to the Action for Animals conference I got to thinking and came up with what I think is something that I would like to get off my chest for no other reason that to vent some anger.

When I found out about the conference, my first thought was "About time!". The animal rights movement in New Zealand is very small and in need of some picking up and I thought a conference was one place to start the picking! Titled "Action for Animals" I got the impression that the conference was going to be an event containing a lot of people who REALLY care about animals and who wanted to do more. I was sadly mistaken. There were a number of people whom I felt understood the ideas of animal rights and animal liberation (mainly the organisers of the conference) but a HUGE majority of the attendees made me thoroughly depressed about the movement. I went to the How Radical is Too Radical workshop and was totally blown away! Although the workshop was poorly organised and structured, it did try to talk about some very important points that I'd been racking my brains over recently and tried to make people understand exactly what animal liberation is about.

Unfortunately the attendants were the lamest bunch of fuckers I have ever seen! There was talk in the workshop about the lengths we should go to to save animals, and whether we should use physical force and property damage, like some groups have, to stop animals from being abused. The feeling I got from a lot of people there is that it wasn't really a good thing to harm people who systematically and daily abuse animals on a large scale. Well you lame mother fuckers - FUCK OFF! Now you may not want to get your welfarist hands dirty saving a creature about to have its throat slit, or injected with a deadly virus, after all, there are people to fuck, clothes to buy, and movies to see. But to say it's a bad thing for even others to do fills me with contempt. The movement doesn't need or want people like you - DROP DEAD. One guy even used an example about a dog, saying: do you hit a guy who kicks your dog when it is fighting with his dog? Maybe not if it's to stop them fighting, but if he keeps kicking it afterwards of course you would. You'd smash his face in! Apart from that the guy missed the point ENTIRELY. A little fight between dogs is nothing, but what if you lost your dog, then discovered it'd been sent from the pound to some lab so some sick bastard could pour chemicals down it's throat. Would you find the person and say "Excuse me sir, would you mind stopping that. I think it is hurting my dog?" Get real, you'd grab the closest heavy object walk up to him and plant the object rapidly between his eyes.

END OF STORY.

That same workshop also talked about veganism and the lengths we should take this to. It seemed to pose some serious and important questions about driving cars, using film with gelatine etc Things that we should be thinking about if we consider ourselves "vegan". But the response from most people was outrageous. Most of the people who talked found it perfectly ok to use gelatine film cause it was their hobby or career, and thought talking about cars was "a bit silly". A number of them were vegans too I found out. I would just like to say - WAKE UP DICK HEADS! Gelatine comes from the bodies of dead cows if you use it YOU ARE WRONG! DON'T TRY AND MAKE AN EXCUSE! This doesn't mean that you shouldn't use it - note the difference. Maybe getting photos of a laboratory, or some sick farmer's treatment of animals would help close them down - it may well do. Then maybe you can justify using it. But understand, it is not good to use it - remember the animals that died for it! And don't take the life of the cow just so you can get a few snaps of your new car.

I think the prevailing problem with most of the people at the conference and that workshop was they were happy with their veganism. They think veganism is enough. Well I'm sorry to say veganism is shit. It's FUCK ALL! If you care about animals, you go vegan. That is your FIRST step. Not your last. From there, you get out and do demos, you tell people you're pissed off. You tell your family you don't like them for eating meat. Boycott their dinners. You then turn nocturnal - go out at night - find a nice animal abuser's shop - AND SMASH THE FUCKER UP! Then how about take a nice stroll through a laboratory. I know if I did it, there would be one laboratory empty of animals with heavily injured vivisectors spread around the floor. I doubt if many others at the conference would feel the same.

I am truly depressed that out of the 60 or so people at the conference - an animal rights conference - only about a dozen of them actually knew what animal rights was about, and even fewer animal liberation. I will try and spell it out for the moronic vegan masses out there....

Our Sisters and Brothers (That's the animals ok?) are being tortured and murdered EVERY FUCKING SECOND. More so than any human has and ever will be. They are RAPED, ELECTROCUTED, CRUCIFIED, BEATEN, STARVED, CUT-OPEN, POISONED and DISEMBOWELED - In their trillions!. Just so the selfish humans can smell nice, have their poisonous medicines, taste flesh and use their film. IT"S NOT FUCKING MADE UP - IT IS REAL! OK? Now what do we do to stop it? PETITION - BZZZZ wrong answer, do a demo - BZZZZZ partly wrong. Burn their houses down - FUCK YES. Smash their heads in - TOO RIGHT. We are in a WAR - WAKE up and smell the coffee. We are right - The animals need us - NOW! DO SOMETHING YOU LAME ARSEHOLES. Fuck the bands, Fuck the clothes, fuck capitalism - DESTROY THINGS!

