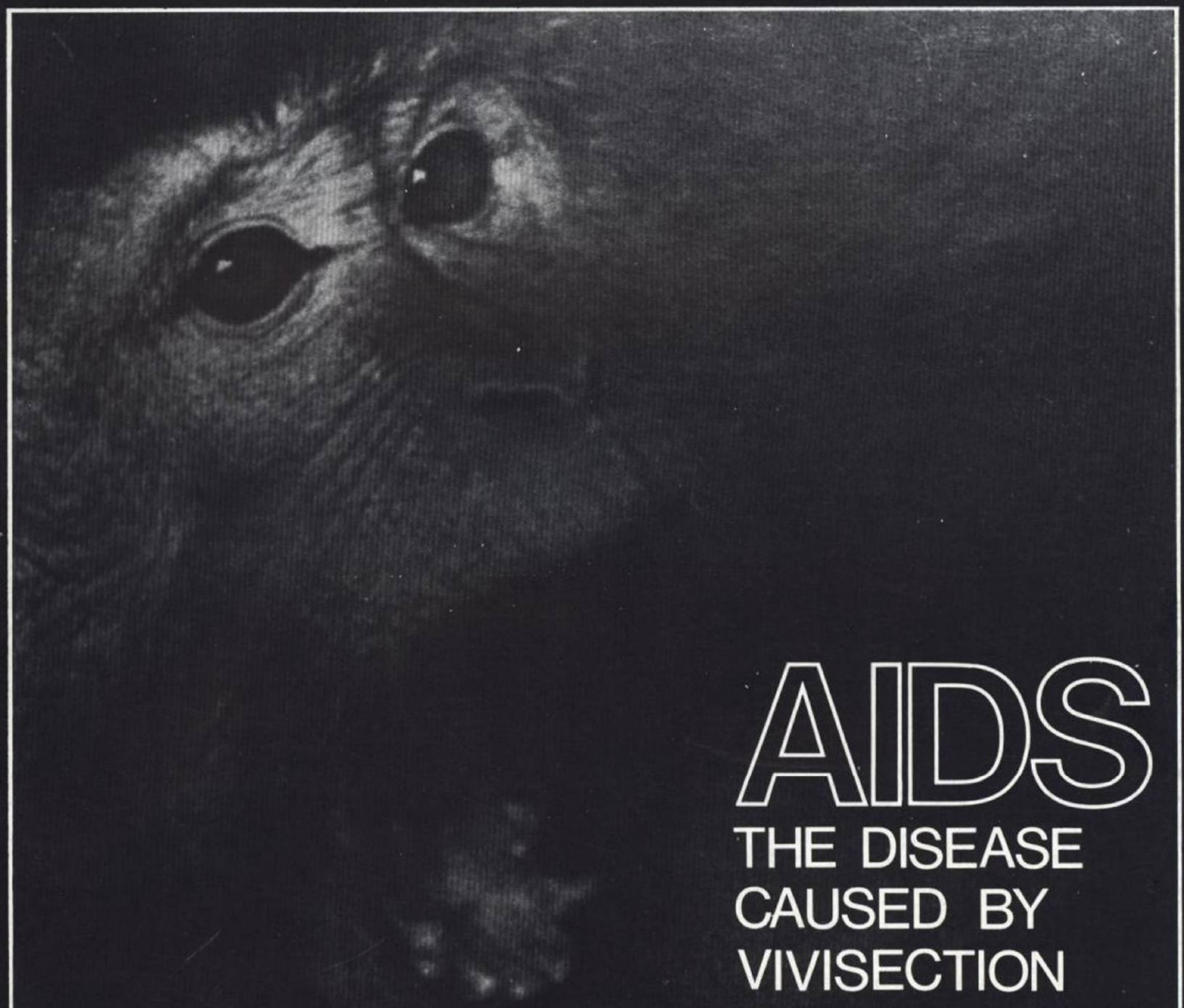
TURNING POINT

50p

NO.7 SUMMER 1987

The Animal Rights Magazine



AIDS

THE DISEASE CAUSED BY VIVISECTION

Hare Coursing • The Effects of Pesticides & Herbicides • Slaughter • Valium

TURNING POINT



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

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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Cover Photos

Front : Macaque monkey that has been made aggressive in a valium experiment (see p.17).

Back : Green monkeys, the hosts of the original simian AIDS virus (see p.12)

Editorial

Apologies for the extremely long delay in the production of this issue of the magazine, which was due out at the beginning of March. I am extremely grateful to our subscribers for being so patient. The publication of this issue was held back in order to coincide with the launch of the NAVS AIDS campaign. The evidence that NAVS have uncovered should deal a devastating blow to the vivisection industry. In fact, this should be the most important campaign that the anti-vivisection movement has ever undertaken.

The NAVS campaign was due to be launched in late January and would have been quickly followed by the publication of Turning Point. Sadly certain ex-NAVS council members and staff have seen fit to continually disrupt the NAVS to such a degree that this important campaign was delayed until late May. It is unbelievable that one ex-council member even announced to Fleet Street that NAVS were planning an AIDS campaign, risking pre-empting the entire launch. In fact, it would seem that the press have been deluged with derogatory and inaccurate information that has led to at least three reports in the national press that have only damaged the anti-vivisection cause. However, despite having almost every possible obstacle thrown in front of them NAVS have launched this major campaign. Please turn to the centre pages and read the truth about AIDS.

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VEAL CRATES BANNED ?

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) announced on November 27th, 1986, that the government will ban veal crates.

In the first issue of this magazine we covered the inspection of Owl Castle Veal Farm in Kent by the South East Animal Liberation League (SEALL). The SEALL revealed: "This held calves in crates measuring 22.5" wide. Some of the crates measured 30-35" at the withers, so Klarenbeek (the farm owner) is clearly breaking the ineffective Ministry of Agriculture codes of practice. The floors of the crates were slatted wood, with liquid excrement seeping into channels beneath. Most calves were unable to turn around, some had swollen leg joints, possibly due to living on slatted floors with no bedding." It is very pleasing indeed to report that these vile devices will now be banned.

Opening the Farm Animal Welfare Council seminar on education in Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, Donald Thompson MP, parliamentary secretary at the MAFF said:

"An area of longstanding concern is that of veal crates, which, it is well known, contravene the Cattle Code in the important aspects of the animal's confinement and diet. When the updated code was introduced in 1983 we hoped that it would have the effect of bringing the use of crates to an end. Since then the number of producers using crates appears to have diminished. However, there is no sign that the code on its own will eliminate the use of crates altogether and the government has therefore decided to bring forward legislation to phase them out. All interested organisations will be consulted on our proposals and we hope to launch the consultation before the end of the year (1986)."

Crated veal production has been on the decline in this country for some time. However, veal is still imported from countries like Holland where crating is still a major method of production. Also, unwanted calves, a byproduct of the dairy industry, are exported from Britain and often end up on European crated veal farms. Should crates disappear from this country then the main method of rearing veal will probably be the straw yard system that was adopted by Quantock Veal some years ago. This is a more 'humane' system that allows the calves to move around a small straw covered enclosure. However, the calves have very limited freedom and are still fed a deficient diet that makes them anaemic. In view of the fact that veal is a luxury food, enjoyed by very few people, TURNING POINT believes that we should press ahead now for its complete abolition.



F.A.R.M

Chained from birth to death - the misery of veal.

We would like to urge all our readers to write to their MPs and make the following demands:

1. An immediate ban on the use of crates.
2. A ban on the import of veal -this should recieve the support of UK farmers who are having restriction put on their practices when European farmers are not, it would also protect their home market.
3. A ban on the live export of calves.
4. A ban on all UK veal production.
5. A ban on the sale of veal in the UK.
6. UK Euro MPs to press for all of these measures to be adopted throughout Europe.

Whilst this is all good news, the moves to actually get rid of the crate appear to be ponderously slow. It is also being muttered that crates will not be banned but simply made larger. Well into this year, D Mears, the Brackley livestock equipment firm were still advertising traditional wooden crates in Farmers Weekly. Do they know something that we don't?

SILVER SPRING MONKEYS

In issue 5 we reported that the Silver Spring monkeys had been shipped to the Delta Primate Laboratory and commented on the appallingly high number of accidental animal deaths at the laboratory. One of the monkeys, Brooks, has now died. Brooks had been used as a control animal and so was one of the healthiest of the monkeys. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) have demanded to be given the health records of all the 14 remaining animals and an autopsy report on Brooks. However, Delta incinerated Brooks' body despite telegrams from PETA asking them not to. This year PETA will be going to the Supreme Court to ask for custody of the surviving Silver Spring monkeys.



The Baby Killers are BACK

The Canadian Government has approved a resumption of large scale seal hunting. After a highly successful campaign by animalwelfarists, spearheaded by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the Canadian Government pledged not to support a revival of the seal pup hunt. Now they have stated that the pledge only covered seals less than ten days of age. This is about the age that the seal pups will be weaned.

The market for sealskins has still not recovered, and hopefully never will, from the publicity brought to it when the clubbing of baby seals was exposed. The sealing industry actually admits that it will lose money on this year's kill. IFAW believe that this is a protest kill, IFAW founder, Brian Davies, says, "furious at the success of the anti-seal hunt movement, the sealers are striking back...thumbing their noses at public opinion by exercising their self-proclaimed historic right to butcher our seals." It is expected that 57,000 seals will be murdered in this hunt subsidised by the Canadian Government.

IFAW are calling for a boycott of Canadian fish and funds to help with their campaign to publicise these atrocities. Brian Davies recalls the first seal he saw die on the ice: "I vividly remember the first seal I saw killed in 1965. He was a little ball of white fur with big dark eyes and a plaintive cry...he was only ten days old. He went to meet in a curious, friendly and playful way the first human he had ever seen and was...by that same human...clubbed on the head and butchered on the spot. He was skinned alive. I saw the heart in a body without skin pumping frantically."

All TURNING POINT readers are urged to write a strong letter of protest to the Canadian Prime Minister immediately.

Brian Mulroney,
Office of the Prime Minister,
Langevin Block,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, ON K1A OA2.
Canada.

IFAW,
Tubwell House,
New Road,
Crowborough,
East Sussex, TN6 2QH.

PIGEON SHOOT

For 52 years the Fred Coleman Memorial Shoot has attracted thousands of spectators and shooters to Hegins, Pennsylvania. More than 7,000 pigeons are released from tiny boxes to be shot by "sportsmen". The hunters don't have to search for downed birds. According to one eye witness, youngsters gather up the birds and those only wounded are "despatched by.....pulling off their heads, beating them on the ground, wringing their necks, or stomping them to death.....The biggest laughs of the day are for the birds whose death throes last the longest."

On a pleasing note, a bill banning pigeon shoots is to be put before the Pennsylvania legislative.

HORSES KILLED

Two horses were slaughtered so that their corpses could be used in a scene recreating the battle of Waterloo in a BBC production of "Vanity Fair". Producer Terrance Dicks said of the decision to use dead horses, "We decided to go ahead for the sake of realism."

WILDFOWLING

In January, duck shooting was banned in Britain briefly. However, it was simply to conserve numbers and the shooters are out and about again now. Fortunately though, these 'sportsmen' may not have it all their own way because from now on Hunt Saboteurs intend to extend their activities to wildfowling.

January is the height of the wildfowling season. The birds which arrive on our shores at this time of year are cold and hungry, and in desperate need of rest and food. Wildfowlers with their shotguns blazing deny them both. Many birds will already have run the gauntlet of shooters' guns along their entire migration route and may already be carrying lead pellets in their bodies from Scandinavian, Dutch, Belgian and German guns. Others could be weak from lead poisoning having ingested spent lead pellets at feeding places along the European coastline.

Both the HSA and Southern Anti - Bloodsports Society have vowed to continue the campaign against wildfowling until the 'fowlers' finally hang up their guns for good.

CHICKEN'S LIB

On Easter Sunday members of the Animal Liberation Front rescued 20 chickens from battery cages at Jennings Eggs near Oxford. In one shed they found over 2,000 birds, the whole farm imprisons some 110,000 chickens, crammed into tiny battery cages. The activists said, "Conditions were appalling; excrement piled up beneath cages and the stench was revolting. The hens were in a dreadful state with blistered skin on their necks and chests, featherless, and extensive bald patches. The 20 birds we freed on Easter Day symbolise all of the battery chickens who will one day be free, when this barbaric system is finally abolished and our campaign will continue to that end." The rescued birds began a new life on free range on Easter Monday.

Actress Malandra Burrows has talked her way out of having to work in the battery unit in the TV soap opera 'Emmerdale Farm'. In the storyline she apparently hates working in the unit but in real life she feels even more strongly. She says, "We film on a real farm, in a real unit, and I am always sickened on the set to see up to 22,000 birds crammed into tiny spaces. The cages are stacked on top of each other, six cages high, and to see the birds crammed in, kicking and jostling for position is horrifying. Farmers tell me they haven't seen any other life, and that some people suffer overcrowding crammed in tower blocks. I can't accept this comparison, and anyway these are just poor creatures with no means of protest."

Malandra will be staying with the series but out of the battery shed. Turning Point is pleased to point out that she hasn't eaten an egg since she started working on the battery farm.

Never buy battery eggs.



NITROGEN

It looks like Denmark will be the first country to compel farmers to use less artificial fertilisers. This follows the passing of a resolution to cut by half the amount of nitrogenous waste being washed into Danish waters. One of the methods of achieving this will be a reduction by a quarter of the nitrogen fertilisers used by farmers.

HIDDEN CRIMES



In the last issue of Turning Point we gave a lengthy review of the important anti-vivisection film 'Hidden Crimes', produced by the American organisation SUPRESS. At the end of this article we printed the address of the 11th Hour Group as UK distributors of this film. This was incorrect, as 11th Hour Group were in fact distributing an unofficially edited version of the film that was only half an hour long. SUPRESS now have a UK representative who is selling the full length video. We recommend you buy a copy of this excellent film, which blows the lid off so-called medical research on animals.
Price £18 (inc. p & p) from:
Joy Palmer, P.O. Box 302, London N8 9HD.

