TURNING POINT

50p

NO. 5 AUTUMN 1986

The Animal Rights Magazine



Inside a British Laboratory • Meat and Human Hunger • Media Distortion • Chicken Transportation

TURNING POINT



After a time of decay comes the turning point... - I Ching

Cover Photos

Front: A pig lies in a hospital vivisection laboratory (see page 20). Photo: Central Animal Liberation League.

Back: Three otters liberated from Birmingham Nature Centre by the Animal Liberation Front. Photo: Animal Liberation Front.

Box 1
Earth'n'Wear
15 Cowley Road
Oxford
OX4 1HP

All correspondence should be sent to the above address. We welcome items and articles on any aspect of animal rights but may have to edit some contributions. Opinions expressed in TURNING POINT are not necessarily those of the editors.

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Editorial

As some readers will have noted, the cover price of the magazine has been increased from 40p to 50p, a move which we have delayed for as long as possible. The reasons for this are twofold: increased production costs and a need to be able to offer good bulk order prices. In the past we have made a loss when selling the magazine to bookshops, newsagents, etc. As this area of sales continues to expand, which it must do, we can no longer sustain these losses. This increase means that we can expand more rapidly and make the magazine available to a wider readership. However, we have kept subscription prices stable at £2, so as to affect the individual reader as little as possible.

Please help us distribute the magazine by asking bookshops, wholefood shops and newsagents in your area to stock it. If you are interested in becoming a distributor, please contact us for more information.

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LIVESTOCK MARKETS CONDEMNED

The Government's advisory body, the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC), has produced a report that strongly criticises the treatment of animals at livestock markets. It proposes 119 changes to the current law. Twenty-five million sheep, cattle and pigs pass through the 500 UK livestock markets. At these markets brutality and mutilation are commonplace.

In particular, the report condemns the treatment of animals when they are moved about at market. Excessive use of sticks and goads is attacked and lifting animals by the fleece, ears, hind legs or tail is described as being unacceptable. The report states that if its recommendations were enforced, it would, "prevent unnecessary harrassment to animals when moving to and from pens, during the auction and in the auction ring".

Trade in baby calves and lambs is also strongly criticised: large numbers of animals are taken from their mothers at only a few days old and then driven long distances, causing stress that can in turn lead to illness. In order to prevent farmers claiming EEC subsidies on cattle and sheep that have been sold for slaughter the animals have their ears punched - every year ten million sheep and cattle at livestock markets have a hole punched through their ears. The report demands that this practice be stopped and an alternative sought urgently.

When researching 'Stockyard' for issue 3 we spent several weeks visiting Banbury livestock market. There we witnessed ear punching and the regular beatings and kickings that animals receive. We therefore wholeheartedly welcome this report; however, in the past FAWC has produced excellent reports on the treatment of farm animals that have, sadly, simply gathered dust in Whitehall offices. We hope that the same fate does not await this report. Write to your MP and demand its implementation.



Ear punching at Banbury livestock market



KANGAROOS

The Greenpeace kangaroo campaign was banned from the Commonwealth Games this summer because of its "offensive" nature. The campaign featured an advert with a picture of a running shoe with a "real kangaroo" label. The advertising agents rejected this in case the running shoe manufacturers who use kangaroo hide for their products got upset.

The Tinnitus Association, the Deaf Society, and the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) have all said that they will not fund vivisection. The NDCS, which has £25,000 available for research, makes the following stipulation in its grant application form, "...applications cannot be accepted for research involving drug trials or animals".

LIES, DAMNED LIES, AND STATISTICS.

In July the Government released its statistics for experiments on living animals in this country. The Government reports that 3,280,135 living animals were used in experiments in this country over the last year. This figure is highly questionable. Once again, the figures show a decline in the number of animals used. There are a number of reasons that make this seem unlikely.

The laboratory animal suppliers in this country do not appear to be being affected by this supposed continued drop in the use of their product. In fact, if anything the opposite is true - they are thriving. Shamrock Farms, in the very same month that the figures were issued, applied for planning permission to build a breeding centre in Oxfordshire to supply small mammals for vivisection. It seems that the labs just can't get enough animals. Evidence taken from the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford by the Central Animal Liberation League shows that this laboratory plans to increase it annual production of rats from 4500 to 9000. It seems odd that at a time of alleged national decline, one of the only laboratories into which we have a true insight is increasing its rodent experimentation by 100%. Oxford University, who run this laboratory, say that the primary uses for these animals are renal transplant experiments and cancer research. It is, therefore, odd when you consider the number of rats used at this one laboratory that the national figure for rats used in transplant experiments is 9579. There is really no reason to believe that there are any less animal experiments in this country than say Germany, where they admit to about 6 million. However, as long as the anti-vivisection movement continues to create concern about the plight of laboratory animals then the Government will continue to maintain that the numbers are dropping. In any case, they fail to realise that if there was only one animal experiment yearly it would certainly be one too many.

SUSSEX RAIDS



Animal Liberation Front

On 3rd June 1986, Sussex ALF liberated 20 chickens from a battery unit at Bay Tree Farm at Polegate, East Sussex.

Mr Pat Pennington, the farm owner, appeared surprisingly benevolent towards the activists, offering them this friendly advice via the local paper: "I don't know if they have kept them but I think 20 is too large a number to suddenly put into a garden somewhere without it being noticed." This is the second time that animal rights activists have raided the battery farm.

The ALF were back in action in Sussex again in July. At 2am on 15th July 'Buckfold Rabbits', Slinfold, West Sussex, was raided and 15 rabbits were liberated. The rabbits were being reared intensively in battery-style cages to be used for the fur trade. The activists found the heat and stench in the unit almost unbearable and there were dead rabbits lying on the wire floors of their cages.

U.S. FARM RAID

On June 4th the first ever raid on an American factory farm took place. A direct action group named the Farm Freedom Fighters liberated 25 battery hens from Sydel's Egg Farm in Hartly, Delaware. The farm is run by the Mid-Atlantic Battery Operation and imprisons 25,000 battery chickens. The liberators left the following message at the farm: "Battery cages are torture chambers. We will not accept this horrible abuse and mistreatment of farm animals. It must stop! We have saved 25 of these tortured birds, and will continue to liberate laying hens until all battery cages are empty."

The following is a statement by Farm Sanctuary who acted as mediators for the Farm Freedom Fighters: "The Farm Freedom Fighters targeted the egg industry because it is one of the largest abusers of farm animals. Over 95% of the eggs sold today are produced in the battery cage system where four to five laying hens are crammed into a bare wire cage commonly measuring 12" by 18". The extreme overcrowding results in extensive feather loss, skin damage, and feet malformations. The raising of laying hens in these stressful conditions poses serious health hazards for humans as well. The birds are fed enormous quantities of antibiotics to reduce the high disease and mortality rates resulting from intensive confinement systems. Many medical experts fear the rampant use of antibiotics is creating antibiotic-resistant bacteria in humans, a condition which renders life-saving drugs useless."



Animal Liberation Front

ALF activists ensure that tourists can't miss the location of Perrycroft Lodge when they visit the Malvern hills. Perrycroft Lodge, which is run by EG Crowley, sells cats and beagles for vivisection.

HIDDEN CRIMES

CIVIS have brought out a new 75-minute video documentary exposing the fraudulent activity of vivisection.

"Hidden Crimes" details the damage done to human health by drugs that have been passed as 'safe' through animal experimentation.

This powerful video shows that the 'scientists' and pharmaceutical companies are not the benevolent life-savers they claim to be - rather they hunger after grants and profits.

This year the video was shown at the TUC Northern Ireland conference, which then passed a massive majority resolution calling for the immediate abolition of all animal experimentation.

The "Hidden Crimes" video is being promoted by the 11th Hour Group for Animals who are campaigning on the grounds that vivisection damages human health. The group states: "Drugs and other products are marketed as 'safe' after tests on animals, which are known to be dangerously misleading. The courts usually accept animal tests as evidence against claims for damages, so they are used as cheap but dangerous substitutes for proper safety precautions - careful introduction and thorough monitoring of the human effects".

"Hidden Crimes" costs £5 incl p&p, VHS or Betamax, also as an audio cassette - £1·50 incl p&p. Available from: CIVIS, PO Box 338, London. E8 2AL
Contact the 11th Hour Group for Animals at 326 Earlsfield Road, London. SW18 3EJ

WHALING BAN

At the International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting in Sweden in June, Norway, Iceland, and Korea all declared that they would continue whaling, despite the Commission's moratorium.

Iceland and Korea have continued to kill whales under an IWC provision that allows unlimited whaling for scientific research. Iceland exports the meat from these "research" whales to Japan. In June the IWC ruled that all such meat should be consumed locally but Iceland protested on the grounds that there weren't enough Icelanders to eat all the whales they plan to slaughter in the name of science!

At the meeting Norway didn't even use this excuse - they just threatened to pull out of the IWC (membership of which is voluntary). However, they have now announced that they will stop commercial whaling and are restricting themselves to "scientific" killing; this is almost certainly because of a US threat to block all Norwegian fish imports. The US have also put pressure on Iceland and South Korea to cease their whale kills.

Greenpeace have worked long and hard to get the US Government to certify these countries under the Fishermen's Protection Act unless they stop whaling - this could lead to a total import ban on fish from the offending nations.

An international moratorium on commercial whaling has now been agreed upon by all member nations to come into effect within two years.



GOING...



GOING...



GONE.

When the Queen visited Gloucester to unveil a plaque in memory of the foxhunter the Duke of Beaufort, anti-hunt protestors took the opportunity to publicise how they felt about bloodsports. However, as the Queen drew near their banner rapidly disappeared behind a thin blue line.

FREE THE SILVER SPRING 15

In the last issue of TURNING POINT we gave the background to the case of the 15 Silver Spring monkeys. These monkeys were seized by the police when vivisector Edward Taub was prosecuted for cruelty at the Institute for Behavioural Research, Silver Spring, Maryland. That was in 1981 and since then there has been a continuing legal battle between animal rights campaigners, chiefly People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and the vivisection establishment for custody of the monkeys. Until now the monkeys have been held at a National Institute of Health (NIH) primate centre.

The monkeys have sadly suffered another blow. On June 23rd they were shipped to the Delta Primate Laboratory in the Louisiana swamp area. The Delta Primate Laboratory has the highest mortality rate for primates in the USA; more than 80% of the primates held there are killed accidentally. Already a big protest movement has developed there with regular vigils and although the demonstrators have suffered much abuse and had water thrown at them, they are gaining good publicity and support from the public. When we spoke to a representative for PETA on August 4th the "Vigil 'til Victory" camp they had set up outside the NIH was in its 99th day and still going strong. In the USA the plight of these monkeys is still attracting national press coverage and public support.