So there, I've said It and I'm happy. I just want to finish by saying I LOVE all those readers out there at night with their ski masks on and slingshots in hand. I love all the prisoners who got off their arses to smash things, burn things and blow up abusers. We may never win, but I'll be happy to know I'm spending my time alongside other warriors helping animals, and not helping myself to the fruits of the earth.

Although I don't think you will, can you please not edit the letter.....Thank you.

"ANIMAL MURDERERS,
VIOLATORS OF THE INNOCENT,
MUST DIE FOR THEIR CRIMES,
YOUR RIGHT TO LIVE IS GONE,
YOUR BURNING BODIES SHALL LIGHT THE
PATH TO A GLORIOUS NEW DAWN"
- EARTH CRISIS

VIOLENCE IS WRONG!

Just recently on British TV C4 'Countryside Undercover' Zoe Broughton filmed inside a Brit laboratory. One of the scenes shown was of a man in a white coat holding a beagle puppy. He was hitting it, shaking it, shouting at it to "sit down" . This bastard was just about to torture the dog and he was getting cross at it for being scared.

Anyone with any feelings what so ever is overwhelmed with tears when they either watch vivisection experiments being carried out or see its effects. The pain and suffering it causes is unimaginable. It is only therefore too understandable why some good caring people can feel so much hostility towards animal abusers that they are motivated towards violence. Its all to easy, when you are aware of so much pain and suffering, to want to inflict some of that pain and suffering back onto the scum that carries it out. However Animal/Earth libbers must avoid such violent action at all cost.

The deliberate creation of pain and suffering is wrong. We already live in a society governed by fear. As an Animal/Earth Lib activist I want to help create a world free from human generated suffering. A world where all species can live life as nature intended and where individual humans are free from coercion and the threat of violence (both external such as assault, rape, etc., and internal, such as self-mutilation, Anorexia, etc.) I don't want to help perpetuate a system that control's by fear or help create a new system that replicates the violence of the old.

Much to my shame, three years ago I wrote an article entitled "Ethical Violence". Although the article did not try to encourage violence it did say that people should not be critical of Animal/Earth Liberation activists whose actions are judged to be violent. The article argued that activists in groups like the Justice Department were obviously well intentioned people who reasoned that their violence would negate a greater amount of violence. Therefore as they genuinely believed that their action would have an overall effect of reducing the overall level of violence. the JD should be supported.

Since I wrote that article I have rethought my views on violent direct action and I no longer support its use. Violence is not the way forward. People that use violence are misguided and must change tactic. For example, in February 1997 a group of Hunt Retribution Squad (HRS) activists clubbed and whipped a blood junkie to commemorate the death of murdered hunt sab Mike Hill. Why did they do it? What good did that do? Has the attack stopped people from terrorising and murdering wildlife? Will it prevent more good people like Mike Hill, Tom Worby, Jil Phipps, Ferdando Pereira (the Greenpeace activist murdered by the French Secret Service when they used explosives to sink the Rainbow Warrior vessel) and William Sweet (a LACS activist shot dead on 6/1/76 after an altercation with a man shooting birds) from being killed? Now trashing the Cheshire Beagles property would have been a much better tribute to Mike than deliberately trying to create pain and suffering in another. After all Mike was a sab because he wanted to prevent the deliberate creation of pain and suffering.

People have already publicly stated that I've gone "fluffy" because of my commitment to non violence. An accusation I find deeply insulting. Others have said my views on violence have only changed because I am trying to win favour with the courts in my forth coming trial. Again a lie. I am writing this because I have matured over the past three years and come to recognise that violence is the problem, not the solution.

Animal/Earth Liberation is about creating a world free from suffering. You win people over by sound argument. You close down the Animal/Earth Liberation abusers through nonviolent direct action. You do not win people over by physically assaulting everyone who disagrees with you. Violence in the Animal/Earth Liberation movement is wrong and it must never be condoned. Or will the people who now cheer when they hear of a blood-junkie being whipped also cheer if they ever hear of a female blood-junkie being kidnapped, raped and murdered by a sexual abuse pervert? Did they cheer when the Irish Republican Army shot dead an Ulster **Protistant** butcher just before they declared their long cease-fire?