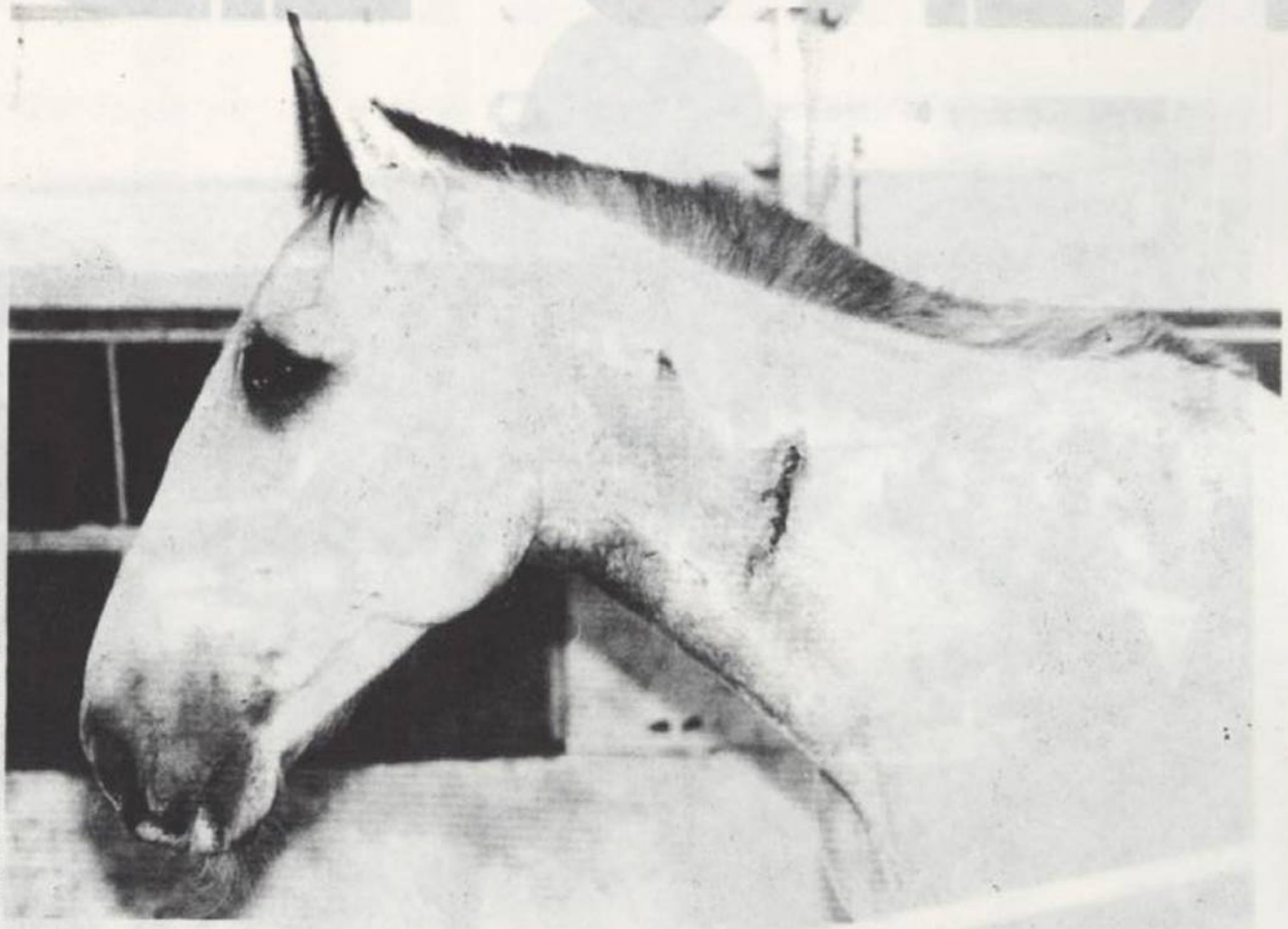
NAPALM

The United States Forest Service (USFS) is crushing and napalming thousands of acres of American forests. This process involves spraying burning gel around the outer perimeter of the area to be destroyed, the fire is then moved inwards. Wildlife is trapped and forced ever inward until they are eventually burned alive, so untold numbers of animals are being killed as well as the destruction of the habitat. The destruction is supposedly to curb pine beetle infestation, however, all the evidence shows that in the areas being torched pine beetle infestation died out two years ago - having run its natural cycle. The real reason seems to be the "good-old-boy network" and a lucrative destruction contract.

Earth First have been taking dramatic and daring action to protect the forests. Activists have leapt onto moving 52-ton crushing machines, others have climbed trees in the machines' path. Activists chained to trees have been arrested and Bugis Cargas remained chained to a crushing machine overnight because destruction workers could not find bolt-cutters capable of cutting the chains. Another activist, James Jackson, climbed from one tree to another as Forest Service employees

Continued on page 6

LAB EXPOSED







Horses and pigs with open dirty wounds at Wellcome's Grange Farm

An Animal Liberation Front Investigation Unit recently exposed the suffering of animals at Grange Farm, Frant, in Sussex - a vaccine laboratory owned by the drug company Wellcome.

The Unit discovered pigs with sores running in paralell strips down their backs, some of which appeared unable to rest because of the discomfort they were enduring and constantly shuffled about. They also found goats and sheep in a dreadful state and horses and donkeys that had already been experimented upon. The horses had open neck wounds with dirt, and straw in some cases, stuck to them. Some of these wounds had clearly become infected and had pus dripping from them. Donkeys were covered in boils and had blood dripping from their anuses. How can these vivisectors ever pretend that they are attempting to apply the results of these experiments to humans when such fundamental principles of surgery like anti-septics and hygiene are ignored?

The ALF Unit rescued a horse and a donkey which are now in a safe home. The horse has undergone experimental surgery involving the removal of a large part of its trachea which prevents it from lowering its head. The animal is incidentally, a pedigree racehorse and the Animal Liberation Front are questioning where Wellcome would obtain such an animal.

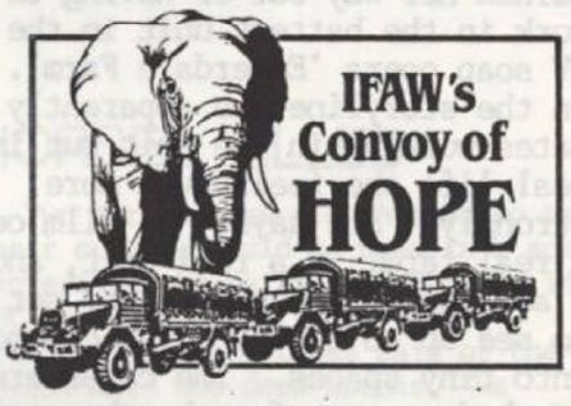
Last year, three pigs were rescued from the same establishment.

FREE

On 1st March, members of the Central Animal Liberation League (CALL) gained access to the University of Bristol School of Veterinary Medicine. They found rodents, rabbits, and cats which were being used to study infectious diseases. Fifteen cats were rescued and video film shot of the conditions there.

EVIL

In Warwick, Australia, on 22nd August 1986 a group of teenagers stabbed, kicked, and punched to death 22 sheep and 5 goats in a satanic ritual. Up to 50 other animals were left with stab wounds some with eyes gouged out. One teenager who had reluctantly been involved informed the police and as a result two people were arrested and the informant put into protective custody. A few days later we was found hanged - the police say it was suicide. Now there are no prosecution witnesses. 'Animal Liberation' (the Australian animal rights magazine) says: "Please write to Mayor Walsh (Mayor of Warwick) and demand that the police pursue this matter until all those responsible are caught and receive professional help or punishment for their barbaric treatment of non-human animals."
Write to: Warwick City Council, P.O.Box 26, Warwick, Queensland 4370, Australia.



The International Fund for Animal Welfare are raising funds for a convoy to allow Uganda's National Park Rangers to protect the elephants from poachers. Not long ago there were 20,000 elephants now there are only 2,500. Address on page 4.

BEEF

In America the Beef Industry Council (BIC) is launching a campaign to encourage people to eat more dead cattle. Actor James Garner and acress Cybil Shepherd have agreed to be spokespeople for this advertising campaign.

NAPALM Continued

chopped the trees out from under him in attempts to drive him to the ground and stop him impeding their progress. A blinded and wounded armadillo is now being cared for by the activist who rescued him.

Meanwhile pressure is being put on Congress to amend the National Forest Management Act to protect trees, habitat and wildlife.

ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS

The begining of this year saw a large number of animal rights prisoners being released from prison. The last of the Wickham prisoners was released as were the majority of the Unilever prisoners. However, on February 5th the courts were to have a shock in store for animal rights activists. Following a trial in Sheffield, a total of 38 years in prison were handed out to ten members of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF). The stiffest sentence went to the ALF press officer Ronnie Lee, who recieved ten years. Vivienne Smith, also from the London press office, was also imprisoned, along with the Northern area ALF press officer, in what seems to have been a deliberate attempt to sever the ALF's vocal chords. It was revealed that during the course of the investigation leading to these sentences, the police had planted microphones beneath the floorboards of people's homes and posed as dustbin men, collecting suspect's rubbish to take away for analysis.

Without doubt, these sentences were the most savage that the animal liberation has seen yet and seem to have been directed more at the accuseds' motivation than the actual crimes. As Steven Norris, Conservative MP for Oxford East, remarked following the sentencing: "Sentencing at the moment seems to suggest that a woman's body is less valuable than property or the right of experimenters and mink farmers to live in peace. I don't dispute there was a conspiracy and I don't believe anyone is justified in taking the law into his own hands. But the pattern of sentencing reflects a curious set of values."

The action of the Sheffield judge does not appear to have dampened the spirits of the ALF. Immediately following the sentencing, an ALF group raided the premises of J Bibby, where farm animals are experimented upon, rescuing over 50 animals (chickens and pigs).

Please write to the prisoners listed below, expressing your support and keeping them in touch with what is happening in the animal rights movement (remember that all letters will be censored). Please do not expect a reply as prisoners are restricted as to the number of letters they can write each week, and will want to save those for close friends and family.

Ronnie Lee V02682
H.M. Prison,
Armley,
Leeds,
W.Yorks,
LS12 2TJ

Vivienne Smith P34563
Julie Rodgers P34407
Isobel Facer
H.M. Prison,
Styal,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 4HR

Brendan McNally T03014,
H.M. Prison,
Acklington,
Morpeth,
Northumberland,
NE65 9XF

Kevin Baldwin T02959,
Gary Cartwright T02960,
Ian Oxley T02961,
H.M. Prison,
Lindholme,
Bawtry Road,
Hatfield Woodhouse,
Doncaster,
South Yorks,
DN7 6DG

Iain McCann J92353,
B (2) Wing,
H.M.P. The Verne,
Portland,
Dorset,
DT5 1EQ

A regular bulletin detailing animal rights prisoners, saying where they are and when they are due to be released, is produced by:
Support Animal Rights Prisoners (SARP),
BCM Box 5911, London WC1N 3XX.



Animal Liberation Front.

A piglet recsued from J Bibby.

ALF ACTION

On 19th September, 1986, the ALF carried out an impressive raid on Hylyne Rabbits near Warrington, Lancashire. The One hundred and two rabbits were taken from factory farm conditions and are now living out their lives in freedom. The activists paddled across the Manchester ship canal in two dinghys before breaking into the breeder's and finally ferrying the rabbits back across the canal to freedom. Hylyne supply rabbits for vivisection, the fur trade, and the meat industry, with the boast that they export worldwide.

In January, more rabbits were saved from battery cages. In the early hours of 30th January ALF activists forced their way into the battery sheds at Carmans Rabbit Farm, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex. Inside they found 1000 rabbits. Ninety animals were liberated and the remainder were sprayed with a harmless blue dye to make their pelts worthless.



Animal Liberation Front.

Cat and kittens rescued from the University of Oregon.

OREGON

On 26th October 1986 the ALF raided the University of Oregon, USA, rescuing cats, rabbits, pigeons, rats and hamsters - a total of 264 animals. They also destroyed equipment that would have been used to inflict suffering on other animals.

Experiments at the lab performed by Dr Barbara Gordon Lickey involved cutting the eye muscles of kittens and rotating the eye, or stitching their eyes shut. The American magazine Animals' Agenda wrote of Gordon Lickey's 'work':

"Other kittens who had been partially blinded by eyeball rotation or eyelid suturing were chemically paralyzed, anaesthetised and placed in stereotaxic devices. The scalp was cut open, a hole was cut into the skull, and a 19-gauge needle containing a tungsten microelectrode was lowered into various areas of the brain and visual cortex. A variety of moving stimuli were projected onto a screen in front of the kitten, and electrical activity of various areas of the brain in response to the visual stimulus was recorded. Each kitten was used in one to six such sessions, each lasting from six to fifteen hours."

BIBBY

In response to the imprisonment of ALF members in January, 20 activists broke into the experimental premises of J Bibby and rescued 4 piglets and 52 broiler hens

AUSTRALIA

On September 18th, 1986, the ALF visited Springvale Council's pound. Within ten minutes they had entered and rescued three dogs destined to be sent for vivisection at Baker Institute the next morning.

THE LURCHER BOYS

Illegal hare coursing has always been a problem on the Downs of South Oxfordshire and North Berkshire. Gangs of men with lurchers regularly descend on this beautiful landscape for a "bit of sport". These 'lurcher boys' operate differently to organised, legal coursing clubs - they trespass, damage crops, worry livestock, and poach. They are also very violent.

Illegal hare coursing is widespread across the Downs, from Nettlebed in the east to Faringdon and Hungerford in the west. This area, which is predominantly open farmland, holds numerous hares and is sparsely populated, making it easy for the lurcher boys to get into the field without being detected.

Once in the field, a line is formed by men and dogs, which proceeds forwards until a hare is flushed from cover (or 'put up' in coursing jargon). When this happens, two dogs are released onto the hare and it is a race to see which dog will reach the hare first. Often a tug of war will ensue between the two dogs with the live hare as the rope. At a legal coursing meet the hare is given the extremely slim chance of escape and survival because the dogs are released onto the hare in an artificial enclosure with a small exit.

People bring their lurchers and other long-dogs from as far afield as Slough, London, Southampton, Bristol, and South Wales. They may number anything from a small gang of three or four to up to as many as fifty. When a large group is in operation, betting is rife, and with large amounts of money at stake, competition is fierce. Complete indifference is shown to the laws that are supposed to govern organised hare coursing. The official coursing season lasts from September 15 to March 10, but the lurcher boys operate all year round. However, autumn and spring are their favourite times - early in the morning or late in the evening. In the autumn of 1985, lurcher boys were particularly active in the East Ilsley, Compton, and Blewbury area of Oxfordshire.

Mr. Fulke Johnson-Houghton owns racehorse gallops on the Downs near Blewbury and has continuous problems with the lurcher boys:
"They come at any time of the year from far afield places like Essex and South Wales," he says, adding, "they are what I would call 'scrap metal merchant types'. They worry game and do a lot of damage to the fields with their cars and trucks. The most common time is early on a Sunday morning." It is illegal in England and Wales to kill hares on a Sunday - but as Mr. Johnson-Houghton points out, this isn't the only law they break. "They are trespassing, and it is very difficult to remove them. They can turn very nasty. I have been threatened, and a couple of years ago a group of these people rammed into my mother's car."

Sadly for Mr. Johnson-Houghton his land is ideal for illegal hare coursers, as he himself points out,



Mike Peters.

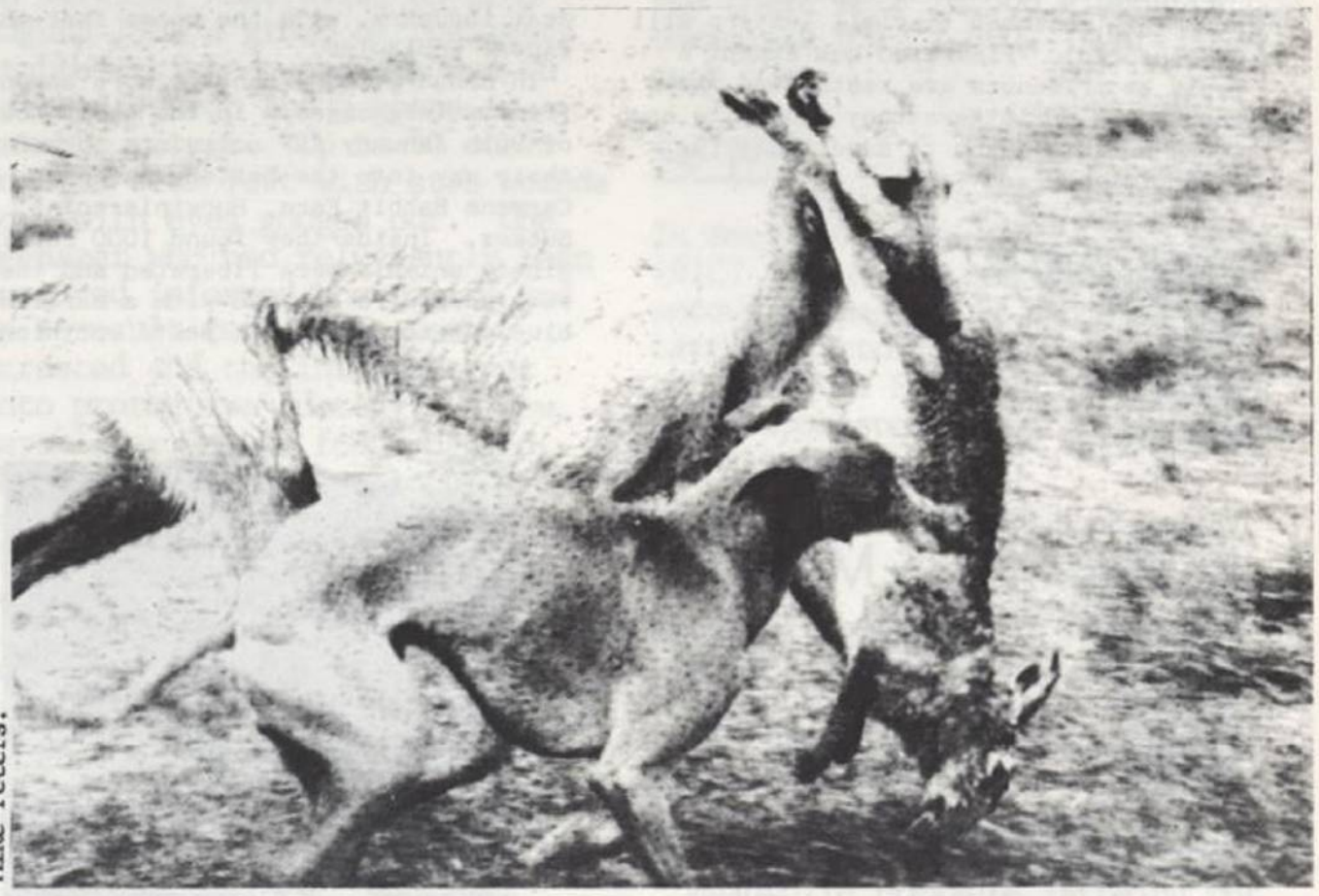
"They favour any open country without hedges or fences to get in the way." The local landowners try to work together to detect roving gangs, farmworkers report all suspicious sightings, but it is hardly adequate. Mr. Johnson-Houghton has found the police to be very helpful, and in October 1985 an unemployed man, Jesse Matthews from Hampshire, was fined for killing game on a Sunday, trespassing, and not having a dog licence - his fine totalled a meagre £50.