Dr Otis Bowen, Secretary of Health and Human Sciences, backed by the biomedical community is presenting what they term a compromise. This entails the monkeys being kept at Delta for rehabilitation and breeding. The Silver Spring 15 would not be experimented on but their offspring would not be similarly spared. PETA's legal action to have the 15 released to the Primarily Primates Sanctuary continues.

ONE WAY JOURNEY

The roads of Britain are stained with the blood of many animal lives but none so sad and abject as the broiler or end-of-lay hens being transported to their callous end.

A thunderous lorry arrives at the rearing unit and is loaded with the frightened birds, layer upon layer of plastic or aluminium cages crammed full. Wings and legs snap as the process of profit greedily speeds on. No time to consider that these are living creatures.

Blank eyes look through the slits on the lorry sides - an inevitable stare. How can anyone not empathise with these birds who feel their hours to live are few?

The lorry clatters, grates, and jolts along the road. The day is cold, some of the birds have died from the shock of the change in temperature - the weaker ones whose bodies were unable to withstand the battle btween disease and antibiotic sprays in the months of rearing.

The driver travels along oblivious to his load. The Sun on his dashboard, a porkpie in his lunchbox, hardened arteries in his body. He might as well be transporting soap or buckets. For all the often stated attributes of the human brain, its greatest is the ability to shut out the fear and pain that surrounds it.

Around a corner and over a pothole, a badly fixed and damaged fastener jolts loose and a few chickens are thrown to the ground - left to die of their injuries or of starvation unless a passing motorist has enough compassion to stop.

The lorry stops in a lay-by so the driver can have his lunch. No thought is given to the birds - no food, no water for up to twenty-four hours. Their final destination will be the slaughterhouse.

Chuckie Chickens Blockade

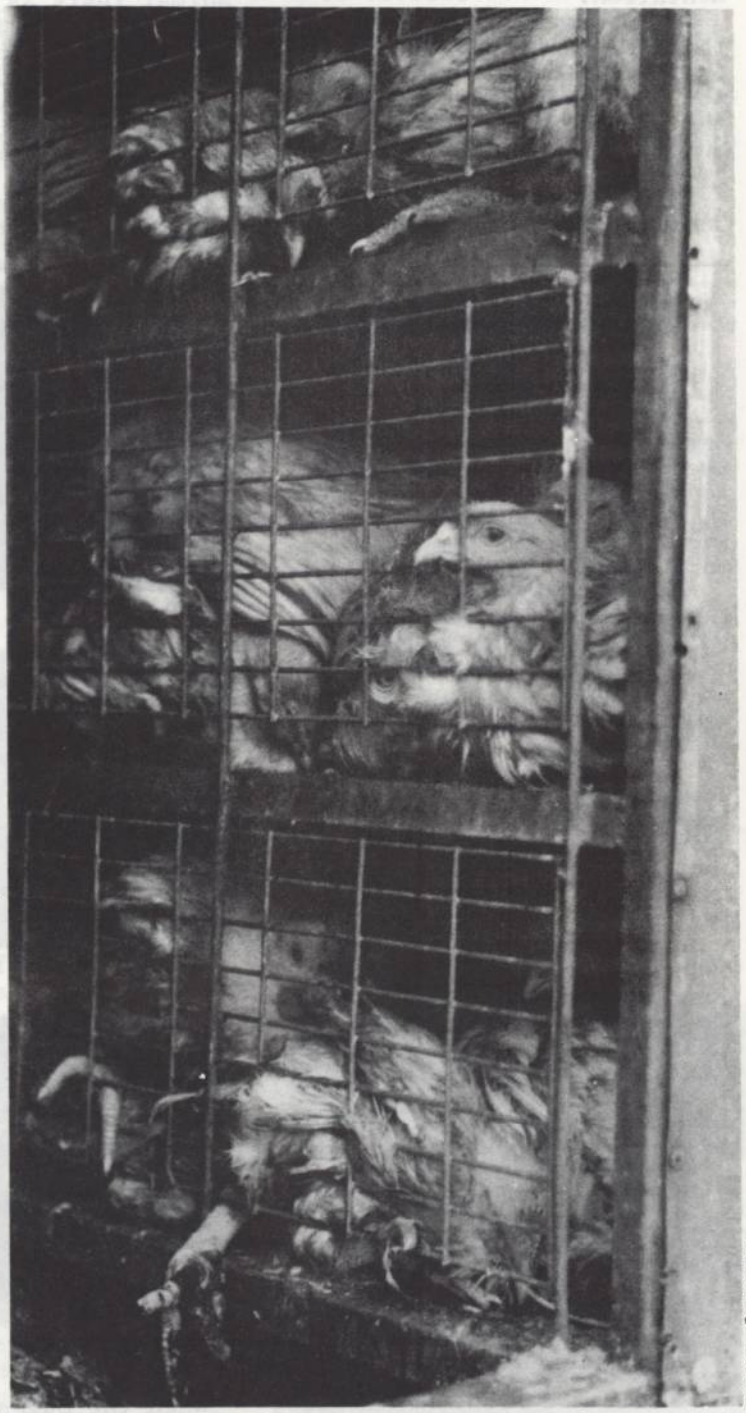
On May 8th members of West Midlands Action Against Animal Abuse blockaded the entrance of Chuckie Chickens poultry processing plant at Craven Arms, Shropshire.

Chuckie Chickens is owned by Unigate and is one of the largest processing plants in the country.

Over 40 people arrived at 10-30am to await the arrival of the first chicken lorries. As with previous protests of this kind (initiated at the Buxted plant at Sutton Benger in Wiltshire two years ago), the aim was to stop the lorries carrying the chickens and turkeys, open up the crates, and remove some of the chickens to show the awaiting press the conditions that these birds suffer under this barbarous transportation method.

The arrival of the first lorry surprised everyone as the driver refused to stop and drove straight through - luckily missing all the demonstrators. More lorries arrived and fortunately these were stopped. Birds were then taken from the crates and video and photo-graphic evidence was obtained. By this time the police had arrived and after another lorry had been stopped one of the demonstrators was taken by two policemen up to the plant as she had removed a turkey from the lorry. The officers in question were repeatedly informed that there was no intention to keep the birds after photographic evidence had been obtained. The activist was released as soon as she had returned the turkey to a worker inside the plant to await its grisly fate.

Some of the police were shocked by the action of the drivers who refused to stop risking injury to other people. This tactic has been seen at other similar protests and it seems that the drivers are informed by radio from the processing plant that a demonstration



is in progress and that if they drive straight in, the blockaders will scatter. This shows the callousness and lengths to which these people will go to to prevent the truth from being revealed about their profits of suffering.

Nobody - including some of the police standing near the demonsrators - was ready for what occurred next. A lorry arrived and by this

Turning Point

time the police were slowing them down - one policeman raising his hand to halt the lorry. Yet this lorry did not stop but drove on at a reckless pace. The policeman had to jump out of the way and the blockade fell back a number of yards, leaving a number of demonstrators at the side of the lorry. The driver proceeded to pick up a wheel wrench from his dashboard and struck a demonstrator on the head, who later needed four stitches. This lorry then swerved into a hedge and was eventually allowed to go on once the police had removed the blockade. But nothing was done about the driver's obvious and brutal attack. To this date, this man has not been charged with anything - another case of compassionate people suffering at the hands of vicious and violent animal abusers.

The demonstration eventually broke up after about five hours. Unfortunately four people were arrested on suspicion of theft and one on aledged obstruction of a police officer. Donations to their defence fund would be gratefully received. Please send donations to West Midlands Action Against Animal Abuse, c/o PO Box 467, Madeley, Telford, Shrops.

These people face prosecution, yet the real crimes carry on daily at these processing plants all over the country. Can you sit by and let this go on?

ALF ROUND UP

Daily the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) have been economically sabotaging the animal abuse industry, damaging property and equipment that is used to exploit animals. During the period March to May, ALF activists have continued to rescue animals from suffering. On 6th March in Dorset, seven battery hens were rescued. On the same day in Knockholt, Kent 115 broiler chicks were rescued. The next day in Corfe Mullen, Dorset a horse and a donkey were rescued after suffering from years of neglect. On 27th March in Leeds a pet alsatian was rescued from appalling conditions. On 8th April 12 hens were rescued from a battery farm in Pirbright, Surrey. On 13th April several ferrets destined for vivisection at University College, London were rescued. On 18th April an entire laboratory at the North East Surrey College of Technology was emptied of animals; over 300 animals (mice, rats, gerbils, and hampsters) were all rescued. On 5th April 78 hens were rescued from a battery unit at Chorley in Lancashire and later in the month the activists returned and took another 32 hens away to safety. On 9th May three otters were rescued from the Birmingham Nature Centre. On 10th May a pet rabbit was taken from terrible conditions in a back garden in Dartford, Kent. On 11th May 19 chickens were rescued from broiler sheds at Upgate in Norfolk. On 18th May over 1000 fish were liberated from the Freshwater Biological Association in the Lake District. On 22nd May a goat was rescued from the College of Agriculture at Riseholme near Lincoln.

GERMANY

The German ALF has carried out three large actions in recent months. On 10th May activists liberated 28 guinea pigs and 45 rabbits from vivisection laboratories in the University of Giessen near Frankfurt. All the animals are now alive and well and there were no arrests

On New Year's Eve 1985 the ALF carried out two separate raids: six dogs in Aalen and 18 young dogs in Frankfurt were liberated.

SWEDEN

In February a Swedish group liberated 15 dogs destined for vivisection from a breeding station in Orkelljungen. This follows the liberation of 37 dogs by the group from a dog breeder last autumn.

OTTERS GO FREE

On 8th May the Animal Liberation Front rescued three short-clawed Asian otters from the Birmingham Nature Centre. The action received an extremely hostile press reaction. The Nature Centre very promptly put out the story that the otters had been released onto a main road and would soon die; they maintained that the otters were being kept in wonderful conditions, etc, etc.

In fact the ALF had rescued the otters from a small, tatty, muddy pen with no water in it at all. This fact is well documented as it was broadcast on Central TV three days prior to the raid; on the broadcast a representative of Birmingham Animal Aid had pointed this out and was told by the Nature Centre keeper that short-clawed Asian otters did not like water. They were later to contradict themselves following the liberation by saying that if the otters got to a river they would travel for miles. In fact, the otters are now living in a sanctuary with fresh running water. The activists also damaged a large butterfly enclosure that was under construction.