Violence is wrong.

RABBIX

(Rabbix puts out an excellent English newsletter called ☆**ECO-VEGAN**☆' . Eco vegan publishes prisoner and court news; Earth/Animal Liberation Front activities from around the world, and other general news. Its a fairly small publication so anyone interested in having a look at it send us SAE and 50c and we'll photocopy the last couple of issues for you.)

A young sparrow crash-landed in the chimpanzee cage at Basle Zoo, one of the apes instantly snatched it in her hand. Expecting to see the bird gobbled up, the keeper was amazed to see the chimp cradle the terrified fledgling tenderly in a cupped palm, gazing at it with what seemed like delight. The other chimpanzees gathered and the bird was delicately passed from hand to hand. The last to receive the bird took it to the bars and handed it to the astonished keeper.



SUBSCRIPTIONS

	1 copy/issue	Each extra copy
Aotearoa	$2	$1
Elsewhere	$4	$2.50

All prices are in NZ$ and include postage.
Send subs to: Auckland Animal Action PO BOX 34641 Birkenhead, Auckland, Aotearoa (NZ)

DRAWING THE LINE

Getting involved in the animal rights movement and going vegan means making a major change to your lifestyle. At first veganism just seems to be a question of giving up food, clothing and household items made from or tested on animals. But when you start to look into the problem of animal abuse, it is much more complex , for example many companies may sell some vegan products, but also make most of their profits from selling products derived from animal cruelty or they may be owned by another company which does so. And what about those companies who exploit their workers or buy up land in third world countries or destroy the environment. What about the environmental pollution involved in the transport of vegan products, e.g. fruit from Costa Rica or soya beans from the USA. As you can see no-one can avoid all animal abuse and that is where it becomes necessary to draw your own lines.

You need to find a level that is sustainable for you and this should not be reliant on the attitudes of those around you. You may be more or less radical than your friends, but as long as you feel able to keep that up, do it. I do think it is important to periodically review your position though. If your decision becomes fixed in stone, ignoring all outside influences, you are in danger of becoming as bigoted as your average meat-eating scum. So if you decide you can do that bit more towards being a "stricter" vegan, you should do it. If anyone gives you hassle about it, they are just showing a typical guilt reaction. Veganism isn't a competition. If you were giving money to save three rather than two children dying of starvation in the third world, people would applaud you, not hassle you.

For me I have the problem that I think about these things too much and if you start to think about everything you do, not only does your shopping take hours, but you are in danger of cracking up under the stress of all the decision making.

The same is true of how much time you spend actively campaigning for animal liberation. You can be a vegan, but apart from the people you come into contact with in your everyday life, you will not be changing people. Of course if you are a vegan and not too "weird" looking or acting, then you will positively influence all the meat-eaters you work/study/hang out with. But unless you are one of those people who will always stand up for yourself and make a point of being strict about what you eat, etc. other people will just take animal rights as a phase. If you really do want animal liberation and it's not just a trendy hobby for you, then you need to take regular positive action, as often as possible. Are you one of those people who say you really care about animals, but whenever people are needed at a demo or to support a campaign, there always seems to be a gig, a party or work that gets in the way? Perhaps you should wake-up to reality and either get active or admit that you don't care enough for it to interfere with your life. From the people I've come across who consider themselves animal rights activists, but don't actually do anything, there are two types: those for whom something better always comes up and those who get so depressed about the enormity of changing things, that they just run away from reality and don't do even a bit.

There is no excuse for either of these types of people. Everyone can do something. Just think about doing one thing for animals everyday.

Here are a couple of ideas:
1) The simplest thing is to write, phone or fax a company. Since companies rely on making money for their existence, they really do care about what the public (i.e. consumers) think. Just a few letters on a subject does make them think, because they consider that for every letter they receive there are dozens more people who think the same, but just can't be bothered to write. So contact food manufacturers and ask for more vegan products, e.g. write to light-licks asking them to take the honey out of their ice-cream so that vegans can eat it. Or put suggestions in the boxes at supermarkets asking them for more vegan biscuits, better labeling of vegan products etc.; write to companies that test on animals saying you'll boycott them until they stop testing. If you just have a pen and paper when you are out, you can jot down the addresses you need or look in the yellow pages. A letter only takes 10 minutes to write - it doesn't have to be a masterpiece. Make sure you have a supply of envelopes and stamps and it will become so easy.