Illegal hare coursing is widely condemned by groups with an interest in the countryside. Indeed, it is one of the few issues that unites the Hunt Saboteurs Association (HSA) and the British Field Sports Society (BFSS), two organisations traditionally in direct conflict.

Steve Poole, a spokesperson for the HSA, states clearly that lurcher boys are regarded with disgust: "The taking of life from a wild animal is totally unacceptable to the HSA and the maximum punishment should be dished out to these people. Because of the way lurcher gangs operate, it is impossible to sabotage it. I think there should be more public vigilance. If anyone sees something suspicious, like a lot of cars parked somewhere remote and out of the way, they should immediately notify the RSPCA and the police."

Richard Colville, BFSS Southern Region secretary, believes that illegal coursing with lurchers has become more of a problem in recent years because there are simply too many lurchers in the country: "There is a bad influence from irresponsible breeders that sell dogs to people whose main aim is to use the lurchers for poaching. The irresponsible owners give all owners a bad name." He also condemns the paltry punishments given out by the courts, "Of course, it is the Magistrate's Commission who decide how someone should be punished, but the BFSS feels that penalties are far too low." He added that there is a growing feeling that those prosecuted for illegal coursing shouldn't be allowed to keep any dog again.

These statements from Colville do seem slightly hollow when you consider how heavily the BFSS supports 'legal' hare coursing. The line taken by the likes of Richard Colville is probably far more to do with the BFSS publicly washing its hands of the elements it



Mike Peters.

These two photographs show an illegal hare coursing meet that took place in Worcestershire.

thinks give bloodsports a bad name.

Dr. Frank Perring has expressed the opinion of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation (RSNC). "The RSNC," he said,"is opposed to any illegal activity." He is another person who is up in arms about the leniency shown by the courts, "People can get fined £1000 for digging up a wild flower, which is an excellent deterrent. We should be talking about a similar sort of figure to deter poaching."

These three opinions represent a very wide school of thought, yet they all unite in the condemnation of illegal hare coursing. However, as Mr. Poole pointed out, there is very little that can be done by these groups. The onus is clearly on the police to stamp down hard on lurcher boys. So just what are the police doing in this area?

Superintendent Brian Key is based at Didcot police station, in South Oxfordshire. He has had many dealings with lurcher gangs, and believes that the police are becoming more effective at catching these poachers. "We have always had illegal hare coursing in this region and we will never be able to stop it completely," he admits,"we have a limited supply of men and vehicles and up until the end of 1985 we relied on farmers to provide the information." Apparently the situation has now become much healthier. Superintendent Key continues, "late in 1985 a liason commitee between gamekeepers, landowners, farmers, and police was formed to discuss the problem and appreciate the problems and different views. We had two meetings that were widely acclaimed by those bodies involved. That has helped communication. On the practical side, the police have acquired a four - wheel drive vehicle that is based at East Ilsley, a problem area, and we also have a landrover that does patrols in the Wantage area. We have increased these patrols particularly at the weekends."

He has been heartened by recent successful prosecutions of over thirty people for coursing at places such as Kidlington Airport, Drayton, and Hungerford. There have been criticisms aimed at the police for failing to act, but Superintendent Key explains the many problems. "The police are always willing to respond. However, manpower is sometimes too low to allow this. Then, even when we do get out to the scene of the crime, the offence must be proved. We can only do this by seeing game in the possession of the offender, or by seeing the illegal coursing actually taking place. These people are difficult to catch. There is a huge area to be covered by a small police force."

In spite of the widespread outrage caused by illegal hare coursing and the increased vigilance of the police, the number of lurcher boys remains as high as ever. It seems unlikely to decrease as long as coursing and poaching continue to be glorified by the 'sporting press', and the breeders keep a ready supply of suitable dogs on the market.



We continue to receive far too many cases of the media distorting events or simply not covering them. These range from portraying the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) as violent terrorists to simply not taking the medical debate that surrounds vivisection seriously. It seems to be increasingly popular for newspapers to make inane editorial comments on animal issues - pretending that they are speaking up for the ordinary man who is being ground under by the advancing jackboot of animal liberation.

It is the animal activists who break the law who present the highest media profile and so it is invariably these people who receive the most outrageous slander and the most violent attacks from the media. For the media, groups like the ALF present an easy target. Firstly, images such as balaclavas and combat jackets can easily be transferred into classic terrorist images, and secondly, the methods used can easily be misinterpreted simply by distorting the facts a little (or a lot if necessary). Finally, such groups have no real right to reply, which gives the media a very free hand. What makes you realise how questionable the media's motives are is the fact that the ALF, who in ten years have never injured anyone are treated with far more venom and hysteria than terrorist groups who actually blow up innocent people. A double spread in the Coventry Evening Telegraph (17/9/86) was fairly typical of this mentality with banner headlines such as "Fanatics who see riots as an answer" and "Enemies of Society". Such pieces which are written with manic fervour, a scant regard for accuracy, and the knowledge that there will be no comeback from the people who's characters are being assassinated.

The Brighton Evening Argus (31/1/87) ran the headline "Rabbits' agony in brutal raid". Beneath it was a report on an ALF action in which 90 rabbits were rescued (see P.23). The report said that the activists had trodden on cages and left rabbits in agony with broken backs. However on this occasion we can allow the ALF to set the record straight:

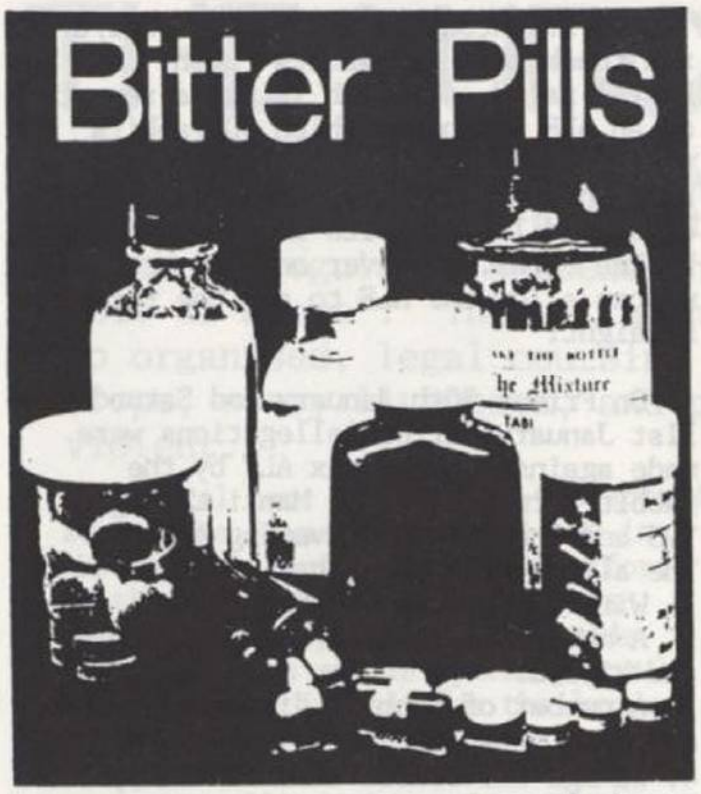
"On Friday 30th January and Saturday 31st January serious allegations were made against the Sussex ALF by the rabbit farmer Mr Bonny Manzi through TVS and the Brighton Evening Argus. The allegations were that:
1. Wire cages were crushed.
2. A number of rabbits were trodden on and killed.
3. A number of rabbits died as a result of being sprayed.
4. Damage was caused to an alarm system.
We totally refute these allegations. At no time did we cause any damage to either the cages or the alarm system. The method used to gain entry to the building bypassed the single siren alarm system and meant that we had no reason to touch the internal alarm box. We can only assume that the damage was caused by the owner for insurance reasons. The Evening Argus story alleges that the premises were protected by a nightwatchman. This is absolute rubbish. Carmans farm had been under continuous surveillance for over a month before the raid and at no time was a security guard observed. As always great care was taken with the rabbits during the raid. At no time were any rabbits trodden on or hurt, though a number of sick and dying rabbits were discovered on the premises. THe type of spray used on the animals was a harmless blue dye (sold as an animal dye) and could not possibly cause any deaths. If, as the Argus and TVS claim, rabbits with blue dye on them were found dead we can only assume that they were killed by the farm owner in a crude attempt to discredit us. We are in the business of saving animal life. Mr. Manzi is in the business of ending it."

Sussex Animal Liberation Front.



Animal Liberation Front.

"ALF activist tortures defenceless rabbit after removing it from a cosy factory farm - At least that's what they'd have you believe.



News from the drugs industry

Murder Investigation

Not before time a drug company is being investigated by a murder squad. The spokesman for the Public Prosecutor's Office in Frankfurt, Reinhard Rochus, has stated that, on the basis of a television programme, a detective from North Rhine-Westphalia has taken out a writ against the massive German drug company Hoechst and Dr. Schnieders of the Federal Health Department for suspected manslaughter, bribery and corruption. The Berlin Murder Squad number 3 is now investigating in relation to the Hoechst drugs, Alival and Psyton which were both withdrawn in January, 1986.

Hoechst had attempted to bring out an injunction to stop the television programme that instigated the investigation but had failed. The programme concerned the drug Alival and presented a very disturbing picture of Hoechst's activities. It showed how Hoechst continued to market the drug despite numerous people dying or suffering serious side effects and in response to medical journals appealing to the company and publishing articles about the drug, Hoechst had stepped up its advertising. At the Hoechst AGM a doctor had attempted to raise questions about Alival but had had his microphone switched off mid-sentence. The Federal Health Department also ignored requests for action from medical journals.

Could this mean that Hoechst will be joining Merrell Dow, Wellcome, and Eli Lilly in the dock this year?

The ever honest Hoechst are also in trouble with the EEC for suspected illicit price fixing in the PVC and polythene markets. Hoechst has refused to co-operate and is denying EEC officials access to its offices and records. Every day that the officials are refused entry Hoechst are being fined £751, which is a pathetic sum when you consider the profits that the company makes. However, should evidence be uncovered to prove Hoechst's involvement in price fixing then the fines should be considerably higher.

Bayer PR

The German based drug company Bayer recently attempted to present a more caring face to the public. They ran an advert in the Financial Times (19/11/86) with a large sepiatone picture of Victorian children waiting to go into an orphanage. It went on to imply that nearly all of the improvements we have seen since that time have been thanks to the chemical industry - in which, of course, Bayer play a major role. They also boast that they "made the original Aspirin, the most widely used painkiller in the world," and now responsible for 7000 hospitalised cases of stomach bleeding every year in the UK alone, as well as 6% of all cases of anaemia. It is interesting to see such an interest in history coming from Bayer, whose past is to say the least murky.

Bayer, together with Hoescht and BASF, were created after the war when the chemical giant IG Farben was divided up. IG Farben had a massive chemical plant at Auschwitz, which was built by the slave labour of 300,000 concentration camp workers. Following the war, 12 executives from the company, which had also supplied gases to the concentration camps, were convicted as war criminals. One of these, Fitz ter Meer, became chairman of Bayer in 1956.

In December 1986, in an unprecedented move, the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries (ABPI) suspended Bayer as a member. Previously the ABPI has seemed unconcerned as to the company it keeps. Every year they say they receive some 50 complaints, about two thirds of which are found to be in breach of the rules, yet there has never before been a suspension. The Bayer suspension is because the company had been offering payments, between 1983-85, to doctors to produce bogus drug trials. The suspension, which could have been a more severe expulsion, will be reviewed in July 1987. So it is likely that the ABPI will be welcoming Bayer back to the fold before long.

Deadly Cure For Baldness

Upjohn who manufacture minoxidile, prescribed for reducing high blood pressure, have had to reformulate the drug to reduce its ability to penetrate the skin. This follows a bizarre series of events. A few years ago Americans discovered that dissolved in water and applied to bald heads it restored hair growth. Now it has been revealed by the US Food and Drug Administration that when applied this way the drug has caused circulation collapse and death. Upjohn has denied this but has nonetheless reformulated the drug and now awaits its approval.

However, the story does not end there. On 5th February, 1987, Upjohn launched a cream designed to restore hairgrowth. In the words of the Independent: "In Brussels this morning, with the kind of razzmatazz associated with the launch of a pop star, the pharmaceutical multi-national, Upjohn, will unveil a so-called wonder cream called Regain." Believe it or not the key component of Regain is the drug minoxidile.

Alcoholism Drug

The drug Hemincvrin, manufactured by Astra Pharmaceuticals, which is used to treat alcoholics but is also available as a street drug, was responsible for more than 58 deaths in 1984 - more than from heroin. The manufacturers have written to GPs saying that the drug should not be prescribed for more than nine days and that it only treats the symptoms of alcoholism and is not a cure (suprise, suprise). However, surveys have shown that GPs are still prescribing the drug for over 10 days. At least one person has died so far from over prescribing. When questioned on this Edwina Currie, parliamentary Under Secretary for Health, suggested valium, an addictive drug that exagerates intoxication (see valium, P 19) be used instead.