DOLPHINARIA

Dolphinaria in Britain may be forced to close after a Department of the Environment report on the conditions in which dolphins and killer whales are kept. The report, written by Dr Margaret Klinowska of Cambridge University has made a number of recommendations for a complete reform of the six dolphinaria in this country (at Brighton, Knowsley, N Yorks, Morecambe, Whipsnade, and Windsor). One major improvement is the doubling in pool size to meet international standards. The dolphinaria have until November to present their plans for improvement and until then live shows of dolphins and killer whales and further imports of these animals have been banned. The RSPCA and Greenpeace have supported the ban, while still maintaining that these animals shouldn't be kept in captivity at all.

The expense involved in meeting these new regulations may be too much for the six dolphin prisons to bear and, with luck, they will have to be closed down.

MINK FARM CLOSES

On 1st February Freer Mink Farm in Surrey closed down. It is perhaps no coincidence that this followed a visit to the farm on January 2nd by the Animal Liberation Front, who damaged equipment and dyed the pelts of mink held prisoner there.

ANIMALS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH

The Facts

- Introduction of blood transfusion delayed over 200 years by the misleading results of animal experiments.
- Introduction of corneal transplants delayed nearly 90 years by misleading results of animal experiments.
- Florey, who purified penicillin, said it was a "lucky chance" that he had not tested it on guinea-pigs, for it kills them.
- The heart drug digitalis was discovered without animal research. It was later found to cause dangerously high blood pressure in dogs. But not in man.
- Drugs like Opren; Eraldin, and Flosint were passed safe in animal tests; but damaged many humans, and killed others.

In the past, animal experimentation has often retarded the control and eradication of serious diseases. Must we tolerate further delay?

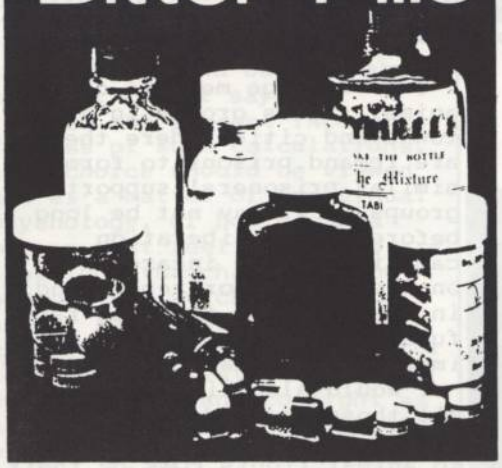
Fight Against Vivisection ...Animals Can't



For further information please write to:

The National Anti-Vivisection Society Ltd • 51 Harley Street, London W1

Bitter Pills



News from the drugs industry

ICI

The deceitful image of a caring philanthropic pharmaceutical industry wears thinner everyday. In 1963 multinational animal abusers ICI developed a new oral contraceptive drug called tamofixen. Unfortunately for ICI, like many other medicines tamoxifen turned out to be worse than useless: rather than having a contraceptive effect, the drug actually increased the level of fertility! The company promptly swept it under the carpet and it was forgotten about. However, in 1983, research into cancer treatments found that tamoxifen could be used as a preventative treatment for breast cancer. Surprisingly perhaps ICI did not leap in to support further research that was deemed necessary to prove the efficacy of the treatment. On further investigation one can see why: in the very week that this new 'breakthrough' was intimated, ICI's patent on the drug expired, therefore increased sales that would undoubtedly follow hard evidence of a preventative cancer treatment would not be that profitable for the company as more than 20 manufacturers now market the drug. ICI have even been criticised by that august body the Imperial Cancer Research Fund for being singularly unhelpful with the research.

One can only speculate what else the 'researchers' have failed to predict about this drug, having failed so massively first time round and if the drug fails disasterously this time, will it continue to be hocked around until a suitable use is stumbled upon?

ASPIRIN

On 10th June 1986, drug manufacturers were forced to withdraw all junior aspirin products after the government's chief medical officer declared that children under the age of 12 should not be given the drug because of mounting evidence of a link between it and the fatal disease Reye's syndrome. By next year all aspirin products will carry the warning that the drug should not be given to the under-12s. Reye's syndrome is an inflamation of the brain or liver. Diagnosis is difficult.

The drug companies concerned have now issued leaflets, posters, and advertisements warning against giving aspirins to children. This apparently caring attitude is, of course, not what it seems; rather it is the culmination of a long hard-fought battle to minimise the commercial damage to their industry. What's worse is that this Government acted not with the interests of innocent children at heart but purely to safeguard the profits of the pharmaceuticals.

Four years ago the link between aspirin and Reye's syndrome was so firmly established in the States that the US surgeon general had issued a warning to that effect and, as a result of the consequent public health campaign to stop parents giving their children aspirin, the incidence of the disease had been significantly reduced. In the UK the Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) planned the withdrawal of children's aspirin over a year ago, but the government took 15 months to act on their information - in which time 26 children developed the disease.

The drugs companies established the Aspirin Foundation and made enormous efforts to discredit the American evidence and so delayed the ban. Earlier this year the CSM wanted to ban aspirin for the under-16s unless prescribed by a doctor. As a compromise, the pharmaceuticals agreed to withdraw children's aspirin, to put warnings on their adult preparations that the drug shouldn't be given to the under-12s (<u>not</u> the under-16s) and to run the public health campaign. They complained that an under-16 ban would damage the adult market for aspirin (which is many times larger than the junior one). The Government complied with their wishes and the Aspirin Foundation drew up an advertisement that gave as much space to their sales patter on the safety of aspirin for anyone over the age of 12 as it did to the dangers of the drug to children.

AIDS

Scientists' failure to combat AIDS illustrates the inability of animal-based research to cope with a modern disease in man.

In June an international conference was held in France to discuss ways of combatting acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). However, there was little hope of pooling the expertise of all the AIDS experts who attended as so much attention was focused on the scandalous row between the Pasteur Institute of France and the National Cancer Institute of the USA. The two factions are arguing over who actually discovered the AIDS virus in the first place and who, therefore, will get all the royalties from the diagnostic kits, vaccines, and anti-AIDS therapies that will be put on the market.

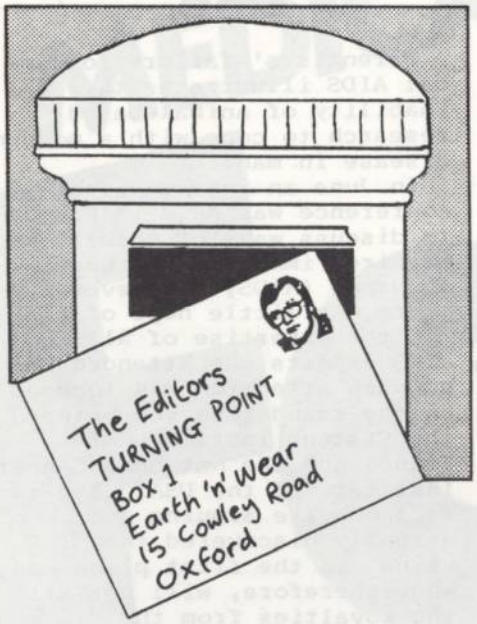
This dispute has led to non-cooperation all round and thus joint research has been knocked on the head, leading to wasteful duplication of research.

EXEDRIN

The US pharmaceutical Bristol Myers have recently had to withdraw the drug Exedrin following two deaths and a national warning from the US Food and Drug Administration against the drug. Bristol Myers recently boasted to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals: "At present about 95% of the animals used by Bristol Myers in testing support the development and safety of pharmaceuticals and health care products." They added, "The ultimate purpose of all product testing is to prevent injuries and save human lives."

In May the US Senate voted by 91 to 7 to allow the export of American-made drugs not yet approved for sale in the USA as safe and effective.

Animal Writes



LEAD WEIGHTS

Dear Turning Point,

Many of your readers will be aware of the horrendous effects of lead poisoning on our swan population and the substantial evidence which has been collected by various bodies showing that anglers' lead weights are principally to blame.

As a result of the public outcry over this slaughter, the Government recently announced that if anglers did not voluntarily switch to non-toxic alternatives then it would introduce anti-lead legislation (effective from 1st January, 1987).

It currently looks as though anglers have not complied and that the Government's environmental watchdog, the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC), will shortly recommend a legislative course of action.

However, your readers are probably not aware that, contrary to popular belief, the proposed legislation will not ban the use of lead weights, but rather will ban their sale and import. Consequently, anglers will be able to escape the ban by stocking up on weights and by continuing to make their own - a ludicrous situation. Swans will continue to suffer lingering and agonising deaths for years to come.

The Campaign for the Abolition of Angling urges all your readers who are disgusted by the Government's attempt to deceive an outraged public to write in the strongest possible terms to their MP, demanding effective legislation.

Yours Faithfully,

Richard Farhall,
Campaign for the Abolition of Angling,
PO Box 14,
Romsey.
SO5 9NN

DEMO VIOLENCE

Dear Turning Point,

There are some things I would like to say about the drunken idiots who tried to ruin the end of the Manchester demonstration on April 26th, 1986. Firstly I have doubts that they care at all about animal rights. If they were as extreme as they portayed, why were they wearing leather jackets and shoes?

I really think that some people will go on any demonstration if it is anti-government in any way. How can you tell people like that, that smashing up one McDonald's does nothing, except give Animal Rights a bad name?

I'm all for direct action when it involves breaking into labs to release animals, and other action of that kind.

At least they didn't manage to spoil the actual march, although some of them were shouting slogans that were too extreme, and I'm sure didn't arouse public sympathy!

What can we do to get rid of people like this who are counter-active?

Name and address supplied.

SUPPORT A.R. PRISONERS

Dear Turning Point,

Through the pages of your magazine I would like to thank the members of the Hull Animal Rights Prisoners Support Group for all the help and support they have given to myself and the other four POWs while we have been on remand in HM Prison Hull. They have made sure that we have regular visits, which is particularly important as we are all a long way from home, and have provided us with plenty of vegan food and drink to supplement our prison rations.

Even when the five of us have gone elsewhere the existence of the Hull ARPSG will still be very important as there is little doubt that many more animal rights prisoners will pass through the gates of this establishment, which is now one of the major remand prisons for the North, before the struggle is won.

I would urge members of animal rights groups in all towns and cities where there are remand prisons to form similar prisoners' support groups as it may not be long before animal liberation campaigners are incarcerated on their own doorsteps - and in the meantime they can raise funds for the support of those imprisoned elsewhere.