2) As vegans we need to be better catered for by cafes, restaurants, etc. Next time you are going out for some food with some veggie friends, visit some eateries and request suitable meals. Be polite, but if they cannot cater for you, make a big deal of it and leave them in do doubt that they have lost money and your custom, by not providing vegan food. If they are willing to help, but don't know what to provide, contact us (Vivian the Voluptuous vegan c/o AAA at PO Box 34641 Birkenhead,' Ak) and we can send them a fact-sheet about veganism with some suitable recipes. The easier we make eating out as a vegan, the more people will turn vegan.



Vivian the Voluptuous Vegan

★VEGAN IS SEXY★

SWEET REVENGE

Zimbabwe Sept 96' A giant crocodile that had been regularly jabbed by a keeper to make it snap its jaws and lash its tail for tourists finally bit off the arm of its tormentor

WHY VEGAN? WHY STRAIGHTEDGE?

BY JEFF SANDERS

As one of many fortunate children in the world, I had the pleasure of experiencing first hand what it is like to grow up in a family where alcohol was used. After one of my parents had consumed a fair amount of liquor (more often than not) I found myself to be the subject of physical violence, which I believe to be a rather negative action induced by alcohol. Observing the "downward spiral" effect alcohol seems to have on the abusers life, I saw the course of which the rest of my immediate family members were following and chose very early in my youth not to go down this destructive path, which eventually causes harm to oneself and all others burdened with an alcoholic.

It doesn't take a genius to figure out that drugs will destroy your mind and body. Illegal/legal, tobacco, marijuana, acid, whatever. Using these substances as a means of escapism is going to ruin your life. If you are one of the misguided souls living dependent on drugs and alcohol believing your having fun now, you should remember, if there is one thing that is certain it is that time passes and when you r turn comes to lay helpless in a hospital bed, victim to kidney failure and lung cancer your neglected body will show you no mercy.

As the world has many problems I later discovered the cruelties and sick crimes that humans commit against animals and made a conscious decision to disconnect myself and campaign against the horrors of the slaughterhouse, laboratories and zoos etc. Through veganism and a drug and alcohol free lifestyle, clearer thoughts can be attained and then you have a sound foundation on which to base your actions as an animal and earth liberator, free from right-wing ridicule.

I am surprised to find that many involved with "animal liberation" shun the straightedge doctrine, which I always believed to be a pre requisite for bringing help and freeing others from injustices, making a sincere and clear-minded attempt to end crimes against mother nature. I'm afraid that credibility for the animal liberation movement will be lost once associated with drug use and alcoholism as we saw with the hippies and their peace and love ideas which only turned out to be a love for the peace pipe.

If you are so weak that you need to use drugs and/or alcohol as a means for escapism, then any title you may assume that is to signify efforts to bring about a better world, should be reserved for those able to make a commitment to maintain a clear mind abhorrent to drug and alcohol use.

It makes me sick to think that people can be so displeased with their level of consciousness they indulge in substances to temporarily lower and displace their intellect so as they may have "a good time" when I'm sure there are millions of intellectually handicapped, retarded and mentally ill people who, if given the chance would love to live a normal life and function as a regular human being able to think straight.

You only have to go out on a Friday night (or almost any other night of the week) to witness the negative impact that alcohol and drug use has on our society. From club to club they roam, slurred, stumbling, dazed, vomiting and brawling.....a dead end activity.

The reasons to me are extremely clear why drugs and alcohol should not enter into the equation when striving to achieve a compassionate, cruelty-free civilisation. I believe that keeping the mind and body free form drugs and intoxicants imperative if one is to become an animal activist, demonstrator, spokesperson or anyone who is to serve animal and earth liberation effectively. Maintaining clear thought is a necessity if you are to express a flawless ideology.

There are other precepts involved with living straightedge e.g. refraining from promiscuous sex etc. (this is needless for me to mention and purely for the average readers benefit) If you have made the responsible decision to live a vegan lifestyle free from drugs and alcohol you will no doubt be able to conduct yourself in a respectful manner.