Suntan Pills

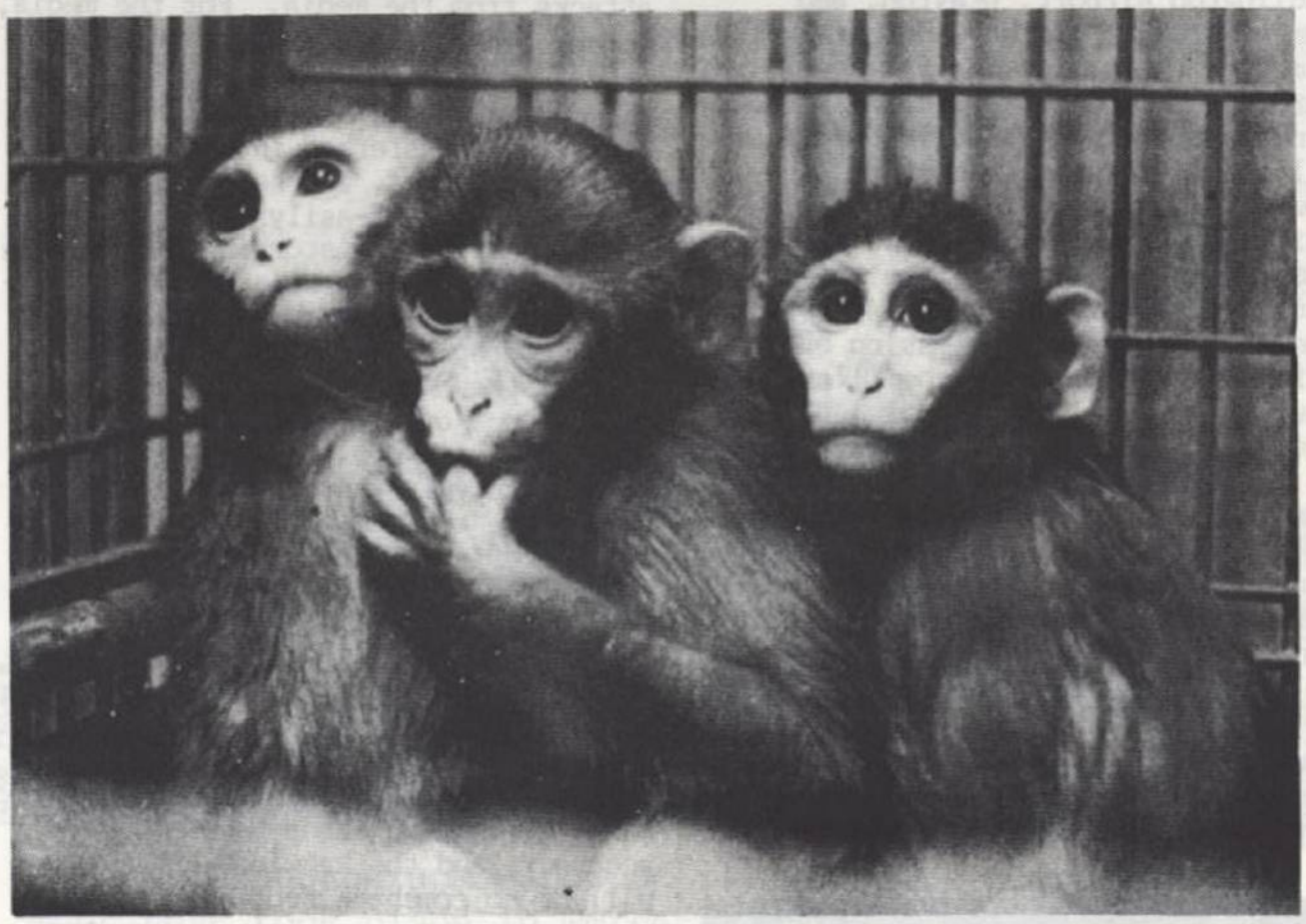
Two pills used for staining the skin, in order to give a suntanned effect Orobronze and Ambasun, have been withdrawn after fears that they damage eyesight. The government's toxicity committee has found that the pills' active ingredient canthaxanthin can cause deposits of yellow particles on the retina. The pills were being distributed in the UK by DeWitt and Altermed.

Incidentally, canthaxanthin is also used as a food additive, in tinned salmon for example. But at this stage it is only thought to be the high dose in the suntan pills that is dangerous.

Patents

A new bill before parliament could cost the NHS an extra £200 million on its drugs bill, and that is on top of the extra £12 million a year from increased prices, reported in the last issue of BITTER PILLS. The new bill plans to extend the patent life of drugs by abolishing the licence to right. The licence to right enables other manufacturers to produce generic (unbranded) versions of drugs during their last four years of patent life. Generic drugs are on average between 25% and 50% cheaper than brand name versions.

If this bill goes through it will mean that certain drug companies will retain the



Who's next?

monopolies on drugs for longer and thus keep the price as high as they like (see Poison Pushers - for the full implications of this). The drug companies as a whole like this because it keeps prices high across the board and so, not too suprisingly, the bill has been welcomed by Dr. J. P. Griffiths, Director of the ABPI. The bill was presented for its second reading in the House of Lords by Lord Northfield, who by sheer coincidence is a consultant to Merck Sharp and Dohme, the UK subsidiary of Merck, the world's biggest drug company.

Anti-Alcohol drug

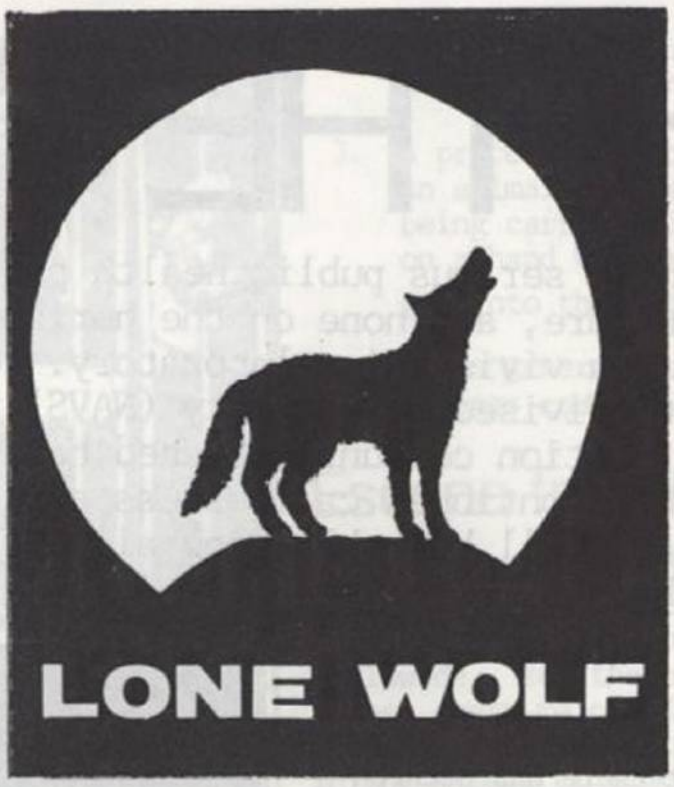
Hoffman-La Roche have forced rats to consume alcohol until they are drunk in order to test a new drug that supposedly sobers up drunks. Known as Ro15-4513 it is a derivative of benzodiaz pine (see Poison Pushers) and is typical, in that, it only treats the symptoms and cures nothing - the alcohol level in the blood remains the same and it would not prevent death from alcohol poisoning. At least that's in rats, who are not normally noted for their intake of alcohol. Lord knows what effects it would have on people. Roche will not, however, be marketing the drug for 'ethical reasons'. This was greeted with typical irresponsibility by the Daily Express who after billing it as a breakthrough for "festive revellers" stated that, "the bad news is that it's not for sale."

Union Carbide

Union Carbide must be squirming. The go ahead has now been given for the hearing against the company, two years after a gas leak at their plant at Bhopal in India. This disaster resulted in the deaths of more than 23,000 people, and between 30,000 and 40,000 were left disabled. The Indian government is sueing Union Carbide for £2.1 billion and claim the company encouraged the shanty towns, where many of the victims lived, to be built around the plant. It was stated in court that the company have been selling off their assets in order to minimise its liability from the disaster. In less than a year the company's net worth has been reduced from $4 billion to $795 million. Now it has been agreed that two valuers chosen by the Bhopal Judge will examine its assets and make sure they have not dropped below an agreed figure every month. Now a rumour is afoot that the Union Carbide pesticide Temik is linked to an "AIDS-type" virus that breaks down the immune system. Union Carbide are sending out leaflets reassuring farmers that there is nothing wrong with the pesticide.

Old Drugs Never Die

As we have pointed out before, in BITTER PILLS, drugs that don't work don't end up in the dustbin, they just get kicked around until the drug company finds a new use for them. Retrovir, the drug that Wellcome are currently touting as a treatment for AIDS, is such a case. It was developed some twenty years ago as an anti-cancer drug, known then as, azidothymidine or AZT. It was useless, but has now been resurrected as an AIDS treatment. At the last Wellcome AGM it was announced that the drug would be renamed zidovudine and marketed as Retrovir. Wellcome have applied for permission to market the drug in the USA despite not knowing how toxic it will prove when used over a long period - which it seems likely such a treatment would be.



Oh dear, it seems all is not well at the Bicester and Whaddon Chase. Just over a year ago the Bicester and Warden Hill Hunt amalgamated with the Whaddon Chase in order to rampage across the countryside in pursuit of foxes together. Now it seems there are a few cracks appearing in this unpleasant and unholy union. January saw the hunt's first annual ball together, for which 600 tickets were allocated. Mysteriously, application forms for tickets went out to Whaddon Chase supporters almost a month before going to the Bicester folk. Thus, when the tickets sold out it was the Bicester supporters who lost out, and were heard muttering that, "the tickets have been snapped up by the Whaddon lot." The party was held at the home of the hunt chairman, Captain Miles Gosling JP, whose neighbours we can only pity. At a previous party, on 11 January, the police had to be called at 4.20AM in order to tell the revellers to shut up. Bicester hunt supporters are known to issue death threats and assault anti hunt protestors, so I'm sure their annual ball is an entirely civilised affair.

The owner of Dominion Furs (169 London Road, Leicester) appears to be in a no win situation. In order to prevent animal rights activists damaging his windows he has fitted roller shutters. Now, the Leicester City Council are demanding the shutters be removed because they are 'ugly' and last year shutters were banned throughout the city on environmental grounds.

Turning to the subject of vivisection, I see that Reigate labour party have called for an end to cosmetics, alcohol, psychological, and warfare experiments on animals. A good move, you'd say. However, a source of mine says it's not that simple. It seems a resolution tackling medical research was thrown out and the final resolution is really only tokenism that doesn't really challenge vivisection. Now why should this be? Could it be because Mike Ormerod, leader of the labour group, is in fact a vivisector involved in cancer research and the secretary of Horley labour party branch is married to a vivisector and both defend vivisection?

Following in the footsteps of the meat trade (the appalling adopt a butcher scheme mentioned previously in this column) the milk marketing board (MMB) are going into schools to promote the wonders of milk. Sue Thompson, MMB dairy produce advisor, is going from school to school telling children how healthy, ho hum, milk is for them. Will this be more successful than the MMB's Operation Skycrest marketing disaster? In this little promo the MMB paid £500,000 for a balloon that went up 30 feet and a pilot, Per Lindstrand, who fell out. For this non event the MMB still owe £7,000 VAT and £100,000 to Marshall Street Films, who recorded the misadventure.

I have two real charmers I'd like to bring to the attention of my readers. They are angler Clive Richards from Herne Bay, Kent, and young farmer Gary Edwards from Wenn, Shropshire. Clive Richards recently appeared on a list of anglers who competed in South Africa in 1985, compiled by the South African Non Racial Olympic Committee. Richards described the organisation as 'crackpot' and added: "Ok, we were competing against white teams. But we spent time in Port Elizabeth with little black guys, teaching them all about casting the rod and fishing just as I teach youngsters in this country." Patronising anglers, don't you just love 'em? Gary Edwards was the first young farmer to go on an exchange trip to Spain. Thankfully in this country more and more people are finding bullfighting repellent, but not our Gary. He even found himself in the bullring taunting young bulls to charge. Sadly he escaped with only a grazed leg.

To finish on a more cheery note, I am off to see the new Star Trek movie, which according to Animals' Agenda has a distinctly animal liberation theme. Just what you'd expect with Captain vegetarian Kirk at the helm.

L.W.

AIDS - THE TRUTH

AIDS is potentially the most serious public health problem for many generations. At present there is no known cure, and none on the horizon. The virus which causes AIDS is HIV - it was created in a vivisection laboratory. On May 26th, after a year of research the National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS) revealed how through sheer irresponsibility the vivisection community rushed headlong towards the creation of this deadly disease and how continued callousness and carelessness allowed it to spread worldwide. The NAVS will be publishing all of their findings in a shocking book called BIOHAZARD, which will be available in July.

A Cover Up

There is every indication that there has been an attempt to cover-up the origins of the disease. Publicly, at least, there has been no attempt by the scientific community to explain how such a deadly virus could appear so suddenly. The one theory being rather loosely presented is that the disease somehow originated in Africa and is related to the simian AIDS virus (STLV-111) which is known to infect up to 80% of African green monkeys. The two viruses STLV-111 and HIV, are indeed related, but such a theory misses a great deal of the true stroy and leaves anumber of questions unanswered.

Early indications that AIDS might have originated in Africa are now highly questionable, because the test that provided the data on which this was based is now known to produce false positives. Thus early AIDS statistics for Africa are probably considerably higher than they were in reality. As far as the vivisection industry is concerned the Africa theory is very convienient because it diverts attention away from American and European laboratories where for over forty years scientists have been blindly playing around with viruses which they did not understand. As you will see it was this blind experimentation that led to the creation of HIV. What is perhaps the most disturbing aspect of this is that whilst the public's attention is focussed on the other side of the world, the vivisectors continue unabated.



South East Animal Liberation League.

Primate research in Britain.

The Creation of AIDS

"By the very nature of animal experimentation, such a disaster was inevitable and unless action is taken now it is only question of time before it happens again." NAVS.

All over the USA during the 1960s and 1970s vivisectors were deliberately transmitting simian AIDS from animal to animal, species to species, laboratory to laboratory. With insane curiosity experimenters stood back and watched as viruses developed in severity and speed of action. In one experiment at the New England Regional Primate Centre, USA, a macaque monkey that had been there for eight years suddenly developed cancer behind the eye. Tissue was taken from this animal and injected into two others, both of which developed cancer. The scientists pressed on. Tissue from these animals was injected into seven more macaques. All of these animals died of opportunistic diseases, typical of a breakdown of the immune system. The animals infected at the outset of this experiment died of cancer after two or three years, by the end of it animals were dying after two or three months with AIDS like symptoms. It seems unbelievable that these scientists, instead of trying to isolate and eradicate a newly discovered cancer-causing virus, actually conducted transmission experiments and stood back watching with morbid fascination as the speed of action and severity of their monster increased.

The HIV virus is the most complex virus of its type - a group known as retroviruses. Most of these viruses have four genes, however, HIV has others that are only found in a subgroup of retroviruses called lentiviruses. This subgroup includes the visne virus that causes the brain disease scrapie in sheep and goats, and the slow viruses that cause the brain diseases Kuru and Cruetzfeld-Jacob Disease (CJD) in man. All of the evidence points to HIV being formed by a mutation which involved the monkey virus STLV 111 and a lentivirus. Under natural circumstances such a union would not be possible because of the viruses having different host ranges. However, in the wholly unnatural world of the vivisection laboratory such a combination would be more than feasible.

At the National Institutes of Health at Bethesda, Maryland, USA, a great deal of work was carried out in the study of Kuru and CJD. It is hard to believe that again and again vivisectors injected viruses about which they knew virtually nothing into a whole variety of animals, with no idea of the consequences. But this is exactly what they did



True Friends.

Chimpanzees in a US AIDS laboratory.

at this laboratory, and probabably many others. In 1970s, under the direction of Nobel Prizewinner D. Carlton Gajdusek the NIH team injected lentiviruses into the brains and bloodstreams of chimpanzees, gibbons, six species of American monkey, and eleven species of African or Asian monkey, including the African Green which is naturally infected with STLVIII. It is now known that STLV 111 existed in US laboratory monkeys as long as 20 years ago. However, at this time experimenters were blissfully unaware of its presence.