I would also like to thank all those individuals and groups who are giving support to animal rights POWs by their letters, donations, etc and especially those who, through their actions, raise our spirits and bring closer the day of animal liberation by making sure that the war goes on.

Yours for Animal Liberation,

Ronnie Lee,
VO2682,
HM Prison,
Hedon Road,
Hull. HU9 5LS

CRUEL VEGGIES*

To the Editors,

'Veganism and Animal Rights' (Black Beast No 2) is troubling because its main argument, if taken seriously, undermines its very conclusions, for the author has neglected to consider the untold animal suffering and death that are necessary conditions for, and concomitants of, modern, large-scale agriculture, in particular the misery involved in clearing large tracts of land, with its attendant destruction of forests, woods, fields and their animal denizens, and in the massive and regular use of insecticides and herbicides, concocted to prevent nature from reclaiming its own, the testing and manufacture of which involves not only present animal death and suffering but future as well, owing to the inevitable scarring of the environment.

Fruitarianism vs veganism vs vegetarianism vs omnivorism may have little to do with minimising the world's suffering. So far as we can tell, we may live in a world in which eating only vegetables causes more suffering in the long run than eating meat. It seems a factual question whether purchase of a pound of meat, and the consequent support of both the meat and

agriculture industries, or the purchase of a pound of vegetables, and the consequent greater support of agriculture, contributes to more suffering. Pending the production of calculations and balance sheet, one just cannot say.

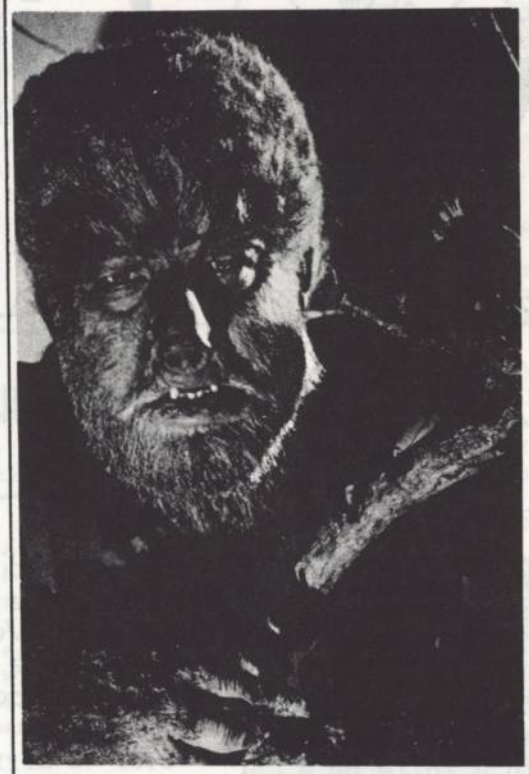
Given the present inconclusiveness of such calculations, this choice should be viewed now as a matter of individual psychology, of how clean a person must feel his hands are (how long the chain must be between his purchase and animal suffering) before he can live with himself. Better to adopt a lifestyle that suits oneself and to fight as hard as one can against evil practices and attitudes - even if (especially if) some of these support or are supported by that lifestyle. It is not a double standard to enjoy that which one honestly cannot live without and yet to believe that no-one, including oneself, should take such enjoyment. One may acquiesce in the limitations of one's own personality and still try to bring it about that in the future others will not be similarly constrained. It is pointless to transform happy vegetarians into miserable vegans in a world in which it is unclear that it makes any difference.

Alexander George,
Oxford.

* Edited for length

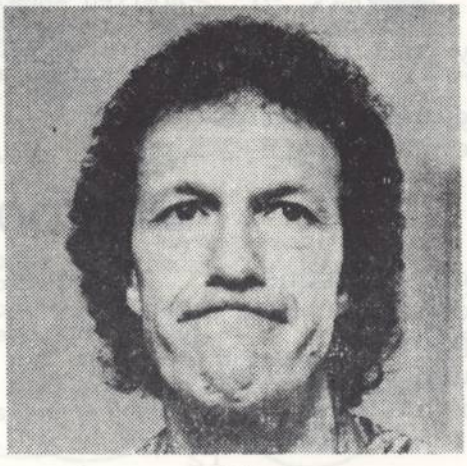
Editors' note: In his struggle to justify his position (whatever that may be - vegetarian? meat-eater? butcher?), Mr George has swept aside a crucially important factor - the effect of animal farming on the ecosystem (ie massive deforestation and desertification). His argument is based on complete ignorance of the facts, but, worse than this, he claims that no-one else knows anything about the subject either! He has a strange notion that the production of non-animal foodstuffs actually involves 'the greater support of agriculture'. In simple numerical terms, the production of 1 pound of meat actually requires between 10 and 20 pounds of grain. Perhaps a quick glance at 'The Perfect Crime' (page 12 of this issue) will serve to inform Mr George of the facts, but if he is still unconvinced, the Vegan Society have produced an excellent new range of leaflets, which explain the true situation very clearly and simply!

LONE WOLF



Avon Police must be getting more than a little irritated by their late night visits to the Duke of Beaufort's grave. The grave was alarmed after it was desecrated by the Hunt Retribution Squad and the police are now regularly having to answer alarm calls. The reason - foxes keep setting them off.

No doubt incensed by the fact that the EEC have ruled that they can do nothing to curb the barbaric activity of bullfighting in the newest member states, one brave Spanish bull decided to wreak his awful revenge on 'El Ingles' alias Frank Evans the Mancunian matador. There was poor Frank in the bull-ring just minding his own business (that of butchering a taunted and exhausted animal) when the bull just upped and gored him in the scrotum.



El Ingles is a man whose intelligence is only surpassed by his compassion for animals - two months after his injury, which left him with a pierced bladder, he is now back in the ring.



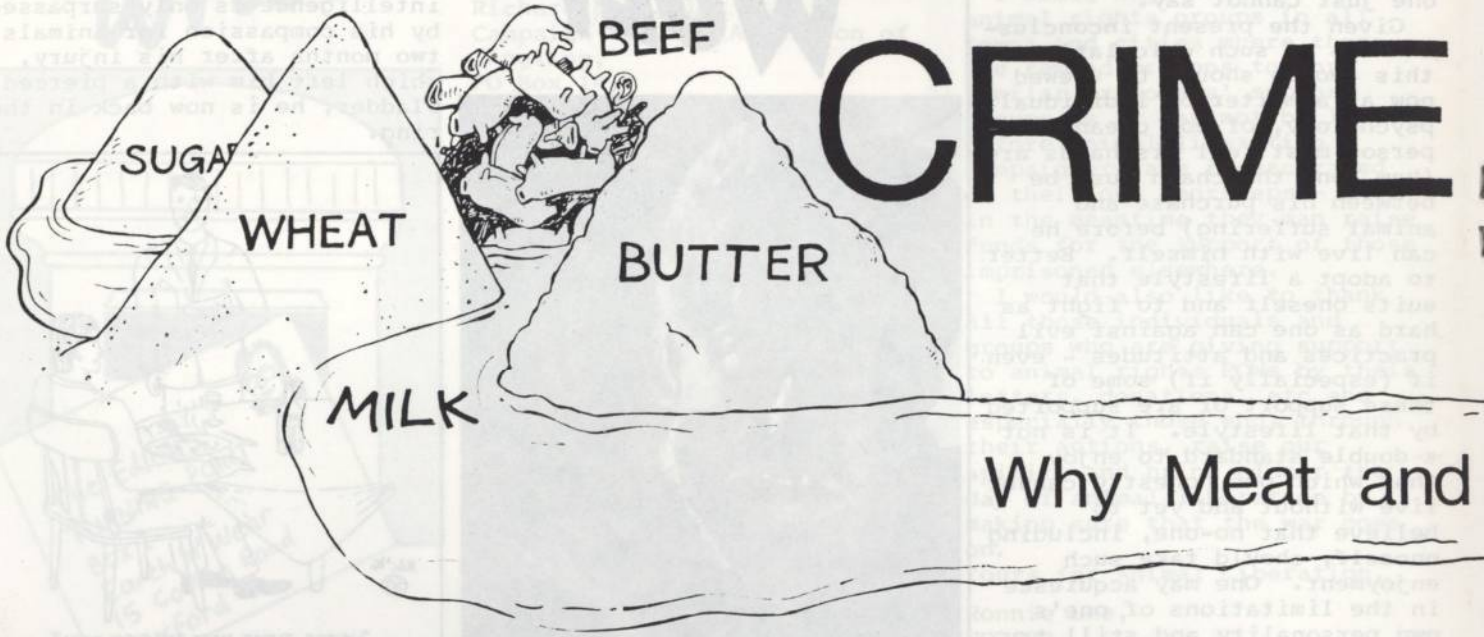
The charming Frank suffered another setback when he offered to "kill a bull for Sport Aid". This macabre offer was turned down by Sport Aid organiser Bob Geldof. Chris Aston of the Campaign Against Farm Animal Abuse (CAFAA) is doing a sponsored cycle ride to make up for the lost money; the funds will be divided equally between Sport Aid and CAFAA.

As bullfighting rapidly loses support, the Sport Aid offer can be seen as a cynical attempt to gain public sympathy. Even in Spain bullfighting is losing ground fast: May 21st saw the first ever national march against bullfighting with 200 people protesting outside a Madrid bullring; recent months also saw the first ever Animal Liberation Front action in Spain - an arson attack on a bullring.

After his success in pushing through the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Bill, David Mellor (whose displays of ignorance and wierd views on the world we regularly feature in these columns) has been unusually silent. But we can't let an issue go by without mentioning him:

> THE Home Office Junior minister **David Mellor**, aged 37, has been described as smarmy, smoothie, pushy, arrogant, pompous, ruthlessly ambitious and "about as likeable as a mouthful of Brylcreem" (Daily Telegraph).
>
> **GUARDIAN**

THE PERFECT CRIME



Why Meat and

I asked the men, 'What are you carrying wrapped in that hammock, brothers?' And they answered, 'We carry a dead body, brother.' So I asked...'Was he killed or did he die a natural death?' 'That is difficult to answer, brother. It seems more to have been murder.' 'How was the man killed? With a knife or a bullet, brothers?' I asked. 'It was neither a knife nor a bullet; it was a much more perfect crime. One that leaves no sign.' 'Then how did they kill this man?' I asked, and they calmly answered: 'This man was killed by hunger, brother.'

de Castro 1970

The devastation caused by the famine in Ethiopia and Sudan has become an issue in the comfortable homes of the 'developed countries'.

Bob Geldof has managed to initiate a surge of compassion from the well fed of the world to donate £100 million in relief aid.

