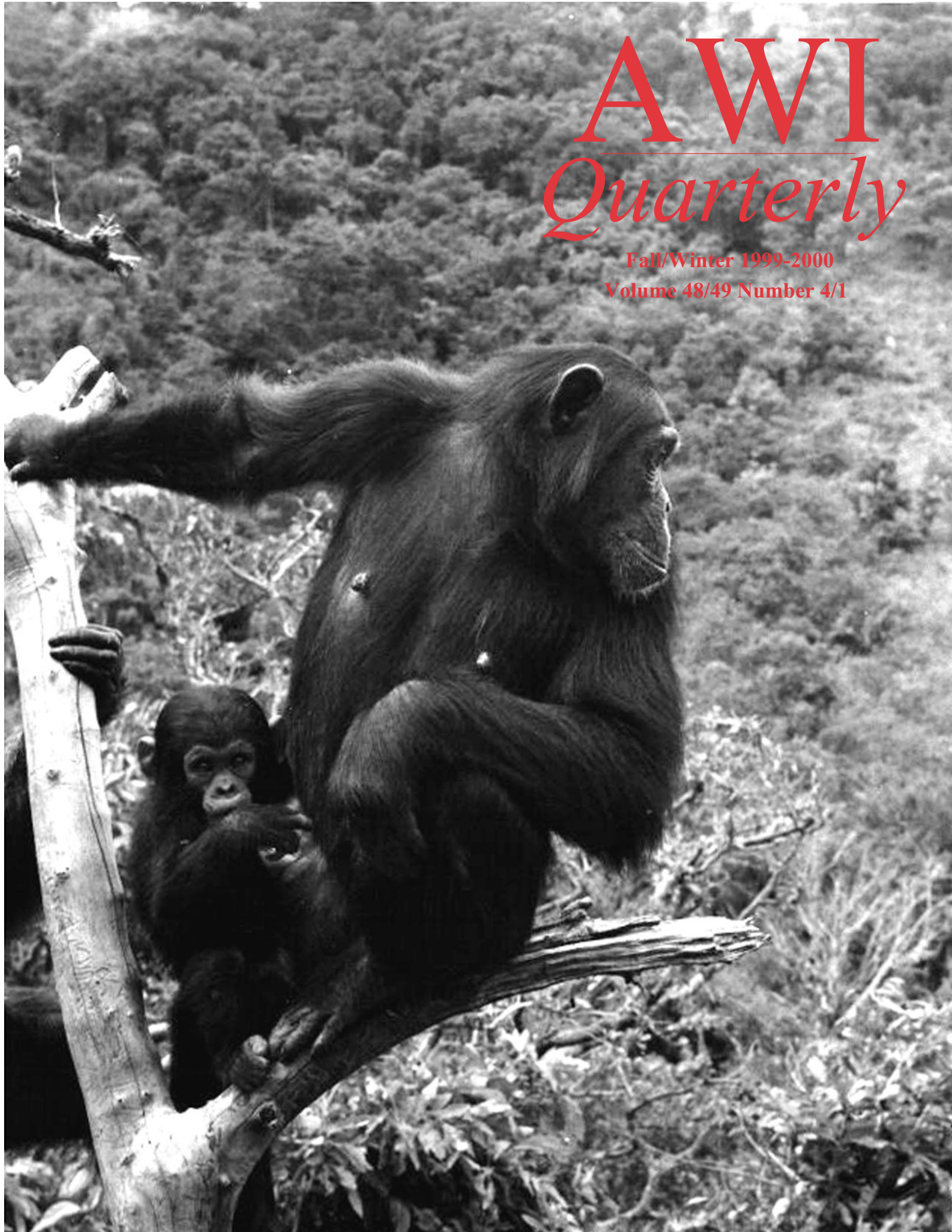


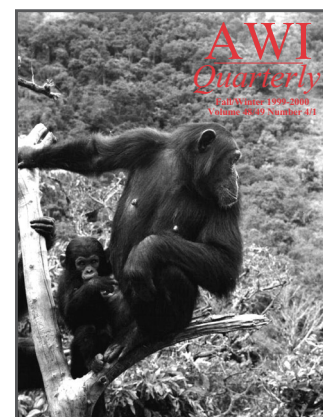
AWI *Quarterly*

Fall/Winter 1999-2000
Volume 48/49 Number 4/1



Cover:

Geza Teleki, founder of the Committee for Conservation and Care of Chimpanzees, took this picture of wild chimps in Gombe National Park in Tanzania. Geza, like others including Jane Goodall, have worked for decades to conserve wild chimpanzee populations. Unfortunately, chimps still face a grim future. There is some hope for success, though, as chimps held captive and used in biomedical research may soon have expanded opportunities for release to sanctuaries (see story below) and as the world becomes more and more aware of their pitiful plight (see book review on page 19).