Unlike some of my peers, I always believed refusing drugs and alcohol to be a positive decision. To avoid uncontrollable anger, sorrow, despair and that I would never act the way my parents did when setting an example while an impressionable child is being raised, to avoid wrapping myself around a lamppost or possibly killing others through drunk driving. When you choose to use drugs or alcohol you make a decision to loose control of your mind. Impairing your judgment, underming all beliefs you may have.

If you are one of so many imprudent humans who look apon those who live a drug free or "straightedge" lifestyle as extreme, silly or a bunch of kids who've found some acceptance in following a 'trend'. You should restrain your expected condescending snicker and show some respect to those of us able to stand against a corrupt world out of balance without yielding to suppressants. Living straightedge is not a "scene" which I've latched onto and has nothing to do with hard-core shows (which I do not attend). Like flesh consumption and the use of all other animal products, I saw the problems linked with drugs and alcohol and chose to exclude them from my life as respect for myself and others.

For fear of an ignorant response I am not usually one to typecast myself but as I choose to live forever true to veganism I am proud to say I AM STRAIGHT EDGE.

SWEET REVENGE

UK Dec 96': A farmer was killed from the blast of his own gun when he stumbled and fell into a ditch while hunting a fox!

AnimaL info

News for Animal Liberation

For all your information on local direct action (contributions welcome) and prisoner support.

Single Copies: $1 by mail.
Bulk: $10 for 15.
Overseas: Free if you send letter of animal lib news.

PO BOX 22459
ChristChurch,
Aotearoa/NZ

DID YOU KNOW THIS WAS VEGAN?

Our definition of Vegan is: *containing no animal products at all including those from insects; like honey and cochineal-[from the cochineal bug].* Any household products we list are vegan and have not been tested on animals either the finished products or ingredients. Our policy is to contact the companies in each case; not just read the labels which anyone can do. Any queries are welcomed, if you ever have a problem with anything we list please don't hesitate to contact us, we would rather know if we have made a mistake, so that we can rectify the situation.

** In furture (starting NEXT issue) when I check out products I will ask about whether or not the item contains any refined sugar. I realise that many vegans now avoid refined sugar (most in NZ is refined using bone char). This seems only consistant since we listed vegan beers available here - so people could avoid those refined with isinglass (from fish bladders).

CEREBUS GREGG'S LTD

Sancho products

The following corn chips contain no animai products:

Sancho Natural
Sancho Chilli Picante
Sancho Salted
Sancho Salsa
Sancho Taco Shells

CONDOMS

Yes! finally found out about a brand that is vegan and not tested on animals. Its called 'JIFFY' as yet I don't know where they are available in New Zealand, but they are a big brand overseas, so everyone keep an eye out for them and write to us if you find out any place that stocks them. In the meantime I will write the company and see if they are available here, and who stocks them.

CADBURY

Last time we mentioned that Cadbury's drinking Chocolate is vegan. The 'flavour' is Ethyl Vanillin and a natural spice. Cadbury also assure us that any addititves such as emulsifiers are vegetable derived. Where gelatine, milk fat, milk powder, fresh milk, egg or honey are used they are listed in the ingredient list on the label. So you can trust all the labels on Cadbury's stuff to list any dodgy ingredients if they occur, and anything unspecified will be o.k.

Thats all for this time, I am writing away to Krispa (the chips company), Longalife, Sanitarium and perhaps Watties (re unspecified flavourings in stuff - like their Baked Beans) for the next issue. If anyone has any special queries they want me to check out just ask and I am happy to do that. Also I am going to start trying to source some vegan wines available here (wine is refined using isinglass, or sometimes gelatine). Also remember if anyone wants a list of everything we have checked out so far just send us a SAE and stamps and we'll send you a copy.

DODGY STUFF

This is a list of all the stuff we have found our is not vegan through contacting companies. I haven't included obvious stuff like cheese flavoured chips etc. Where possible I have tried to say what they have in them which is dodgy. **Note:** this is in no way a complete listing of all the dodgy products/ flavours etc these companies use.

'FLAVOURINGS'

'Flavourings' on any product should always be regarded as dodgy because the 'flavourings' can be anything what-so-ever. Many of the hidden flavourings we have checked out have turned out to contain either milk or chicken products. Here's a list of some of the dodgy stuff we have come accross, it proves you can never trust flavours even when they sound like they should be vegetarian.

SANCHO CORN CHIPS

Sancho Jitomate
Sancho Jalapeno
Sancho Smokey Burrito
Sancho Taco Supreme
**All these flavourings contain milk products.