Undoubtedly this money has saved thousands of lives - for now. But what will happen when the next famine occurs? Why is famine recurrent in the countries of Africa, Asia and Central/South America?

In this article the real reasons for world hunger are discussed. How meat eating starves the poor of grain. How cash crops such as coffee and sugar are grown on vital land that should be used to feed people. And how the 'developed countries' are rich and overfed only because they exploit the poor and hungry 'underdeveloped countries'.

Over 40 million people die each year of hunger or hunger-related deseases - a number that is very hard to comprehend and all too easy to forget. To bring this atrocity to a manageable level of comprehension, it is equivalent to 300 Jumbo Jet crashes every day with no survivors.

The number of people who suffer from malnutrition is even more staggering: more than 900 million or 20% of the world's population, or put in a more understandable form by Victor Michel in the European Parliament in 1982:

'If the world was a village of 1000 inhabitants, 240 would not have enough to eat.'

But why do so many people die each year because of the simple need of some food in this supposed world of progress and plenty?

Many theories are often put forward about the causes of famine, most are based on a limited knowledge of the subject or originate from those whose vested interests in the status quo colour their arguments - from misinformation to cover-ups and lies.

Overpopulation?

The criticism that the world is overpopulated and that it is the people in the underdeveloped countries (UDCs) who contribute to their own malnutrition because of their numbers is a frequent statement which cannot be substantiated.

Firstly the reasons for having children in developed countries (DCs) and UDCs are different: in DCs it is usually an individual choice based on certain financial considerations, which has the backing of a state social security system and health service; in UDCs the only wealth is the family itself and when 50% of the children born die under the age of five the more children born, the better the chance of a son surviving to look after the parents in old age and the land in the future. Therefore it can be seen that an improvement in personal 'wealth' ie an adequate diet, clothes, clean water, housing, and an education enables the individuals of the UDCs to break from the poverty trap of large families. An historical example of this is the drop in birth rates in the DCs since the turn of the century after the people in these countries started to receive these basic needs (see table).

Famine are Murder

Many more people have advocated an extensive birth control system for the UDCs. This was tried in India in a progressively more costly set of five-year plans from 1954-79: it failed. This was because the education of birth control was not coupled with an increase in the living standards of India's poverty stricken people. As Anne Buchanan says in her book 'Food, Poverty and Power',

> "... birth rates dropping are the result of improvements in living conditions rather than the cause of such improvements, which means hunger, not population increase, is the problem to be tackled first."

Another factor in population growth is the proportional amount of the world's resources that the birth and growth of a child of a country consumes. In this context the population growth of the USA is far more serious than that in Africa or Asia as an American child uses up to <u>40 times</u> as many resources as an Asian.

Secondly there is the connection between population density and the ability to feed a population from a specific area of agricultural land. There are four countries in Asia that are generally able to feed themselves - China, South Korea, Taiwan, and North Vietnam, and four that have suffered the most severe famines - India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Indonesia. If the amounts of arable hectares per person in these countries is compared, it can be seen that all of the countries that are able to feed themselves have less arable land available per person than those that cannot:

China	South Korea	Taiwan	North Vietnam
0·13	0·07	0·06	0·10

India	Indonesia	Pakistan	Bangladesh
0·30	0·15	0·40	0·16

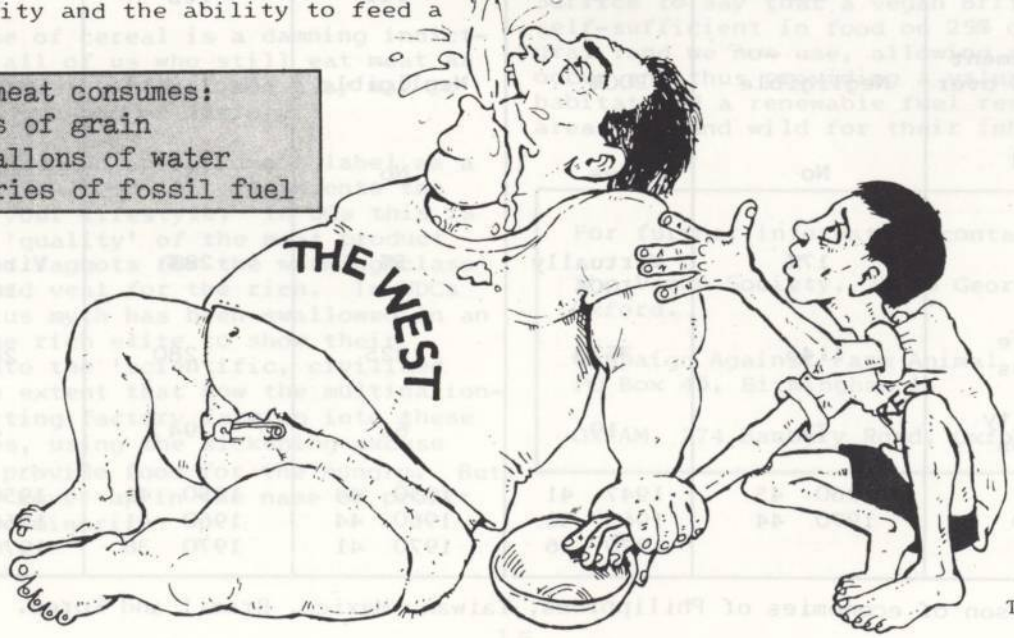
China has been the shining example in the elimination of hunger of its people. Since the cultural revolution in 1949 China was transformed from a country that suffered famines as regularly as India into a country where everyone (and for China that means 900 million people) had an adequate supply of food. Unfortunately China now has a new leadership that seems to want to bring in all the 'progresses' of the West - including a backward step in land ownership and usage; reports are now coming through that again people are dying of malnutrition in China.

Drought?

Another argument frequently used, especially in cases such as Ethiopia, is the 'natural disaster' reason for famine. These so called natural disasters have increased in frequency in the 20th century. Yet the famines in the UDCs are anything but natural.

Before the African continent was colonised by Europeans, the people in Africa had an efficient agricultural system that was able to deal with a bad crop year (ie when a drought occurred) by the storage of grains from previous years' harvests. Once colonialism took over Africa, followed by the multinational companies after World War II, the native people of Africa and their land were used to provide the crops and other raw materials for the ever increasing and excessive spiral of the standard of living in the DCs. This has

1 pound of meat consumes:
10-20 pounds of grain
2500-6000 gallons of water
20,000 calories of fossil fuel



Juliet Breese/
The Vegan Society

led to the present situation in Africa (and other UDCs), perpetuating the famines that occur so regularly.

For the rich DCs to be able to enjoy meat, coffee, tea, sugar, tobacco, cotton, rubber, cocoa, tropical fruits, oil, gems, precious metals, etc the land has either to grow the crop or to be mined.

The land on which the indigenous people live and work and which provides these commodities is owned either by a local grower elite or a multinational. (In Africa the richest 25% of the population own 96% of the land. In South America it is the top 17% who own 90% and in Central America the top 8% own 90% of the land. Incidentally, similar figures to these represent the land ownership in the DCs.) Either way, the product of the land is controlled by a well fed rich elite leaving the people who produce the food at the mercy of various forces that can decide whether or not they are able to grow or buy enough to eat - drought, for instance.

This land ownership system allows the local grower elite or multinational to dictate what is grown and when, and a biased tax system maintains the necessity of growing cash crops for export (even grain crops are cash crops in this context). All the land used to provide new materials for the DCs diminishes the amount of land available for subsistence farming; this means that the people are caught in a Catch 22 situation where they have to grow more cash crops to buy the food that they are unable to grow themselves.

Of course, a landless person is in an even worse position and often ends up in one of many shanty towns that surround the sickening affluence of many modern cities in poor countries.

An example to illustrate this disgusting situation is that during the Ethiopian famine that sparked off Band Aid, Britain alone imported £1·5 million of feed for British cattle and £0·5 million of coffee - all from Ethiopia's best arable land.

Aid?

Though the DCs exploit the resources of the UDCs mercilessly, the DCs always make a lot of the millions of dollars of 'aid' they 'give' to the UDCs - supposedly to help them progress. The truth is quite different.

The total amount of aid 'given' to UDCs in 1978 was $22·7 billion - quite a sum until one realises that world armament expenditure that year was $450 billion.

Contrary to the impression given by the DCs, most aid is not 'given' at all. Half of world aid is in the form of loans, and three quarters is tied, which means that the recipient has to buy goods from the donor country. Even worse, aid distribution has little connection with the poverty stricken and hungry countries. In 1979 over half of the World Bank's aid went to ten countries - only two were in the Bank's own poverty category. Of US aid top ten recipients, only four were poor countries, and two-thirds of all US aid went to just two countries - Israel and Egypt.

It is obvious that 'aid' is used for political leverage and as stated by a US National Security Council official "to give food aid to countries just because people are starving is a pretty weak reason".

Finally, it's not surprising to learn that only 25% of aid funds go to agricultural development and the bulk of this, because of the land ownership system, goes to affluent farmers. An example of this is the $10 million received by Togo in 1974 - all of which was for the development of cocoa and coffee for export.

The Cost of Animal Protein

The cost of animal protein is high. Both human and animal lives are lost in this inefficient (in terms of grain usage) and inhumane system of food production.

	Philippines	Taiwan	Mexico	Brazil	Korea
Widespread malnutrition	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Income improvement of poorest 20% over last 20 years	Negligible	200%	Negligible	Negligible	Over 100%
Effective land reform	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Percentage of farmers in co-operatives	17%	Virtually 100%	5%	28%	Virtually 100%
Yields per acre for food grains	1145	3570	1225	1280	2850
Infant mortality per 1000 births	72	19	66	94	41
Crude birth rates per 1000	1960 45 1970 44	1947 41 1963 36 1970 26	1950 44 1960 44 1970 41	1950 41 1960 41 1970 38	1950 45 1960 42 1970 30

Comparison of economies of Philippines, Taiwan, Mexico, Brazil and Korea.

If the morals of not eating a piece of dead animal are hard to swallow for a lot of people in the DCs, surely the morals of contributing to a situation that literally starves other humans are reason enough to stop being part of this sordid cycle of death.



OXFAM

Although the world in recent years has produced enough grain to feed the world's population, 40% of this grain goes to feed animals so that a minority of people can eat meat. This ridiculous situation is revealed to an even greater extent by the fact that DCs have only one quarter of the world's population but consume half of the world's grain; this means that DCs not only feed animals with crops from their countries' land but 'steal' the produce from the fertile land in UDCs to produce meat.