At Bethesda they managed to infect all of these species with CJD and Kuru. It is unclear how many primates were actually used, but by 1976 a total of 300 had been used and by 1977 it is recorded that at least 54 chimpanzees had been used in Kuru research. Once such an onslaught is under way it seems difficult to stop. At the NIH laboratory the Kuru and CJD viruses were also grown in cultures of African green monkey cells mixed with calf serum and ten other animal viruses. Kuru, CJD and scrapie have also been injected into goats, cats, guinea pigs, skunks, voles, mice, hamsters, rats, ferrets, mink, sheep, opossums, gerbils, and racoons. It is now clear that over a twenty year period, beginning in 1966, at this one laboratory all known lentiviruses were injected into African green monkeys, at least 50% of which would be carriers of STLV 111. All the vivisectors had to do was sit back and wait for the outcome.

Simply crossing the species barrier may cause a virus to mutate: viruses which may be harmless in one species may be dangerous in another. Simian haemorrhagic fever for example, is carried by Patas monkeys and baboons without clinical signs but it is highly infective in macaques. In 1975 there was an outbreak at Shamrock Farms, in Sussex, in a fully quarantined rhesus monkey colony where the only possible source of infection was a group of monkeys housed next to them. At the Clinical Research Centre at Harrow a respiratory infection affected approximately 50% of their marmoset monkey colony with three deaths. The source of infection was traced to the rats and mice housed in the same building. There is always the potential for human infection from animal bites. In 1983 an internal memo on "AIDS safety precautions" at the SEMA Corporation laboratories in Rockville, Maryland, stated "we are injecting chimps that have been exposed to hepatitis B with serum from AIDS patients." It went on to cite three accidents that year at the laboratory:

"1. An animal technician was working with a monkey - the monkey grabbed his glasses - the employee reached into the cage to retrieve his glasses, and the monkey bit him.

2. A monkey got loose and an animal technician grabbed him with his bare hands - he was bitten.

3. A procedure involving animal blood from an animal with an undefined condition was being carried out with a punctured glove on a hand with an open cut ⅜ the blood got into the cut.

As regards general safety, there are areas where improvements could be made."

Escape from the Laboratory

All laboratories conducting experimental studies on animals present a potentially lethal danger to the community that surrounds them and in some cases worldwide. Yet these biological timebombs appear in almost every major city. It would be interesting to note people's reactions had nuclear reactors sprung up in the middle of almost every major centre of population. The vivisection industry would argue that even if an AIDS like virus were created in a laboratory then it could not possibly escape to the outside world - such are the safety precautions. However, the record of laboratory safety procedures and containment is in fact far more blighted than that of the nuclear industry.

Take, for example, Fort Detrick the US Army Biological Warfare Establishment which probably has the highest level of microbiological containment in the world. Here, over a period of 25 years there have been 423 cases of serious infection of staff with three deaths - on average one accident every three to four weeks. How much greater must the risk be in civilian laboratories, especially when staff are unaware of the hazards, as was the case with the simian AIDS virus.

Smallpox has escaped, in recent years, from two British laboratories; the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Birmingham University, resulting in three deaths.

In Germany, in 1979, twenty-nine laboratory workers caught a new disease, later identified as Marburg disease, after handling tissues or cell cultures from recently imported African green monkeys. Seven of the victims died. Marburg virus was later found to be harmless in its natural host, only becoming deadly when it was transmitted to a foreign species. The cause of Marburg disease was identical to that of simian AIDS in the USA - cross species transmission in a vivisection laboratory; yet no lesson was learned.

Every day workers in British laboratories are handling animals who could be host to yet undiscovered viruses and in some cases they are deliberately injecting them with diseases. Then they are walking out into the midst of the general public.

As vivisection continues unabated the creation of another disease, possibly even dealier than AIDS, is inevitable. Probably sooner than later. As we have seen once it has been created the laboratories will have no way of containing it. As with AIDS, experimenters will not realise until it is too late what they have actually created and will be left vainly promising some distant cure as the death toll mounts.

It was only animal experimentation that made the creation of a virus like AIDS possible, and it will happen again unless action is taken now. Since the AIDS virus was produced, American vivisectors have combined two harmless herpes viruses in mice to produce another herpes virus which kills mice. The clock is already ticking towards the next catastrophe.

National Anti-Vivisection Society,
51 Harley Street,
London, W1N 1DD.

THE LAW STILL ALLOWS PEOPLE TO SQUIRT WEEDKILLER IN A BABY'S EYES, INJECT IT WITH POISON, GROW CANCERS ON ITS BACK, BURN ITS SKIN OFF, EXPOSE IT TO RADIATION AND EVENTUALLY KILL IT, IN UNRELIABLE EXPERIMENTS.



SO LONG AS IT'S ONLY AN ANIMAL.

We can prove that experiments on animals are as misleading and unproductive as they are inhuman and sickeningly cruel.

Indeed, important life saving medical advances such as blood transfusions have actually been delayed for many years by such experiments.

So write to us now for the evidence. It might make you feel sick. But it'll also make you want to help.

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Please post to: National Anti-Vivisection Society Ltd, 51 Harley Street, London W1N 1DD.

NATIONAL ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY

SLAUGHTER

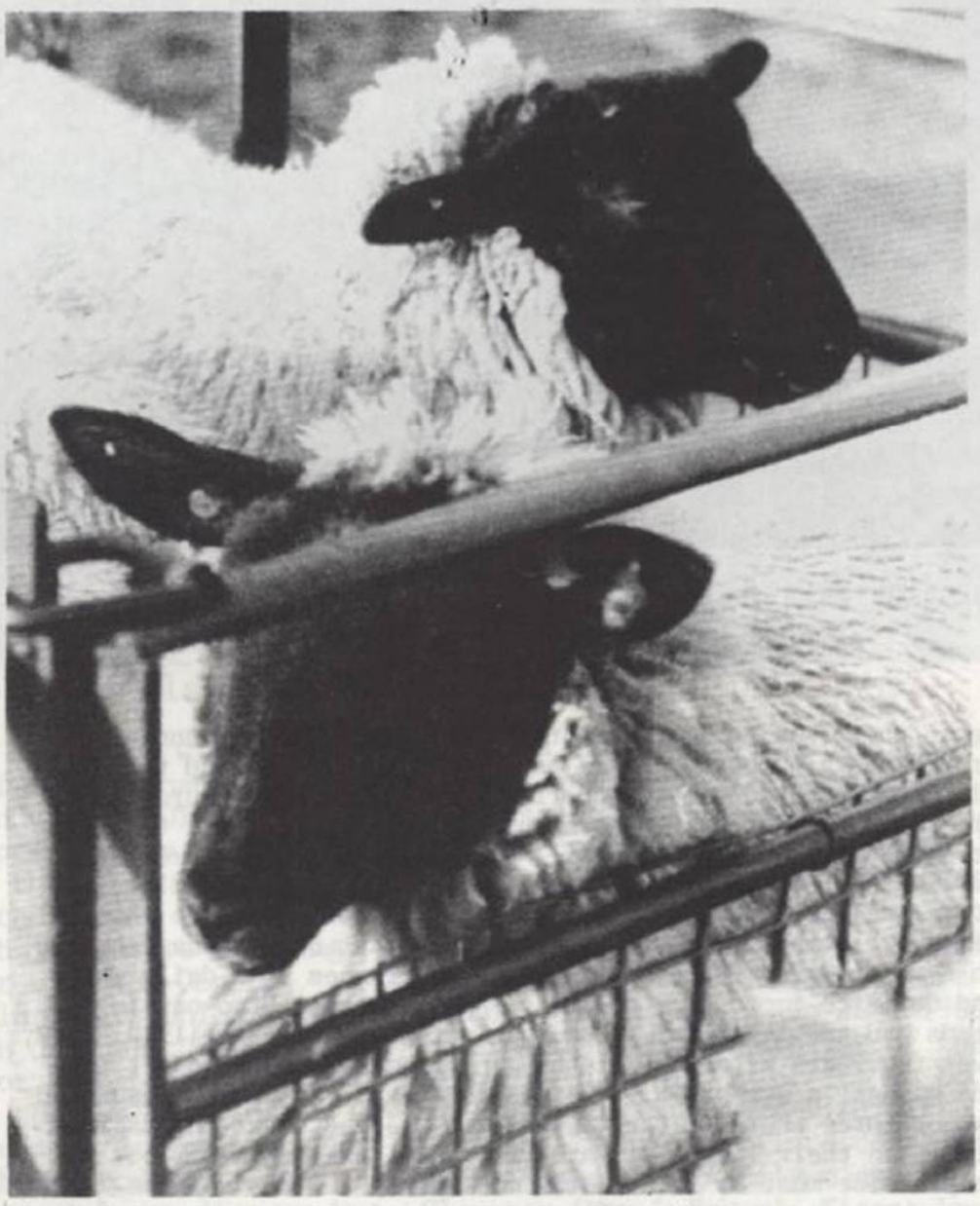
In August, 1986, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) visited the disused premises of FMC (Meat) Ltd at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham. They came away with documentation that provides the most damning indictment of a large scale slaughter operation, to date. Copies of these documents which detail incompetence, negligence, and the horrifying suffering endured by pigs, sheep, and cattle, were handed to the CAMPAIGN AGAINST FARM ANIMAL ABUSE (CAFAA) who have written this report for TURNING POINT.

The complex had been rapidly falling into disrepair but suspicions were aroused by the large amounts of mail arriving there. Activists broke into the mail box and realised that plans were in effect to re-equip the slaughterhouse; a steam boiler worth £5000, offal poles, and shackles. It appeared that the intention was to sell it as a going concern, a far more attractive offer to prospective buyers than an empty and derelict biulding. It is encouraging that, over a period of 18 months, no one has shown any interest in buying and putting this plant into operation.

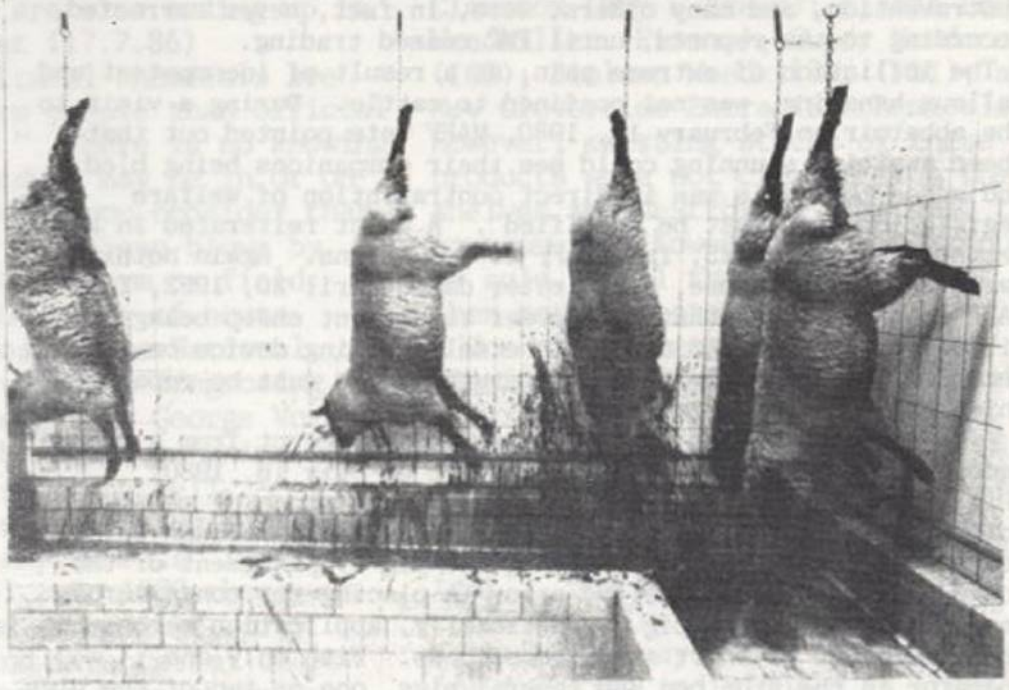
The initial plan, of the ALF activists, was to burn the entire complex to the ground, but they found local tramps were using it as a free hotel! The ALF returned to the slaughterhouse in the early hours of the morning, intending only to have an initial scout around the building and then decide upon a course of action. Even though no animals had been slaughtered there for at least 18 months the smell of death and blood was still overpowering. On making their way around the huge complex a number of doors were broken down and because of regular security checks on the building it was decided that a return visit would not be possible. However, a large amount of damning documentation was taken, including, files relating to Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (MAFF) veterinary visits and the personal files of workers. All of these files were passed to the Campaign Against Farm Animal Abuse (CAFAA), who are consulting with experts in the hope that further action can be taken. The veterinary reports make harrowing reading and give a terrifying insight into the daily running of a slaughterhouse with a turnover of hundreds of animals.

Reports taken relate to the running of FMC between 1980 and early 1983. The catalogue of horror and extreme malpractice begins on February 21, 1980, with a report compiled by the manager, Mr E Collins, relating to criticisms made by MAFF vets during their visit on February 18, 1980. Mr Collins wrote, "I have to describe this visit, by Mr Arnold and Mr Braigh, as not a happy one, as there were grounds for too many points of criticism." In the list of points we see the first of many contraventions of welfare and hygiene laws. Under 'General' points it is stated: "Bolt in the cattle gun is splayed. Possibly by pushing back against brick work or shooting in wrong position. Whilst in the offal room evidence was seen of incorrect positions with shooting, with some heads having two or even three holes." We cannot begin to imagine the terror and extreme pain suffered by cattle, enduring three shots to the head, before losing consciousness. Perhaps it would not be so worthy of concern if it was clear that this example was a one off. But no....time and time again we read in the vets' reports that stunning of cattle and other animals is both inadequate and causes extreme pain of a prolonged nature. Mr Collins received a letter from the MAFF, dated March 25, 1980, drawing his attention to the visit of February 18; "More care must be taken when stunning cattle; the pistol must be accurately applied to the head of every animal....." They go on to state that, "Animals awaiting slaughter must have access to a wholesome water supply at all times." It also appears, from this letter, that sheep, awaiting stunning, could see their companions bleeding to death because of faulty self-closing doors. This is in direct contravention of existing welfare laws and the MAFF state that, "No animal must be bled in the sight of another." The letter clearly says that these points must be rectified immediately. However, during a visit by MAFF vets, Mr McIntyre and Mr Arnold, on January 20, 1981, we see that cattle are still being incorrectly stunned, "Too much hide left on beef heads. Also too many shots in heads and many in wrong places." Mr Collins received another letter from the MAFF in connection with this visit, saying, "We must draw your attention to the fact that stunning of animals was not being carried out in the correct manner; a high proportion of cattle heads had more than one hole shot in them, some well away from the correct site for stunning. This serious breach of the requirement to avoid all unnecessary suffering to animals when being slaughtered was previously pointed out to you in my letter of 25 March, 1980, following last year's inspection. Moreover, guns and cartridges were in an unsatisfactory state. The correct colour coded cartridge must be used according to the make of gun and weight of the animal being stunned and these cartridges must be stored in a dry place. Guns must be maintained in good working order at all times."