ETA AND BLUEBIRD CHIPS

Eta and Bluebird Spring onion and Green Onion Chips. (*these are not even vegetarian - possibly a chicken extract)
All Eta Salt and Vinegar Chips contain a milk product (NB Bluebird's S&V are fine)

ETA

ETA Dry Roasted nuts

FLEMINGS



Flemings Vita Crunch - Raisin
Flemings Vita Crunch - Apricot
Flemings Vita Crunch - Regular
**All contain honey

LONGALIFE

"Not Dogs" vegetarian battered sausages on a stick *contain honey
"NotChicken Breast Fillet' contains whey and egg albumen
'Not Bacon' contains egg albumen

SOY CHEESES

I know of no vegan cheese sold commercially in New Zealand. All varieties of soy cheese contain CASEIN which is a milk protein.

CHELSEA SUGAR Chelsea sugars are refined using bone char.

**Only sugar that says it is 'unrefined' will defintiely be vegan. i.e Billington's Natural Demerera Sugar.

CONTACTS

Auckland Animal Action

P.O. Box 34-641, Birkenhead, Auckland
e-mail at: aaa@ihug.co.nz/~aaa
WWW site: http://crash.ihug.co.nz/~aaa
Grassroots animal activist group. Current campaigns: People for Possum, veganism (egg/dairy esp), anti-vivisection (medical).

Hamilton Animal Action

A new group you contact H.A.A. c/o- PO Box 34-641 Birkenhead, Auckland and correspondence will be forwarded. Anti-Gillette, McDonalds and vivisection demos have been recent issues tackled.

Wellington Animal Action

P.O Box 6387, Te Aro, Wellington, Aotearoa.
A grassroots activist group tackling all animal abuse. Anti-vivisection, and anti-zoo and duck-shooting campaigns actively running.

S.A.F.E.

50 High St. Auckland Phone:309 7738
P.O Box 13366, Christchurch, New Zealand
e-mail: safe@chch.planet.co.nz
Our National animal rights organisation. Great source of information on anything to do with animal welfare and rights. Major campaigns started or coming up: Animal testing (cosmetic), Veganism and vegetarianism, Live exports. Ak SAFE: also has an anti Circus campaign

Vegan Society (NZ)

P.O. Box 876, Auckland, New Zealand.
The Vegan Society will provide you with lots of information and help on becoming vegan. If you're a new vegan then definitely contact them.

NewZealand Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS)

P.O Box 22076, Christchurch, Aotearoa.
A group totally dedicated to abolishing vivisection based around the principles of scientific anti-vivisection.

McLibel Support Campaign

P.O Box 14156, Kilbirnie, Wellington,
http://www.ch.planet.gen.nz/~mcspot/home.html
Information on the biggest libel case in British history.

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Or on the WWW:
http://crash.ihug.co.nz/~aaa



OK THATS ALL FOLKS!

THANKS EVERYONE FOR ALL THE RANTS, ARTICLES AND LETTERS ITS GREAT TO SEE PEOPLE WRITING STUFF (MEANS i HAVE TO THINK A BIT LESS WHICH IS ALWAYS GOOD!)

OH YEAH, I KNOW I NEVER PROOFREAD THAT WELL BUT DID ANYONE SPOT THE HUGE BUMBLE IN THE LAST LIBERATE!? THE NEWS ITEM ABOUT THE McDONALDS OCCUPATION HAD AS MANY MISTAKES IN IT AS THE WHOLE REST OF THE MAG - WHOOPS! I REALLY MISSED SPELLCHECKING THAT ONE SOMEWHERE! SORRY!!

IF PEOPLE SEE ANY COOL CARTOONS OR PICTURES PLEASE SEND THEM IN! THEY ARE ALWAYS WANTED

AND LASTLY, i'M REALLY INTERESTED IN FEEDBACK FROM THE 'SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY' ARTICLE IN THE LAST ISSUE. HAS ANYONE TRIED THE TACTIC - IF SO UPDATES WOULD BE GOOD AND HIGHLY AMUSING TO ALL.

OK, SEE YA'S ALL NEXT ISSUE. DEE

MEAT

All six heads in this picture are dead –
Three by murder, three by choice!!





"Professor LaVonne had many enemies in the entomological world, detective, but if you examine that data label, you'll find exactly when and where he was — shall we say — 'collected.'"