90% of British cropland is used to feed animals or, in terms of human lives, the DCs import approximately 3½ million tonnes of high protein animal feed from UDCs every year - enough to feed 300 million people!

This misuse of cereal is a damning indictment against all of us who still eat meat as vegetarianism is a personal and easy way to contribute to the end of famine.

Meat has taken on an insidious label as a status symbol - a food that represents the 'quality' of your lifestyle. In DCs this is shown in the 'quality' of the meat product from mince and faggots for the working class to pheasant and veal for the rich. In UDCs the meat status myth has been swallowed in an attempt by the rich elite to show their 'progress' into the 'scientific, civilised age' - to the extent that now the multinationals are importing factory farming into these poor countries, using the sickening excuse that it will provide food for the hungry. But it is another cover up in the name of profit for an overfed minority:

- Animals in intensive systems have to consume feed grown on the land that could provide food for the local people.
- Intensive farm buildings are of a better design and construction than the dwellings of the poor.
- The energy consumption of an intensive farm system is high, which means oil imports (leading to greater foreign debt) or gross misuse of valuable oil resources.
- The majority of the poor's houses have no electricity and little reliable heating, yet these factory farms are well lit and heated to provide an 'optimum' environment for the imprisoned animals.
- Once slaughtered, the animals go onto the open market either ending up as exports or in the stomachs of the rich elite who are the only people able to afford meat.

This wasteful reality is reflected in the fact that the 'average' American eats the equivalent of 2000 lbs of grain a year - 90% as meat and dairy products, while the 'average' person in the UDCs consumes less than 400 lbs a year - 90% as direct grain products such as bread.

It is significant that the DCs have a food calorie availability of between 15-50% in excess of their needs, whereas the UDCs have a food calorie availability deficiency of between 10-25%.

Perhaps the most tragic and obscene example of the overconsumption of the world's food in the DCs is the presence of a whole industry devoted to slimming.

Some people would argue that if there is already enough food to feed the world's population then the elimination of famine is merely a matter of redistribution and has no connection with the eventual change over to a vegan diet and way of agriculture. This view fails to consider the vast environmental destruction caused by modern energy-intensive agriculture that has been developed in the DCs. This agricultural system depends heavily on pesticides, herbicides, fertilisers - all the products of fossel fuels, which cause extensive pollution, damaging the land needed for food production.

Environmental destruction and land usage will be discussed in a follow-up article. Suffice to say that a vegan Britain could be self-sufficient in food on 25% of the agricultural land we now use, allowing aforestation to occur and thus providing a valuable wildlife habitat and a renewable fuel resource, leaving areas of land wild for their inherent beauty.

For further information contact:

The Vegan Society, 33-35 George Street, Oxford.

Campaign Against Farm Animal Abuse, PO Box 45, Birmingham 1.

OXFAM, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford.

THE MEDIA COVER-UP

Press Distortion of Animal Rights Issues

Anyone who has ever been on a national animal rights demonstration will realise that media distortion of animal rights activities has been common for a long time. Any newspapers covering such events do all they can to avoid the reasons for the protests. The most popular method is, of course, to exaggerate any friction between police and demonstrators; failing this there is always coverage of any damage done. Other minor distractions thrown in by the press include such bizarre and irrelevant facts as the number of punks on a march: national newspapers have reported that on a march of 2000 people about 30 were punks, as if this were significant national news - the reasons that they and the 1970 other people were protesting were ignored. It would, of course, be naive to expect the media to cover anything but the most sensational aspects of a demonstration or any other event. However, when the most sensational aspect of an event is something that could damage the animal abuse industry it is very often conveniently ignored.

Take for example the case of Mirror Group Newspapers. In 1984 the South East Animal Liberation League (SEALL) carried out an action against the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) at Downe in Kent. Amongst other documentary and photographic evidence taken on the raid was a set of the vivisectors' own slides, which for the first time showed primates being experimented on in a major British laboratory, and the terrible suffering they endured. The use of primates in laboratories raises strong public emotions in the same way as that of cats and dogs and here was unique and unchallengeable evidence of suffering in a UK laboratory (the RCS at that). Even the way in which the slides was obtained was dramatic. You would expect any journalist to print them, realising that here was a story that could create a sensation. The pictures were handed to the Daily Mirror. They didn't print - instead they handed them to the police. The Mirror reacted in the same way to copies of documents handed to them by the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) which proved London Zoo was involved in vivisection. The Mirror later went on to offer reward money for the perpetrators of the poisoned Mars Bar hoax.

Central Television have also been involved in this anti-vivisection censorship. In August last year the Central Animal Liberation League (CALL) entered and filmed inside the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford. Among other things they filmed dead rabbits that had had their front legs cut off and stitched up. Central Television covered the action and used film taken by CALL. However, they refused to use pictures of the mutilated animals claiming that this was "too grisly". When the news item was screened, Central TV announced: "They (the activists) also alleged they found bodies of mutilated animals in the unit's freezer". Despite the fact that Central TV had seen the film, the whole tone of the broadcast was that CALL could not substantiate these claims.

When we only need to sit through a news broadcast to see bomb-shattered bodies on battlefields and burnt corpses in South Africa, for Central TV to say footage of a mutilated rabbit was "too grisly" is lame to say the least.



Central Animal Liberation League

CENSORED BY CENTRAL TELEVISION: A dead rabbit with its legs severed at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre.

Television programmes that may seem very favourable may well have had a number of their teeth removed before they reach your screen. Take for example the recent Split Screen programme on vivisection that was shown on BBC2 in July. This case is doubly interesting because it was 'access' television; here the programme is supposedly made by the organisation it seeks to represent. In this case, half was made by the National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS) and the other by the Research Defence Society . As they proudly boasted at the start of the programme, "Both film-makers have however retained complete editorial control: the power to decide how much to appeal to reason or to emotion, how explicit to make their portrayals of vivisection..." This was in fact not the case. Generally, the BBC do what they can to pressurise contributors into making the programme they (the BBC) want. The NAVS had a number of restrictions put on them: film sequences of a dog on an operating table and from the 'Pennsylvania Primates' video were considered too distressing to be screened; alterations were made to both dialogue and overall composition.

Whilst these instances show the suppression of information that could be damaging to the vivisection industry, what is perhaps more disturbing is what seems to be the new trend in the national media. That is to write

articles that have one objective: to discredit one or more areas of the animal rights struggle. When you consider the way these articles are written, the prominence they are given (often the front page), the regularity with which they occur, and the apparent failure of the journalists to substantiate their claims, it is hard to believe that animal rights is not under a concerted and possibly co-ordinated attack.

Earlier this year the Daily Star featured on its front page an article by Frank Curran about a supposed 'ALF Supergrass'. Frank Curran began his 'research' for this piece posing as an 'investigative journalist' eager to expose the horrors of animal abuse. He kept repeating that ten years ago the Daily Star had exposed vivisection at Babraham, Cambridge. In this guise he was furnished with enough information by the Campaign Against Farm Animal Abuse, the Central Animal Liberation League, the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, and possibly others, to write an excellent expose of animal suffering at a number of British establishments. But this was not what he was after. Finally he struck on the story of a girl who had been arrested for smashing butchers' windows and had 'grassed' on others who were allegedly involved. This rather flimsy story rapidly developed into a bizarre tale of sex, drugs, and the ALF. What became central to this, as it has to other such pieces, was the belief that the Animal Liberation Front is run by some sort of military hierarchy. Even the most cursory glance at the way that the ALF operates dismisses this concept. And yet papers like the Daily Star and programmes like BBC2's Brass Tacks regularly refer to lieutenants, officers, and chiefs of staff. If this sounded like unsubstantiated, trivial rubbish then Frank's follow-up made it look almost credible. For the follow-up Frank was sadly relegated from the front page, but he was given considerable space inside. His article was entitled "Twenty things you didn't know about the ALF" and included such unbelievable, earthshaking gems as the fact that actor Patrick Mower was once a member of the Hunt Saboteurs Association!

In terms of sheer sensationalism any award must go to Eileen Macdonald of the Daily Express. Here the Express added to their already appalling record on animal rights coverage with a real blaze of glory. In a matter of weeks - perhaps less - the intrepid Eileen supposedly infiltrated the very heart of the ALF. Here she found 'ALF cells' inviting any old stranger 'down the pub' for a chat about the next raid or outrage. Most importantly of all she uncovered, in one of these cosy, down-the-pub chats, a plot to murder members of the royal family and disrupt the royal wedding. Readers might wonder at this point whether it is these hack journalists who are in fact on the drug trips that the ALF are supposed to be on. This story made the front page and centre spread of the Daily Express. The royal wedding at least has come and gone without any of Eileen Macdonald's prophecies coming true.

While such pieces appear so ridiculous to any person involved in the animal rights struggle that they probably only raise a smile, it is hard to tell what effect they have on the general public. These articles are, after all, being given great prominence, which must lend them some credibility. Two papers in which many people have some confidence are the Guardian and the Times. In the past, the Guardian has uncritically swallowed Polly Toynbee's crusade in support of vivisection, but has, to my knowledge, not yet joined this new and hysterical assault. The Times, however, has: Bernard Levin, who has previously written articles in favour of seal culling, was behind a recent tirade. This near ½ page piece, entitled "The animal lovers lusting for blood", labelled animal rights campaigners as the new Nazis amongst other things. He went on to list a whole assortment of dreadful deeds carried out in the name of animal rights, one of the most disturbing of which was the following: "In Warwickshire they scarred for life a follower of the hunt by pushing a broken bottle in his face." What in fact had happened was that a hunt saboteur, left alone with a vehicle while others peacefully sabotaged the hunt, had been attacked by a gang of hunt thugs. He had already been beaten virtually unconscious when he tried to defend himself with the nearest object to hand. When the case came to court this was recognised and the charges against him were dropped. "At Oxford they beat up beaglers" - Levin alleges. Having had a good deal of contact with Oxford Hunt Saboteurs, I know that, as with so many hunts and their thug supporters, the very opposite is true.