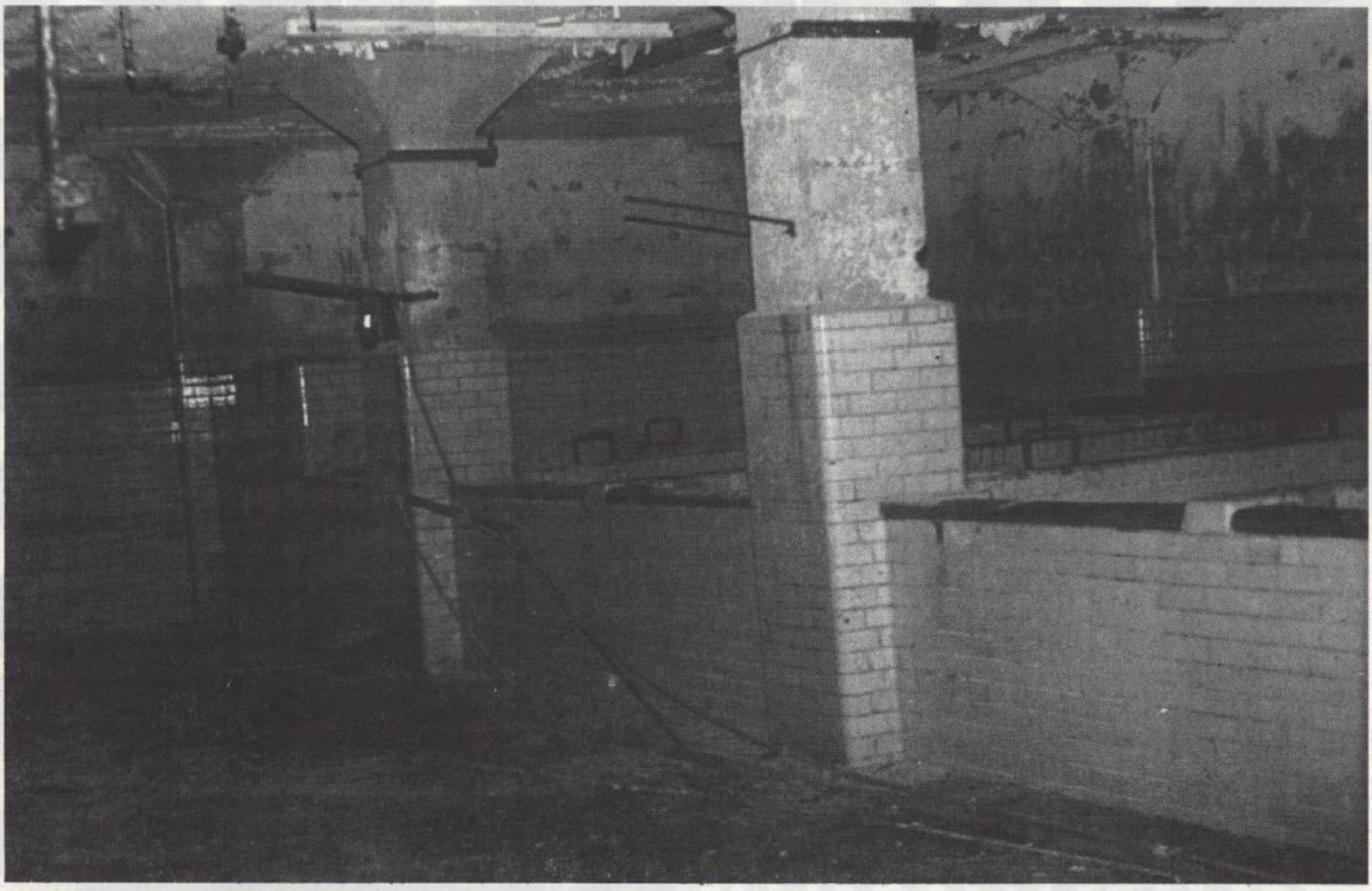
MAFF vets made another visit to FMC on February 17, 1981, and



Turning Point.



Top photo: Sheep that have been sold at auction for slaughter.
Below: Their fate at the slaughterhouse.



Inside the derelict FMC slaughterhouse.

again there was no improvement; "There was still a stunning problem as a number of heads had two holes and one had three. Also some positions were incorrect." Then we are assured that, "Mr Collins later saw the slaughterman concerned, with the two foremen, and a daily watch will be kept to finally correct this fault." So, at last, it appears that some of this needless suffering will cease. But, does it? In two successive internal memos, relating to vets' visits, we see that nothing has changed. In a memo, dated three months after assurances of a daily watch and definite improvements, it is reported that, "two cattle heads had treble shots". During a vet's visit on April 19, 1982, over two years after the stunning problem had been brought to the manager's attention, it was noted that, "Some beef heads had two or three shots in them." Despite the fact that the MAFF stated in their letter of March 25, 1980, that this seriou malpractice must be "rectified immediately". This serious contravention, and many others, were, in fact, never corrected, according to the reports, until FMC ceased trading.

The infliction of extreme pain, as a result of incompetent and callous handling, was not confined to cattle. During a visit to the abbatoir on February 18, 1980, MAFF vets pointed out that sheep awaiting stunning could see their companions being bled, and added that this was in direct contravention of welfare legislation and "must be rectified". A point reiterated in a letter dated March 25, from MAFF to Mr Collins. Again nothing was ever done. We see, in a letter dated April 20, 1982, from MAFF to Mr Collins, that, "In order to prevent sheep being killed in the sight of others, the self closing device on the metal swing doors from the sheep stunning pen must be repaired." This was to be done "immediately"!

Pigs fared no better at FMC. Here is an excerpt from a report made by a MAFF vet, relating to a visit on July 16, 1980: "Pig stunning pen. With only one man in the stunning pen the following malpractice was observed. The stunning prongs were being used to control movements of the pig by placement of the tongs across spine and belly, prior to placing the tongs across head and lower jaw of pig. Additionally, application across the head was often as short as three seconds. With only one operator in the stun pen and several pigs, one or two of the pigs tried to escape through the flap door leading to the blood trough." This point was again brought to the attention of the manager during another MAFF visit on January 20, 1981. To ensure unconsciousness stunning tongs must be applied to the head of a pig for no less than seven seconds. In July 1980 it was revealed that tongs were being applied for a mere three seconds and this was to be rectified. Yet, on February 12, 1982, the MAFF vet Mr McIntyre stated that the tongs were being applied for a time insufficient to cause unconciousness.

It is hard to imagine the terror and pain suffered by animals awaiting death at FMC, being prodded and poked and then often severely brain-damaged by incompetent slaughtermen. Loss of consciousness was, it seems, a luxury experienced by few animals at this and presumably the majority of slaughterhouses.

A memo, dated February 4, 1982, deals with the operation of the pig line. The author of this, Mr RG Kneale, states that he, "had a fairly detailed look at the above (pig line) and there is no doubt that we have a significant number of physical and operative changes to make so that it can give you what you want and create an environment which is practical to work in, and at the same time, keep the vets and Public Health off our backs. Frankly I am amazed that we are not already under heavy pressure to change things." He adds that there are two major problems, the slaughter line itself and the slaughtermen's practices, explaining that, "sticking is bad and dangerous" (cutting the stunned animals throat), "too much blood on the floor", and "too much eviscera left where bunging is done." Towards the end of this lengthy memo, he says that, "a proper sticking knife must be used" and that "the shackle handling is deplorable."

It is clear from these reports that the handling of animals at all stages of the slaughter operation is deplorable. They also reinforce the belief that a large number of animals, in UK slaughterhouses, are killed whilst fully conscious. Animals are incorrectly stunned and either go to slaughter fully aware of what is happening to them or alternatively suffer extreme pain during the stunning process. Many animals are killed whilst fully conscious but are rendered paralysed by incorrect stunning procedures. Can anyone seriously call this 'humane slaughter'?

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

POISONING THE LAND, PLANTS, PEOPLE, & ANIMALS

The Consequences of Pesticides & Herbicides

On 27th November, 1986, the British Toxicology Society (BTS) told the Commons Select Committee on Agriculture that animal tests are essential to ensure the continued safety of pesticides in this country. For years animals have been force fed pesticides and herbicides, died agonising deaths, and yet again and again products that are harmful to people have still reached the market. Dr Ian Purchase of ICI's central toxicology laboratory laid out the case for animal testing and, almost unbelievably, as he did so outlined exactly why such tests fail. The Guardian (28th November, 1986) reported: "Lethal dose tests on animals were inprecise because the effect of a chemical varied according to the species of animal tested, whether it had just been fed, and other factors, Dr Purchase said. "We all know the differing effect of a glass of sherry, depending on whether we have a full or empty stomach"." Actually, these companies know full well that their tests are meaningless and are only a way of reassuring the public that this or that product is safe. When necessary the results are ignored. For example the herbicide Isoxaben is still sold by Eli Lilly even though very high doses fed to pregnant rats cause birth defects. The fact is that none of these products is safe for people, plants, or animals.



South East Animal Liberation League.

In 1985, 50,811 animals died to test plant pesticides, why?

There is a mountain of evidence revealing the human damage caused by agrochemicals. A recent survey showed that the herbicide 2,4-dichlorophenoxy-acetic acid (2,4-D) which has been used by American farmers for years causes cancer. New Scientist (18.9.86) wrote: "Tests on 2,4-D on laboratory animals have not shown clear carcinogenic effects, although one unreported experiment recently found brain tumors in a few male rats exposed to the herbicide. Now a survey of Kansas farmers blames the herbicide for increasing the risk of their developing non-Hodgkins lymphoma, a form of cancer of the lymphatic system similar to the better known Hodgkin's disease. About half of the victims of non-Hodgkins lymphoma die within five years." In November, 1986, Forestry workers in Northumberland called for the withdrawal of the pesticide Gamma-Col which has been in use for 25 years. One worker had two and a half times the safe level of the chemical, which is believed to cause cancer, in his blood. A number of Forestry workers have complained of headaches and nausea after using the substance. In California the pesticide OMITE-CR caused an outbreak of severe dermatitis amongst orange pickers resulting in weeping lesions and skin loss. The manufacturer Uniroyal withdrew the product.

This evidence was reinforced in December, 1986, by the book 'Pesticides - the hidden perils', published by the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU). The book makes the widest possible survey of workers handling pesticides and finds that 50% suffer adverse side effects such as; headaches, sickness and sore throats - despite the fact that 80% of the people involved had been supplied with protective clothing. The TGWU, together with the General Municipal and Boilermakers Union, and the National Union of Public Employees have threatened not to handle any pesticides during the 1987 growing season unless manufacturers release the full details of their products.

These chemicals are also ending up in food. New Scientist (17.7.86) revealed: "Agricultural chemicals are poisoning many more people than official statistics reveal." There is no knowing what chemical residues may be in or on food, especially when you consider that the chemicals may have been blown by the wind from another farm or field. There are over 4000 cases of acute poisoning every year. The National Poisons Unit has problems diagnosing cases and its director Dr George Volans shows how useful he believes animal tests are by saying: "One well documented case in a human is equivalent to 20,000 animal experiments" (New Scientist 17.9.86). In 1980 there was a particularly bad example of spray carried by the wind from cereal crops onto market gardens in Worcestershire. The results were tomatoes with nipples, lettuces with no heart, and tainted black currants, even crops grown in glasshouses were damaged or killed.

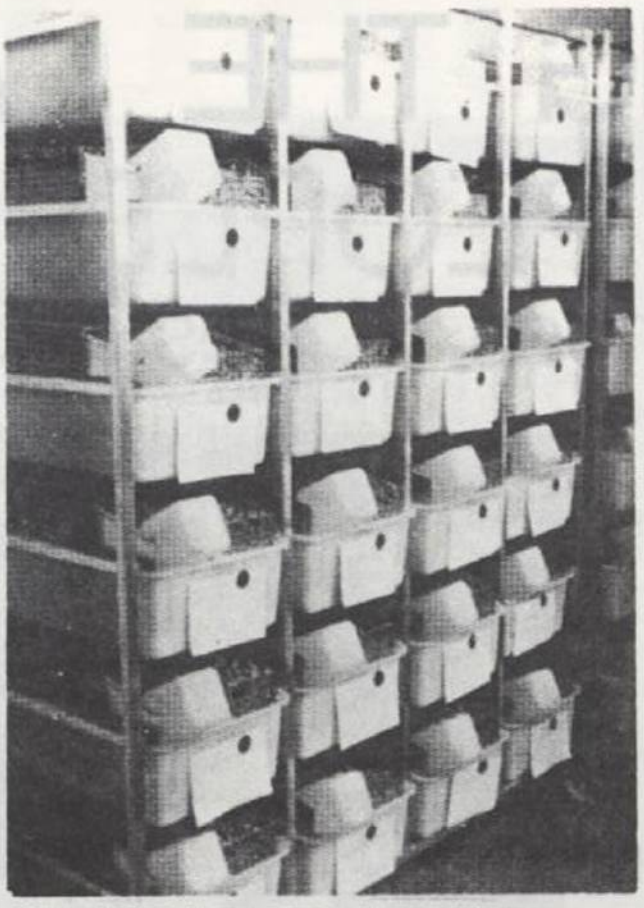
If you add to the problems that we already have here the cynical and callous attitude of some of the manufacturers then the situation becomes quite desperate. For example, the pesticide Dinoseb which was shown to cause birth defects and infertility was banned in the USA long before it was withdrawn in the UK. In June 1985 the government ordered supplies of the herbicide Loxynil to be frozen because of its suspected links with birth defects. Six weedkillers contained this ingredient; Actilawn and New Clovotox (May & Baker); Fisons Lawn Weedkiller (Fisons); Super Verdone (ICI); Biolawn Weedkiller (PBI); and New Clovercide Extra (Synchemicals). However, existing stocks of these products were not cleared from the shelves and destroyed. Instead, the government allowed them to continue to be sold, until they were sold out and then not be restocked.

One of the most famous examples of a chemical company's callous attitude towards humans was given in 1976, when Ciba-Geigy deliberately sprayed six unsuspecting teenage children working in a cotton field in Eygpt with the pesticide Galecron, during a 'field test'. New Scientist (10.2.83) reported: "The Swiss-based firm, Ciba-Geigy, says that the spraying of unsuspecting individuals is 'rare' but still happens. It is only done after tests on animals show that 'the product will be safe under normal conditions,' a Ciba spokesman. Anita

Friedland, told New Scientist." There are two interesting footnotes to this disgusting action by Ciba-Geigy. Firstly, company publicity in Europe says that Galecron must be kept away from children. Secondly, in the same year, 1976, Galecron was withdrawn from the market briefly when it was found to increase tumors in mice. It was later reintroduced to use on cotton crops - such is the faith that Ciba Geigy place in their animal tests. So why, do animals like mice have to be implanted with tumors and then be force fed a product to see if the tumor then grows,' when the product will be marketed regardless? The answer is simple - so that companys like Ciba-Geigy can continue to make banal statements like "tests on animals show that the product will be safe under normal conditions."

In January, 1987, pesticides were under attack yet again, this time from the Ramblers' Association. Lord Melchett of the Association said he was, "horrified that the Ministry of Agriculture does not know for certain which of the nearly 200 pesticides and other chemicals it has approved for use by farmers and growers are potentially hazardous to footpath users." He added that he had identified 118 of the approved chemicals which were known to irritate eyes, skin, and/or the respiratory system; require a 'no entry' period for farm workers after use; or are listed as harmful to animals. Dogs going for walks along footpaths are also in danger.

Then there are the catastrophic effects that this deluge of chemicals has on our wildlife and plantlife. Hedgerows and plants growing at the edges of fields are often sprayed as are the animals living there. Firstly there is the effect of direct spraying and then there are the effects of animals eating contaminated food. Stubble remains are sprayed and with them any corn that has been left there by the harvester - this is then eaten by birds. Many pesticides ingested by birds cause them to reproduce less and lay eggs with thinner shells, as well as toxic effects. The poisoning of one species can lead to casualties right down the food chain. In November 1986 it was announced that in Suffolk there was an unprecedented death toll amongst barn owls. Mr Reg Snook, Wildlife Inspector for the Environment Department, laid the blame, at least in some cases, on agricultural chemicals.



Cages of rodents in a testing centre.

Chemicals are washed by the rain into rivers where they may linger for years with even more casualties. In August, 1986, New Scientist said that the banned pesticide Dieldrin had been found in the corpses of otters in Norfolk. Chris Mason of Essex university, who had made the study, described one otter which had, "broken teeth and damaged feet with skin and bones missing. It had inflamed lips, extending to the eyes, a benign tumor causing twisting of the uterus as well as other tumors." In October 1986 Dieldrin was also blamed for the deaths of herons on the river Avon. Despite its ban in 1975, the pesticide is still in use on some farms. In November 1986, it was announced that the rivers Calder and Aire in Yorkshire contained three times the recomended level of pesticides. The main one being Lindane, a poison used to kill moths and insects, which accumulates in fish and slowly kills them.