It is worth analysing the BBC2 Brass Tacks programme "Animal Warfare" because it appears to be the first time that a publicly funded national television station has gone out of its way to give the animal rights movement a savaging. It is more important because



Central Animal Liberation League

BBC2's Brass Tacks film the Central Animal Liberation League.

television is a far more powerful medium than the national press. The main researchers for this programme appear to be producer Bill Lyons and presenter David Henshaw. They claimed to be making a programme about the diversity of people's backgrounds in the animal rights movement, adding that the idea had come from an article entitled "The New Politics", which appeared in the New Statesman and which, although not entirely accurate, had seriously attempted to analyse the differing strands of the movement. What they in fact wanted to do was to produce a sensationalist programme that would show animal rights people to be violent terrorists, and which would in addition further their careers as journalists. The programme was based entirely on the views of one person who supported violent action

against animal abusers. He never, however, claimed to represent the views of the animal rights movement - this was simply the impression that Henshaw and Lyons wished to give. Organisations like the Central Animal Liberation League who oppose violence had any statements to this effect edited out. The programme, which was, if looked at rationally, a fairly shoddy piece of film-making and in terms of substance extremely weak, was hyped beyond belief. Henshaw and Lyons managed to snatch front page coverage in some newspapers whilst others ran features - all eager to cash in on this made to measure piece of animal rights bashing. Henshaw even made the front cover of the Listener with an article penned by himself inside. They must have been delighted.

Brass Tacks had clearly gone out of their way to produce a programme that would damage the animal rights cause. The whole programme reeked of cynicism and contempt for the issue. One person appearing on the second Brass Tacks programme was told, "We've nailed you, we've waited a long time to do it, but we've finally done it". Without doubt a damaging programme would have been made; it is, however, unfortunate that in this case they were given some ammunition on a plate.

Having been involved in publicising various animal rights events and having seen the entire process from the press release, and the information therein to substantiate it, right through to its publication, I am now surprised whenever I see anything that approaches fair reportage in a national newspaper. So are journalists so irresponsible that they do not see the importance of the issues involved and their duty to report at least fairly? I doubt it. Where has this code of animal rights coverage that seems to govern all of our national media bodies come from? Why is it acceptable to screen nationally film of a South African being stabbed repeatedly or people being crushed to death in a football stadium, and yet it is deemed in bad taste to show film of primates having their brains scrambled by vivisectors? The most disturbing aspect of all of this that there seems to be very little way of fighting back, of redressing the balance even slightly after unfair coverage.

Put pressure on media bodies locally and nationally with letters of complaint in cases of biased or inaccurate coverage. We are interested in receiving any reports of biased media - please send us their coverage and an account of what really happened:

TURNING POINT, Box 1, Earth'n'Wear, 15 Cowley Road, Oxford. OX4 1HP

Animal Liberation Front Supporters' Group



The ALF is committed to direct action to rescue animals from persecution and to cause the maximum financial disruption to animal abusers. There are many ways that you can help, including joining the ALF Supporters' Group. Write for further information to:

ALF, BCM Box 1160, London, WC1N 3XX, England.

LIVING WITHOUT CRUELTY CAMPAIGN



. . . an answer to animal abuse

If you, too are sick of stories of animal abuse and are interested in either cruelty-free cosmetics and household goods, vegetarianism or alternative medicine, write now for our Living Without Cruelty information pack.

ANIMAL AID

7 Castle Street · Tonbridge
Kent · TN9 1BH
Telephone: (0732) 364546

PRISONERS

The following people were imprisoned for the Unilever action.

Duncan Thorpe N41997 (2yrs)
Jim Snook N41998 (2yrs)
Nick Sweet N42186 (2yrs)
David Carre L64807 (2yrs)
HM Prison, St Loyes Street,
Bedford, MK40 1HG.

Paul Watkins L64779 (2½yrs)
Peter Anderson L64805 (2yrs)
Nigel Crouch N42187 (2yrs)
HMYCC, Onley, Willoughby,
Rugby, Warwicks, CU23 8AP.

Karl Garside L65137 (18 months)
HMYCC, Glen Parva, Saffron Rd,
Wigston, Leics, LE8 2TN.

Sally Levitt D27314 (2yrs)
Debbie Smith D28007 (2yrs)
Delia Lowick D28008 (2yrs)
HM Prison, Bullwood Hall,
High Road, Hockley, Essex,
SS5 4TE.

Alistair Fairweather L64804
(18 months)
HM Prison, Morton Hall,
Swinderby, Lincoln, LN6 9PS.

Sally Miller D22865(12 months)
Virginia Scholey D27317
(18 months)
HM Prison, Drake Hall,
Eccleshall, Stafford, ST21 6LQ.

Nancy Phipps D28005 (6 months)
HM Prison, East Sutton Park,
Sutton Varence, Maidstone,
Kent, ME17 3DP.

Beverley Cowley D27316(2yrs)
HM Prison, Cookham Wood,
Rochester, Kent.

Eric Marshall L64806(18 month)
Carl Egan E74945 (2yrs)
Gary Allen E74947 (18 months)
Keith Griffin E74948 (2yrs)
Mike Mckrell E74949 (18 month)
Julian Webster E74950
(12 months).
HM Prison, Welford Road,Leics.
LE2 7AJ.

Boris Barker E74946 (6 months)
Alan Cooper E74960 (2yrs)
HM Prison, 54 Gaol Road,
Stafford, ST16 3AW.

Mike Nunn J92297 (3yrs)
HM Prison, Cornhill, Shepton
Mallet, Somerset BA4 5LU.

Convicted of conspiring to
burgle Wickham Research labs.

Shaun Ellis H25078 (9 months)
HM Prison Kirkham, Preston,
Lancs, PR4 2RA.

Convicted of causing £7000
worth of damage to a Lancashire
meat firm.

IN THE COURTS

As we go to press, 34 people are serving prison sentences for actions attempting to expose or prevent animal suffering. The sentences being dealt out by the courts to animal rights activists are steadily becoming more and more severe as the level of activity against animal abuse increases. The number of animal rights activists in prison shot upwards in June. On 27th June in a Leicester courtroom 24 animal rights activists were sentenced to a total of 45 years in prison for their part in a mass invasion of Unilever laboratories organised by the Eastern Animal Liberation League.

Unilever is a multinational company producing a mass of household products such as Persil and Surf washing powders, Harmony hairspray, and Signal toothpaste. Unilever products are tested on animals. The EALL raid showed that fabric conditioners and detergents were tested for skin irritancy on rabbits and Lypsyl lip salve and hair dyes were force fed to rats. Perspex windows are fitted into the stomachs of cows and taps into the stomachs of pigs to study the digestion of animal feeds. The action was intended to gain film and documentary evidence of Unilever vivisection.

The attitude of the judge in the Unilever case was illustrated by his summing up: "You are enemies of society - that is your true purpose....it is hypocrisy to say you act for love of animals. I reject the alleged sincerity of your motives ..."

Similarly Bernard Leiving, who was tried in Oxford at the end of April for his part in the Central Animal Liberation League rescue of 32 dogs from University Park Farm met with a judge who had made his mind up about the case before hearing the evidence. Extraordinarily the judge refused to hear a number of defence witnesses because he said he already believed the police. The whole defence rested on the defendant's treatment in police custody and so with no witnesses to appear against the police evidence the defence case collapsed. Bernard Leiving was given a suspended prison sentence.

John Curtin F17288 (2yrs)
HM Prison Dartmoor, Princetown,
Yelverton, Devon, PL20 6RR.

Terry Helsby P85326 (2yrs)
HM Prison Romsey Road,
Winchester, Hants, SO22 5DF.

Both imprisoned after being convicted of an attempt to dig up the grave of the Duke of Beaufort.

IMPRISONED WITHOUT TRIAL

Ronnie Lee V02682.
Kevin Baldwin T02959.
Gary Cartwright T02960.
Ian Oxley T02961.
HM Prison Hedon Road, Hull,
North Humberside, HU9 5LS.

Julie Rogers P34407.
HM Remand Centre, Warrington
Road, Risley, Warrington,
Cheshire.

These five people are on remand charged with conspiring to cause damage in Sheffield and London in relation to incendiary devices planted in shops with fur departments. Some of them are also charged with conspring to steal the Ecclesfield Beagles.

Stephen Rowe P85714.
HM Prison Romsey Road,
Winchester, Hants, SO22 5DF.

On remand charged with stealing laboratory mice and causing criminal damage at a laboratory.



In May, Paul Gravett was convicted of causing criminal damage to the wall of Holloway Prison (pictured above), which at the time housed four people awaiting sentence for the first Unilever trial. Paul was fined £450, which he has to pay by September 6th. Anyone who would like to help him pay this fine, please send a donation to Paul Gravett, c/o Islington Animal Rights Campaign, Box 17, 83 Blackstock Road, London N4. (Please make cheques payable to PM Gravett).

THIS IS VIVISECTION



Central Animal Liberation League

At 10.30pm July 8th, 13 members of the Central Animal Liberation League (CALL) carried out a major operation against the animal experimentation unit of the John Radcliffe Hopital, Oxford. The object of this action was to obtain video, photographic and documentary evidence of vivisection carried out there by Oxford University and to rescue animals that would otherwise be experimented on. The activists used an electric angle grinder to cut a hole through the centre of a reinforced steel security door; they entered the laboratory complex and recorded with video and still cameras all that they saw. When a maintenance engineer turned up for work the activists swiftly left the building. They took with them 11 rabbits, 15 guinea pigs, and 20 rats as well as documents and film providing a graphic insight into the day to day suffering in this laboratory.

The John Radcliffe Hospital animal house contains the Nuffield Department of Surgery, which is run by Oxford University. It is a very large vivisection complex with an enormous number of animal holding rooms and five laboratories. The University boasts that the majority of work carried out there is in the area of renal (kidney) transplants and cancer research; they also claim that rabbits held there are used for the production of antibodies for the blood transfusion service. Depending on which experiments are being conducted at the time, any of a considerable variety of animals may be held there. Records and photographs show that within the last 12 months ferrets, polecats, primates, pigeons, nude mice, mice, sheep, rats, pigs, mini-pigs, dogs, guinea pigs,

and rabbits have all been experimented on on these premises. The University vigorously denied this for a week following the CALL raid saying that the only animals used there are rats, mice, and rabbits. It is well documented that the John Radcliffe has its own monkey room and in February, University Park Farm supplied them with four cynomolgus monkeys; similar orders had arrived during the previous year. Supply records also show deliveries of 50 pigeons at a time, mini-pigs, and sheep. The work on dogs there is regularly published. Finally on July 24th Keith Millican head of the John Radcliffe animal house told the Oxford Courier, "Yes, we are admitting we use all sorts of animals."