So what is the future for agrochemicals. Animal testing is grotesquely cruel, and the results cannot be trusted, anyway. The effects on people are now well documented. They are poisoning the earth and its rivers. The effects on animals and plants are disasterous. It is surely time that the government began banning the use of these products and stopped supporting phoney tests to allow new ones onto the market. It is also the responsibility of farmers not to wait for legislation but to stop poisoning the land, now.

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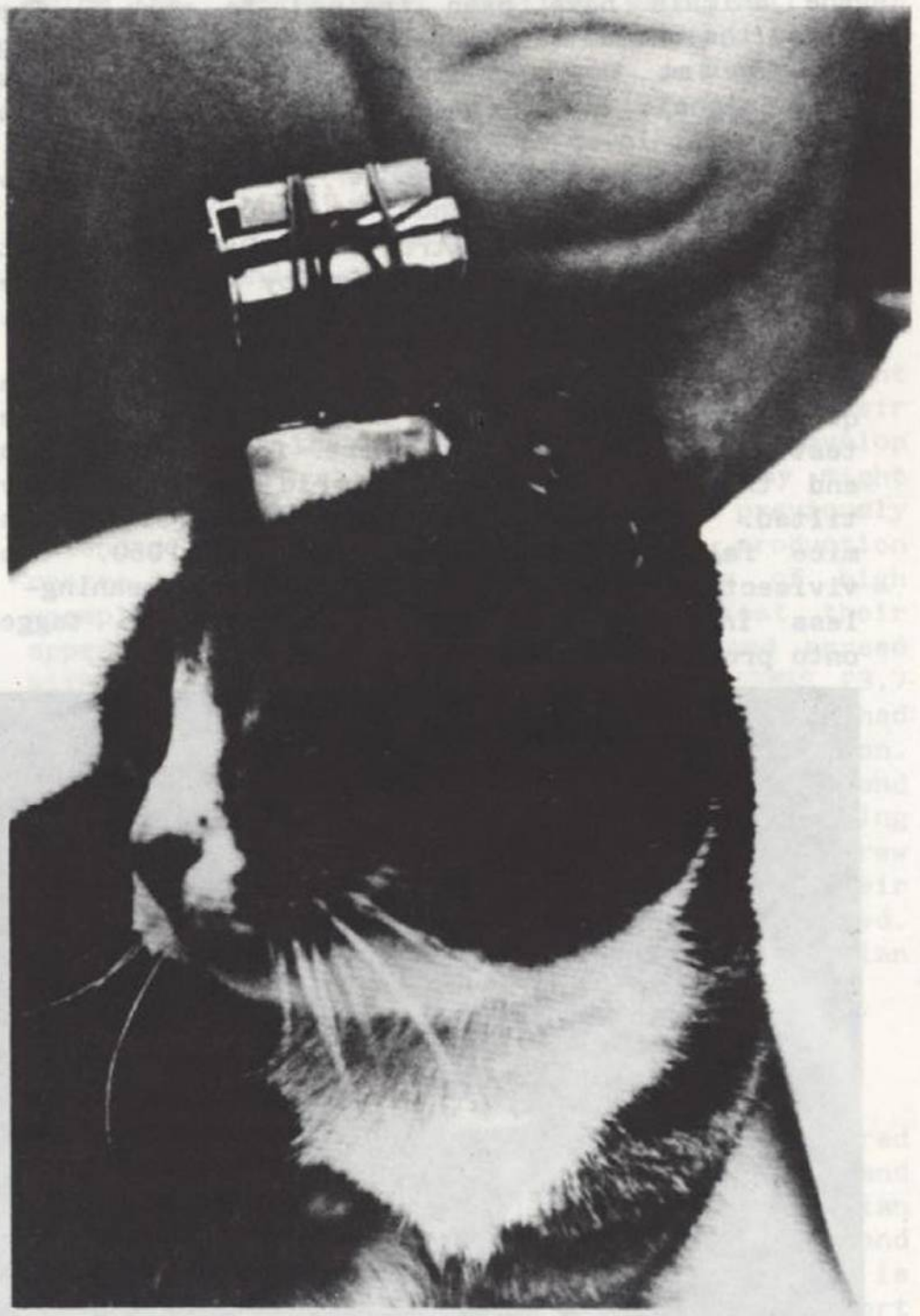
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THE VALIUM STORY

The story of Valium, a tranquilliser produced by the massive multinational Hoffman La Roche, is a particularly nasty one - from the torture of animals in the Roche laboratories, through to corrupt marketing practices and malpractices in the third world to side effects that had never been predicted, and mass addiction.

Valium has been a goldmine for Roche, a 'wonder drug' with what seemed like unlimited uses. At first it was prescribed for relief of anxiety, then relaxing muscles, epilepsy, cardiovascular problems, back troubles, and was even considered as premedication for surgery. Like Quacks pedalling petrol as a 'cure all' tonic off the back of a covered wagon at the turn of the century, Roche just kept adding to its supposed properties. As Roche modestly said in one piece of self promotion, "Valium Roche is proving to be a most interesting compound."

Valium is the name that Roche used to market the drug, its chemical (or generic) name is diazepam, which is one of a group of tranquillisers - the benzodiazepine tranquillisers. Two other tranquillisers from this same group are Librium and Mogadon, both of which are produced by Roche. It is now estimated that some 3 million Americans are addicted to benzodiazepine tranquillisers. On September 11, 1979, the US Senate subcommittee heard from a panel of doctors and former Valium addicts evidence that Valium was potentially addictive even in moderate doses. Former users explained that they had never been informed of the addictive properties of the drug and described agonising withdrawal symptoms when they tried to come off it. What had gone wrong?



Cat with an electrode in its head during a Valium experiment

The Animal Tests

Valium was subjected to a massive battery of animal tests in the Roche laboratories before being palmed off on the public. Mice, rats, rabbits, cats, kittens, dogs and monkeys were given electric shocks, sent into convulsions, brain damaged, poisoned and had electrodes implanted in their heads, as Roche developed their new 'wonder drug'.

Much of the experimentation centred around the calming effects of the drug. One test employed was the 'fighting mice' test, here it is described by Roche themselves:

"Pairs of mice are used for this test. They are placed in a small cage and stimulated by electric shocks applied through the grid to the feet, where they show marked irritability and begin to fight. After the elimination of individual mice which fail to show the typical 'fight' reaction, the drug to be tested is administered. The minimum effective dose which will abolish the 'fight' reaction 100% in all mice tested is considered to be the 'calming dose'."

Rats with lesions in their brains were made vicious by being prodded in the back with a stick, having hot air blown on them, being picked up by the tail with forceps or being touched on the whiskers with a stick. The rats were then calmed using Valium, as were 'vicious' macaque and squirrel monkeys.

Roche continued to electrically shock their victims to find out if the drug depressed the

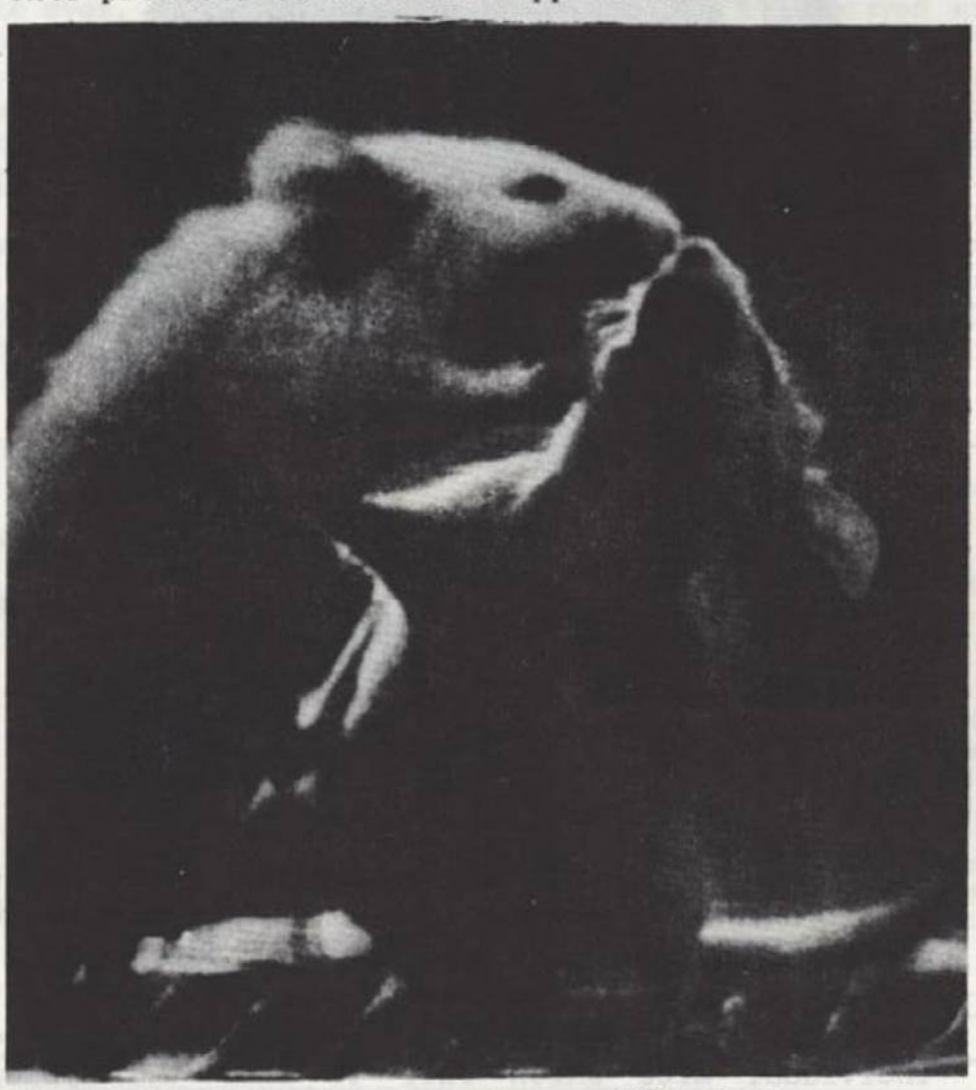
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central nervous system, more simply, to discover how much the drug numbed reactions and thought. Here 'avoidance tests' were used, and once again, Roche describe the process:

"The experiments are carried out in glass-fronted boxes, equipped with a grid floor through which persistent electric shocks can be given. In the boxes there are one or two levers which the animals have been trained to work. They allow the animal (a) to avoid the shock by pressing a lever at the proper interval or in response to a signal; (b) to escape the shock by pressing a different lever if the animal is already receiving the shock because it has waited too long to press for avoidance."

It must have been a truly pitiful sight, rats and monkeys, their minds numbed by Valium received 'persistent' electric shocks, unable to avoid them.

Next, Roche decided to study the muscle relaxing qualities of the drug. The 'inclined screen test' was used. Mice were force fed Valium and then put on a metal grid which was then tilted. The dose which resulted in 50% of the mice falling off is known as the PD50. The vivisection industry have a penchant for meaningless initials and figures that can be tagged onto products to make them appear safe.



The fighting mice test, one of the many Valium tests

In a number of experiments cats were decerebrated - their brains were made to stop functioning, probably by surgery. Some were treated with Valium and their muscle rigidity studied. However, Roche had not finished with the brains of cats; electrodes were fitted into various sites of cats' brains and seizures induced - Valium was then administered. Roche said of the experiments: "One to four minutes after an injection of Valium Roche, the cats started to become responsive and to appear comfortable between seizures." To measure the anti-convulsant properties of the drug, cats, kittens, rats, mice, rabbits and monkeys were given Valium after being thrown into convulsions by electric shocks. Here Roche saw a few species differences, but failed to recognise the fundamental flaw in their research, and wrote, "However, subsequent observation on the duration of anticonvulsant effects showed that there were differences depending on the animals tested. The duration of action was shortest in rats, intermediate in rabbits, and longest in mice." Some of the monkeys used were epileptic and in the case of the kittens, readings were taken from electrodes implanted in their brains.

The drugs' toxicity (poisonous effect) was measured using the LD50 (Lethal Dose 50%) test, a notoriously worthless test where animals are force fed a substance until the amount is found that kills half of them. Mice, rats, dogs and marmoset monkeys were all force fed Valium in the quest for the figure. At no stage were any of these animals given any anaesthetic as they went through their death throes. Roche record that one dog died of a convulsive seizure after 22 weeks.

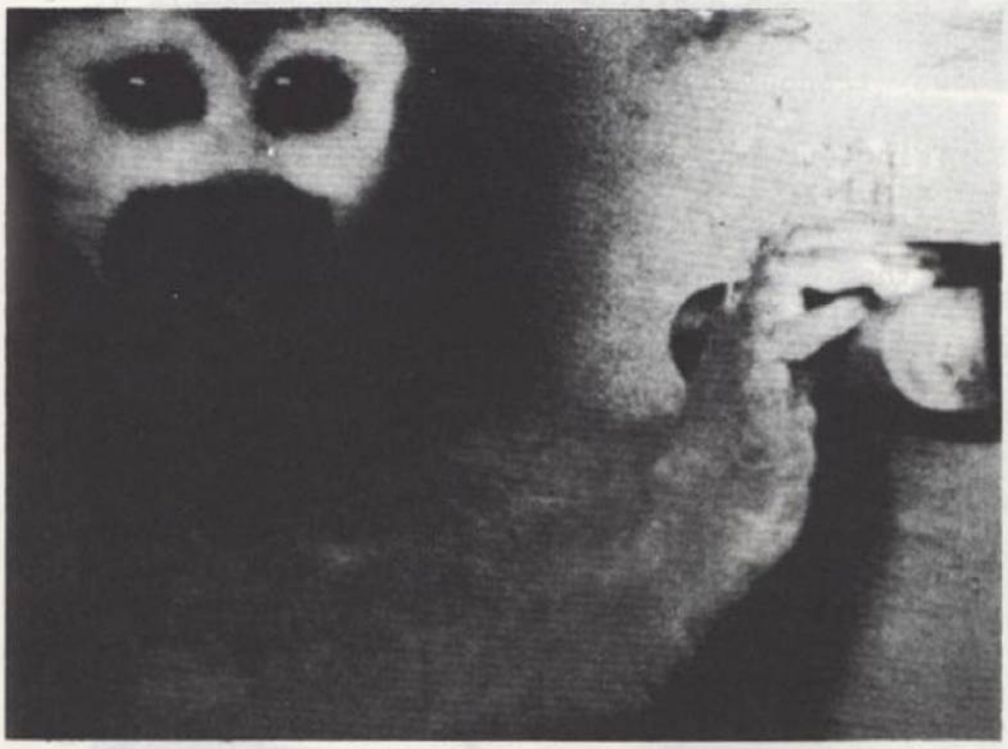
Happy with their results, but still baffled as to how it worked, they began to sell Valium. In an attempt to find out how the product they were pushing actually worked, they continued to torture animals. Electrodes and leads were implanted into animals brains and stimulation was given to various brain sites. Cats had electrodes implanted in their brains before their abdomens were cut open and a balloon inserted to take pressure readings. Blood flow and pressure were studied in dogs. It went on and on.

One thing was sure whilst this grotesque catalogue of tests might be said to recreate, in a wholly unnatural way, certain physiological disturbances in animals, it could never in any way be said to mirror the human world. And it was onto the human world that the drug was about to be pushed.

Pushing the Poison

Like other drug companies, Roche weren't too concerned that they tests they'd done bore no resemblance to the real life usage of the drug, and neither were they concerned that animals simply don't react like people. They'd done their bit.

When it came to pushing the drug, Roche were extremely successful and it wasn't long before Roche's two main products Valium and Librium accounted for about 70% of National Health Service (NHS) prescriptions for tranquillisers and they are also said to account for over ⅓ of the world tranquilliser market. Unlike most industries, the drugs industry does not aim to make its profits through price competition between manufacturers. In the drugs industry, high prices are paramount - high prices mean high profits. There are no "prices slashed - everything must go" sales. High sales are maintained by ruthless marketing and massive promotion. With a number of major multinational drug companies around this situation can be achieved to everyones satisfaction by the big guns carving out their own niche of non-competing specialities. For example, Beecham's specialises in antibiotics, ICI in heart drugs, and Roche in tranquillisers and bulk vitamins (Roche is the world's largest producer of bulk vitamins, producing nearly the entire range of twenty, and holding a virtual monopoly on some). It was therefore into this



Squirrel monkey in Valium electric shock avoidance experiment

market, already in the hands of Roche, that Valium went where price cutting would only be the last resort to kill off any competition.

New drugs are given a 16 year patent, after which anyone can produce them. Thus, Roche had 16 years in which to fully exploit Valium and it was cheerfully overpriced along with the rest of their products. The British government were critical of this. But rather than have lower prices which might have set a trend in other countries, Roche agreed to pay the DHSS rebates. In 1969, they returned as much as £900,000 and throughout the 60s it is estimated that £1.9 million was returned in compensation rather than pay lower prices. However, the British government was still unhappy and in 1971 they granted two firms DDSA and Berk Pharmaceuticals compulsory licences to manufacture Valium, in order to create some competition. This had no real effect since the companies only took 1% of the market, the price remained high and Roche refused to pay any more rebates to the DHSS. However, this was not enough for Roche, as former top Roche employee Stanley Adams said in his book 'Roche versus Adams', "The object was never to compete, but rather to eliminate competition."

Roche responded to DDSA and Berk aggressively. They cut the price of Valium substantially, knowing that the other companies who had to pay royalties to Roche could not afford to go too low. They also gave the drug away free to hospitals. This had a number of advantages: firstly, it eliminated any competition whatsoever in that market and left them free to raise prices once the competitors had gone. Secondly, doctors finishing their training would continue to prescribe Valium on the outside. Finally it got the patients onto Valium. They did the same in Canada, where in 1969 government legislation removed most of their patent protection. For 12 months they gave Valium away free to hospitals, which caused their only rival Frank Horner to withdraw from the market. In that year Roche lost $2,600,000 worth of Valium sales in order to prevent a forecast loss of $600,000 sales to Horner, so important was it to totally destroy the opposition.

In Britain, the Monopolies Commission had discovered that Roche were massaging their books to conceal vast profits through what is known as transfer pricing. What happens is a subsidiary buys ingredients for a product from the parent company at inflated prices. The Monopolies Commission found that Roche were charging UK subsidiary Roche Products Ltd £922 for a kilo of the main ingredient of Valium, when the same ingredient was available in Italy for £20 a kilo. Thus they estimated that although Roche had been declaring profits generally below 5%, their real profits were well over 70%. This had two big advantages: firstly, they could avoid taxation, and secondly they could overcharge without appearing to do so. In 1971 it was estimated that Roche Products Ltd had made a profit of £4.8 million on the sales of Valium and Librium alone. Yet in 1970 Roche Products Ltd were only showing a profit of £886,000 and in 1971 and 1972 they were actually showing a loss. In 1973, Roche were ordered to cut the price of Valium by 75%.

Roche refused to cut prices and headed straight to the media. They said that without their high profits they would be unable to develop life-saving drugs. They added that they might be forced to move out of the UK and had previously intended to expand their vitamin production centre in Dalry, Scotland - an area of high unemployment. In July 1974, they lost their appeal against the government action and agreed with the Labour government to pay the DHSS £3.7 million. The Conservative government that had instigated the action had demanded £12 million. Roche also agreed to invest in a new plant and to join the DHSS-run Voluntary Price Regulating scheme. In return, the government withdrew the price cutting order and Roche raised their prices - albeit to half the original one charged.

In 1980, in a case brought by the Canadian government, Roche were found guilty of unfair competition through predatory pricing.

The Canadian and British judgments had shown the lengths to which Roche were prepared to go in order to sustain their monopoly and keep their bank balance bloated. The Canadian judgment referred to a number of letters and internal memoranda: one letter read, "It is our feeling that this tactic will not only abort Horner's efforts, but will serve as a warning to others who seem to be showing an interest in the product." Another memorandum referred to, "filling the pipelines, which will serve notice to all present and future parasites that we mean business." From these letters, the Judge concluded that Roche reflected "an unacceptable state of mind."

Exploiting the Third World

If Roche are employing a whole host of dirty tricks in the developed countries in order to keep prices and sales high, how much easier it is in the under-developed countries where governments have less control over multinationals and competition is even less. In the Phillipines, Librium and Valium are priced 8 and 14 times higher than in Britain. The trade price for Valium to the NHS is over twice the price of the generic - diazepam. In Bangladesh it is four and a half times more than diazepam from a local generics factory. Powerful promotion ensures that it is the brand name (Valium) that is always sought.

Overpricing in these countries means that drugs and vitamins are denied to the poorest people and many people will lose out on necessities in order to pay for them. Advertising is used to convince people that they need the drug company's products; Roche sell overpriced vitamin C substitutes to Mexicans who could obtain the vitamin C from oranges at one tenth the cost. Once again, transfer pricing is used to cover up the proceeds. In 1973 the Columbian government were puzzled that pharmaceuticals were keen to expand whilst showing low profits. An investigation showed average overpricing of 155%, with Roche's Librium overpriced by 6,478%.

Roche keep a ruthless control of their market. Stanley Adams wrote, "When news came of an influenza epidemic in, for instance, India, instead of putting vitamin C out in greater quantities and reducing the price, we would control the quantities going out to the market and usually increase the price."

It is probably obvious to you by now that Roche have no great interest in improving the health of people. Diana Melrose revealed in "Bitter Pills" that when Valium and Mogadon were marketed in Thailand the consumers were given considerably less information than their British counterparts. The insert with the British products listed information under the headings: Composition, Properties, Indications, Tolerance, Dosage, Precautions and Packings. In Thailand no information was provided on Tolerance or Precautions.

Even as Roche swindled and defrauded the populations of developed and under-developed countries, the catastrophic effects of the drug had begun.

And Then It Went Wrong

There is no definite lethal dose for Valium so its harmful effects cannot be measured by death statistics like so many other drugs. But there are side effects, many shocking and with possible fatal consequences. Adverse effects include drowsiness, fatigue, unsteady gait, dryness of the mouth, a fall in blood pressure, changes in libido, constipation, incontinence, trembling, blood and liver disorders, confusion in the elderly and skin rashes. All of this without the social and economic implications of a doped population.

If these effects are not bad enough, we can add to them what are known as paradoxical reactions This means that the drug is in effect doing the exact opposite to its supposed purpose and exaggerating the symptoms it should suppress. Doctors have admitted that acts of murder and suicide can be attributed to the rage reaction induced by Valium. Yes - hardly the reaction you'd expect from a tranquilliser. Brian Inglis writes in "Diseases of Civilisation":

"Tranquillisers which work satisfactorily in normal conditions may simply exacerbate hostility or anger under provocation; they may calm a harassed mother for a time, but when her children start playing up, something snaps and she batters them. The manufacturers of Valium admit that some people react to it with 'acute hyperexcited states, anxiety, hallucinations, insomnia, rage and sleep disturbances', and the results at Harvard Medical School suggested that individuals on a tranquilliser show more hostility, in a staged group conflict, than did the controls."

When you consider that some GPs seem to be handing out tranquillisers like Smarties, it is quite possible that they may be attributed to the rising violence of affluent countries.

Tranquillisers don't solve anything, they don't make problems go away - they merely numb us to them. And these are the effects of tranquillisers taken in isolation. When combined with alcohol they exaggerate intoxication, and when taken with other anticonvulsant drugs, Valium may actually increase the frequency and severity of major fits.

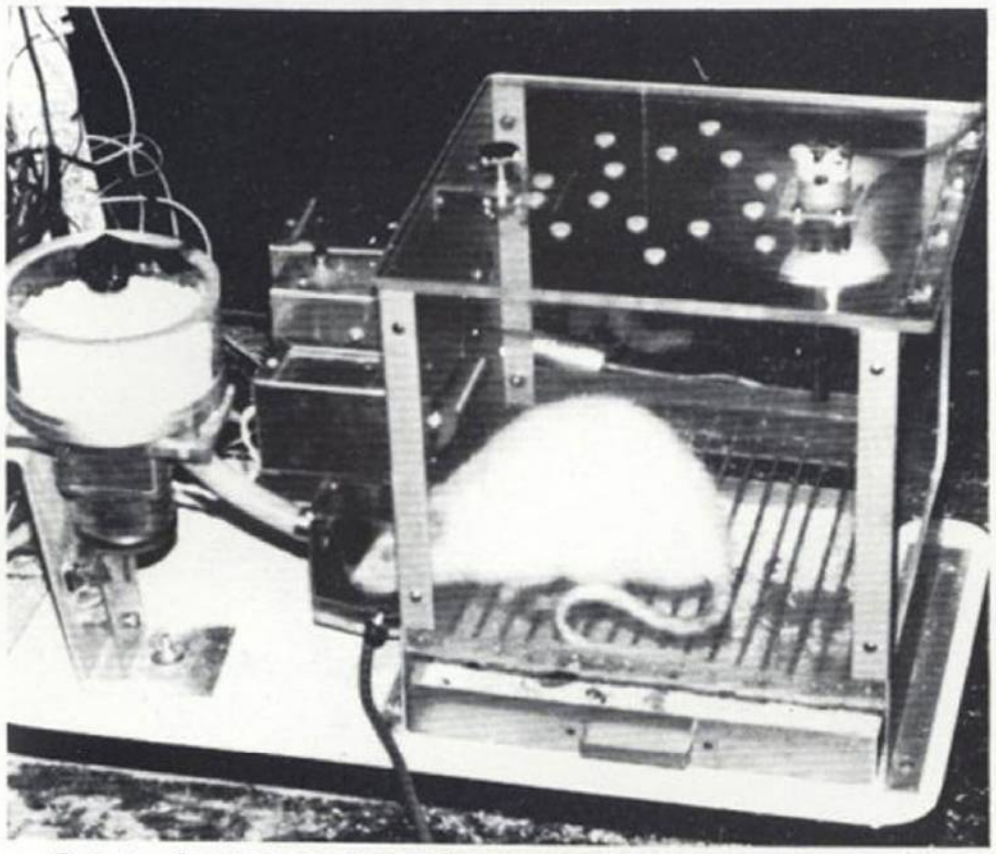
Next, there are people with poor reactions and impaired co-ordination going to work. The potential dangers here are obvious; there is a greater than normal risk of having a road accident and the risk of a serious road accident is increased by five. It seems extraordinary that whilst 'don't drink and drive' campaigns are regularly promoted, there re never campaigns against driving under the influence of prescription drugs.

Still more problems are rearing ugly heads: despite the fact that millions of people are now taking the drug, any of whom could have been clinically studied to assess accurately the effects, vivisectors continue to cut up animals. At the Clinical Research Institute in Montreal, David Horrobin and colleagues found that Valium, although not carcinogenic (cancer causing) itself, speeded up breast cancer in rats. The work ended when the National Cancer Institute in Canada stopped supporting it. Two years later, Basil Stoll of St Thomas' Hospital London found that the tumours of women taking tranquillisers tended to grow faster than those not taking the drugs. Horrobin resurfaced, eager to get back to his rats, but in a lucid moment the Canadian National Cancer Institute described his work as "not worth doing". Roche brought in toxicologist Dr Francis Roe who did a piece of character assassination on Horrobin and the allegation disappeared. It seems that the women whose tumours were growing more rapidly were ignored. This is a clear indication that a disgraceful situation exists whereby the industry knows full well that vivisection doesn't work and ignores it when its results put profits at risk.

Use of benzodiazepines during early pregnancy has been shown in the USA, Finland and the UK to be associated with an increased risk of birth of babies with cleft lip and when taken in mid-term it is believed to cause behavioural problems. A Swedish study published in January 1987 in the Lancet took this further in a study of 36 mothers and 37 infants. They found a number of abnormalities; cleft palate, convulsions, mental retardation, perceptive disorders and physical abnormalities (slanted eyes, wide-spaced nipples, webbed neck and uptilted short nose). The report stated: "The only common denominator in these cases was benzodiazepine used by the mother during pregnancy."

The New Junkies

As stated earlier, Roche's marketing was a success; by 1977 Valium was being taken up by 14% of the population in Britain, the USA and West Germany, 15% in Denmark and 17% in Belgium and France. with most users blissfully unaware of its addictive properties. The drug epidemic



Rat in electric shock avoidance experiment

reached such proportions that staff had to be moved from the Heroin Addict Unit in New York to work with tranquilliser addicts. The problem is compounded by doctors giving repeat prescriptions and other minor tranquillisers rather than see patients with demanding emotional problems. One study has shown that repeat prescriptions are usually inappropriate. Valium has become a classic ingredient of repeat prescriptions. Arabella Melville and Colin Johnson wrote in "Cured to Death":

> "Jill McDougall is a housewife who knows the consequence of such ready use of Valium. She just 'phones her doctor's receptionist to get prescriptions for 100 tablets as often as she wants, because nobody takes her seriously or wants to listen to her long enough to find out what is really wrong. The psychiatrist who first gave her Valium said 'You won't get hooked. What do you think you are, a hippy or something?' Now Jill can't stop taking them; without them her stomach becomes tight and painful and she is overtaken by a disabling panic. 'You really need them,' she explained. She was horrified to find herself a drug addict, but she is one of thousands, possibly millions, in the same situation throughout the world."

Addicts find withdrawal symptoms include intense anxiety, abdominal pain, cramps, and convulsions.

Barbara Gordon revealed in her book "I'm Dancing as Fast as I Can" how serious unrecognised addiction can be. She had initially been given Valium for back trouble and had had the dose steadily increased over a period of ten years. She found she needed larger and larger doses to ward off panic attacks and became convinced that she was an addict. Her doctor classified her as hysterical and prescribed stronger medication. She decided to drop the drug on her own the result was a total breakdown and psychiatric problems lasting for years.

And so it goes on

In 1966, "Side Effects of Drugs adverse reactions as reported in the medical literature of the world", reported a study of 45 patients taking diazepam. The following side effects were seen: Irritability, uncoordination, dimness of vision, dry mouth, dizziness, drowsiness, limp feeling, dilated pupils, constipation, nausea, occasional vomiting, 'floating' sensation in the head, giggling, and stimulation. The same book told the story of a 52 year old woman who after taking diazepam for a year had become abusive and hostile and had finally attempted suicide. She was hospitalised and the medication withdrawn. She suffered a convulsion followed by confusion, incoherent speech, hallucinations, and delirium. After 15 days the mental symptoms cleared and she was released from hospital. More than 20 years later diazepam still sells and sells. In 1986 the British National Formulary revealed that in this country the generic version of diazepam is being sold in three different forms, capsules, tablets, and syrup. In addition to these a mass of brand name versions are being sold by various drug companies; Valium (Roche), Valrelease (Roche), Alupram (Steinhard), Atensine (Berk), Diazemuls (KabiVitrum), Evacalm (Unimed), Solis (Galen), Stresolid (CP) and Tensium (DDSA).

On January 29th, 1987, 'The Star', under the headline "It's easier to get off heroin," launched an attack on another benzodiazepine tranquilliser, Ativan. The report revealed that the first paper showing that benzodiazepines are addictive was published in 1961 and that at present these drugs cost the NHS £100 million. It is estimated that 6% of the UK population are hooked on these drugs. Shortly after the 'Star' report the junior Health Minister Mrs Edwina Currie made a written reply in the House of Commons to questions about Ativan, "....it can cause dependence and withdrawal can be difficult."

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And so it goes on and on. This year some 30 million prescriptions will be written for benzodiazepines. What is perhaps even worse is that the methods of testing drugs and marketing them still go on unchecked.

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