Transplants

On July 7th 1985 CALL raided University Park Farm, Oxford, rescuing 32 dogs that were almost certainly destined for vivisection in the laboratories of the John Radcliffe Hospital. Scientific journals show that extremely large numbers of dogs are used at the hospital - as many as 138 being used in just one experiment. According to 'Transplantation Proceedings', in 1981 P J Morris was involved in an experiment to study the effect of Cyclosporin A on dogs following renal transplants. The paper admitted that the drug was already undergoing clinical trials on people. The experiment ended with the deaths of 92 mongrel dogs. In 1982 P J Morris published a report in 'Transplantation' entitled "Prolongation of segmental pancreatic allografts in dogs receiving Cyclosporin A", which involved an unspecified number of dogs. In the same issue a report involving pancreatectomized dogs appeared - for this Morris used 91 mongrel dogs. PJ Morris is head of the Nuffield Department of Surgery and editor of 'Transplantation'.

Morris' desire to transplant the internal organs of dogs continues; in 1985 'Tissue Antigens' reported an experiment involving 20 mongrel dogs. Using a new transfusion technique, some success had been achieved in increasing the survival rate of rats, mice and monkeys following kidney transplantation. The technique had, however, failed when tested in beagles. Morris decided to use the technique on mongrel dogs. During the experiment one dog died from a urine leak caused by mistakes in surgical procedure, and another from an intestinal blockage. Of the 20 dogs, eight failed to survive longer than 10 days, eight less than 30 days and the remainder were killed 40 days after their transplants. From these



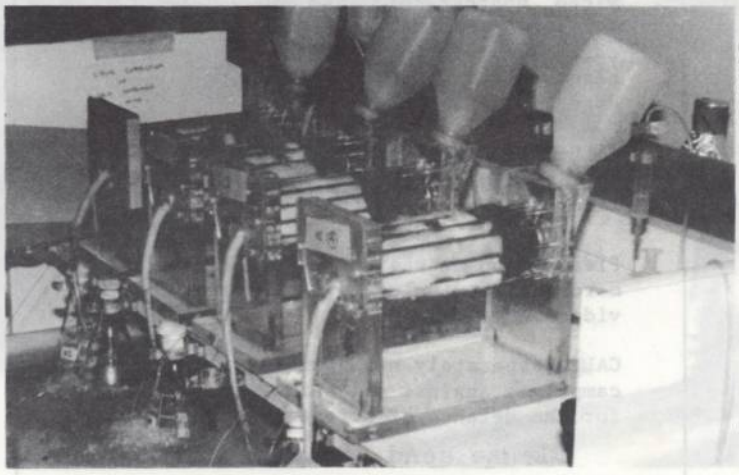
Central Animal Liberation League

A dog at University Park Farm, Northmoor waits to be taken for vivisection at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

results Morris concluded that the technique was a success and thus safe for humans. He used 24 human volunteers. The results proved to be very disappointing with only 44% of the kidney transplants succeeding compared to the current average success rate of 69%. Thus, this attempt to extrapolate the results from the butchering of dogs and to use the same procedures on human patients has led to the situation where 14 out of 24 kidney transplants failed. As Morris himself concluded, these results "were unexpected on the basis of previous experience in animal models".

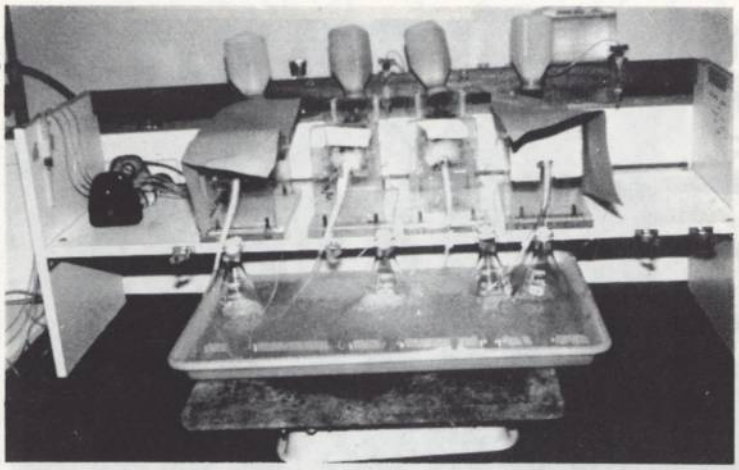
Ongoing Experiments

In one room that the CALL activists entered on 8th July they found four rats that had been left all night undergoing an experiment. The rats had been immobilised

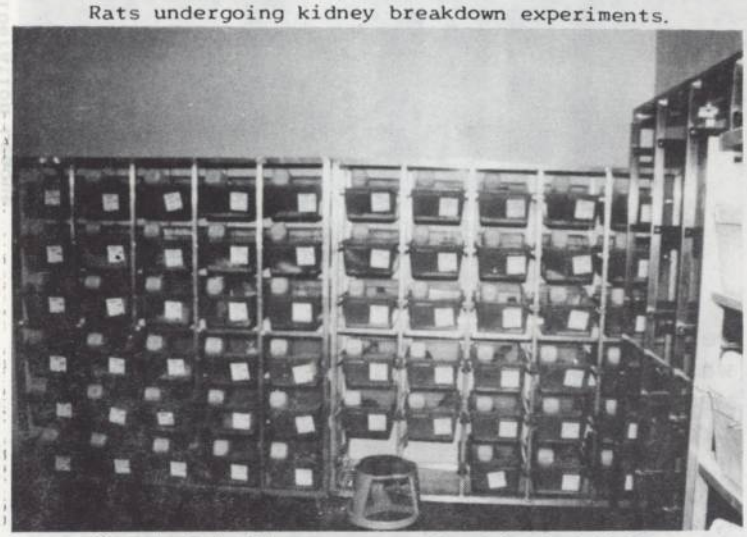


Central Animal Liberation League

Rats undergoing kidney breakdown experiments are left completely immobilised with catheters and tubes inserted into them.



Rats undergoing kidney breakdown experiments.



A rodent holding room at the John Radcliffe.

in metal tubes, they had catheters inserted into them to collect urine, and from sore and bloody holes in their sides protruded another tube; CALL believes that the rats were being fed saline solution to study kidney breakdown. It says a lot about the vivisectionist mind when someone can subject these innocent creatures to this suffering and then simply go home leaving them all night, at the very least, unable to move, without food and unattended. Sadly, rats are a favourite tool of the John Radcliffe vivisectors and the rat breeding rooms show extreme overcrowding. Each year this laboratory breeds 4500 rats for vivisection. What is more disturbing is that in a letter from Keith Millican (Chairman of the Institute of Animal Technicians), who runs the animal house, he states his concern about the need to double this figure to 9000.

CALL also found a number of pigs that were in very poor condition. Their stomachs were grossly distended so that as they moved their legs appeared too short for their bodies. Their eyes looked extremely sore and some were bleeding. These inquisitive and intelligent animals were being kept in tiny indoor pens to be used in transplant and dermatology

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CENTRAL ANIMAL LIBERATION LEAGUE

The Central Animal Liberation League (CALL) have entered six Midland vivisection establishments, gaining video, photographic, and documentary evidence of animal experimentation being carried out in this country. They have also rescued guinea pigs, rabbits, rats, dogs, cats, and a monkey.

CALL will continue to tell the public what really goes on inside British laboratories.

Please send an sae for a full list of merchandise, including photos and videos.

CALL desperately need funds for their campaigns against all animal abuse and for the defence of arrested activists.

Please send donations to:

CALL, PO Box 45, Birmingham 1.

VIVISECTION

New medical information is now available with which the total abolition of vivisection can be obtained in the near future. If you would like to help build the new, infiltration-proof movement which is going to abolish vivisection, or if you just want additional information, write to:

R.E.A.D.,
39 Hanover Square,
Leeds LS3 1BQ.

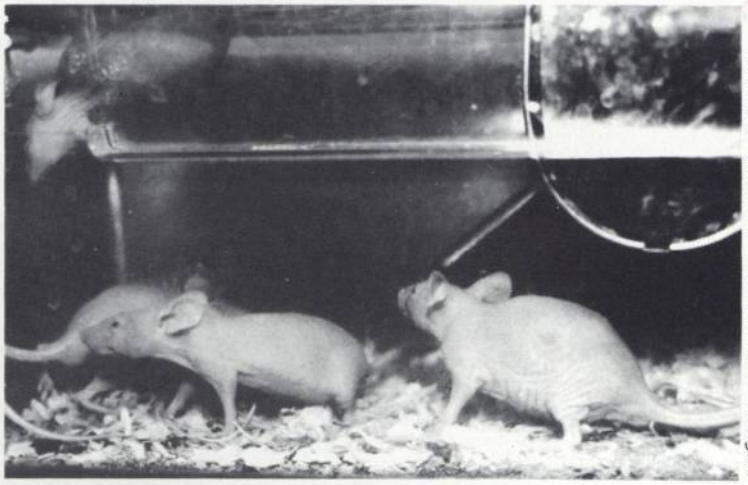
experiments. Judging by the condition of the animals they may well have already been involved in an experiment. Pigs appear to be popular with the John Radcliffe vivisectors, with regular deliveries of these unfortunate creatures arriving from the Dalgety owned Pig Improvement Company. Records show that earlier this year the unit housed as many as 32 pigs.

Diaries

Probably the most damning evidence against vivisection at this establishment appears in a diary of experimental notes. These belong to a certain L Maskell and concern experiments he is conducting on ferrets and polecats; these notes refer to the animals suffering for hours on end. Some of the ferrets involved have been irradiated, while others have had their vagus nerve severed and cannulas implanted into the stomach. For page after page Maskell observes the ferrets tearing at their mouths, cowering in their cages, shaking, having bloody diarrhoea, and suffering from swellings and bloody wounds.

"Mouse found dead -Happy Valentines' Day."

Other documents taken from the unit reveal the ordinary day-to-day running of a vivisection establishment. Matter of fact diary records show that mice are dying daily. The entry for February 14th illustrates the level of desensitisation in this establishment: "Mouse found dead - Happy Valentines' Day". The unit's maintenance reports reveal a good deal of negligence and delay in getting repairs done: in one case a dog is reported as breaking a thermostat and there is a considerable delay before it is fixed; for some time the area housing pigs was without heating; there are long delays when replacing broken lights, and so on. It is especially odd when you consider that this is something of a showcase laboratory. It is this laboratory that appears in a careers booklet for animal technicians, which is available to young people eager to pursue a career with animals. Although the booklet keeps the identity of the laboratory a mystery, we can now reveal that it is in fact the John Radcliffe. The description of conditions there is, however, flattering to say the least.



Central Animal Liberation League



Central Animal Liberation League



Central Animal Liberation League

Nude mice supplied to the John Radcliffe for vivisection by Harlan OLAC (Oxfordshire Laboratory Animal Colony).