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Coulston's Killing Fields Death Toll Mounts at TCF

Like casualty of war reports from the field of battle, news of chimpanzee deaths at the Coulston Foundation (TCF) surface regularly. TCF in Alamogordo, New Mexico, has the largest colony of research chimpanzees in the world. Frederick Coulston, who callously told the *New York Times* "You can raise [chimps] like you do cattle," operates TCF, which has exhibited an indefensible and consistent pattern of non-compliance with the Animal Welfare Act.

Recently, Donna, a 36-year old chimpanzee, died a miserable death after carrying a dead fetus in her womb for anywhere between two weeks and two months. C. James Mahoney, DVM, Ph.D., a veterinarian with over 20 years experience working with chimpanzees, reviewed the case and concluded that Donna's "death constitutes clear violations of the most basic precepts of accepted standards of veterinary medical practice." He continued, "... it is clear to me that Donna must have suffered excruciating pain, for several, if not many days."

Dr. Mahoney's analysis states that Donna had a liter of puss in her peritoneal cavity and a ruptured uterus "with the partially decomposed fetus's skull visible through the tear." Donna was used for breeding and reportedly had 14 babies in 26 years – three times the natural birthrate for wild chimpanzees.

But TCF's negligent chimpanzee homicide does not end there. USDA inspection reports from December 13-16, 1999, reveal 4 more chimp deaths. Between August and December 1999, Dean (age 34), Babu (age 27), Kimberly (age 9), and Albro (less than 1 year old), all died at TCF. One example of TCF's veterinary carelessness involves Kimberly, who reportedly had diarrhea that "could have been caused by a potentially contagious organism that could affect other members of the colony." A fifth chimp, Rosie (age 29), apparently also died during this same time period.

TCF commits these atrocities with millions of *your* tax dollars. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) continue to fund TCF despite its repeated violations of the Federal Animal Welfare Act and NIH's own standards. NIH hands out billions of dollars of taxpayers' money to laboratories for animal experimentation. Where does it draw the line? If a Coulston chimpanzee is forced to have 14 infants and denied the necessary surgery to remove a huge dead fetus, how can NIH be trusted? An internal NIH report from a site visit to TCF in April 1999 asserts, "Veterinary care is problematic... Three other veterinarians are very junior with no formal training in primate medicine..."

Incredibly, the latest six deaths came after a March 1998 complaint against TCF by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding the deaths of two chimps, Echo and Jello, was amended in February 1999 to include new charges that TCF's failure to provide adequate veterinary care resulted in the unnecessary deaths of three other chimpanzees: Holly, Terrance and Muffin (see *AWI Quarterly*, Winter 1998, "New USDA Complaint Filed Against Coulston"). In June 1999, USDA launched yet another investigation as a result of the death

(Continued on page 19)



Animal Welfare Institute

QUARTERLY

FALL/WINTER 1999-2000 VOLUME 48/49 NUMBER 4/1

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Ursula Kuiper-Bennett

*Green Sea Turtle (Chelonia Mydas):
Symbol of the battle in Seattle
(See story page 4)*

Crushing Bill Enacted!

On December 9, 1999, legislation was enacted to ban the creation, sale, or possession with intent to sell, of depictions of animal cruelty when the filmed acts violate existing state or federal animal protection laws. Congressman Elton Gallegly (R, CA) originally introduced the bill, H.R. 1887, in an effort to rid the country of pornographic animal crushing videos.

These films, which sell worldwide for as much as \$100 or more, show high-heeled or barefoot women torturing defenseless animals who are helplessly bound to the floor beneath their feet. Numerous live creatures are subjected to this sadistic attack: fish, frogs, insects, guinea pigs, rats, mice, hamsters, kittens, puppies, and other species. Each animal is meticulously massacred, enduring the agony of bones being slowly crushed throughout the entire body. After death mercifully arrives, the stomping continues until unidentifiable remnants of the poor animal carpet the floor.

Filmmakers' and "actresses'" faces are rarely shown which makes perpetrators difficult to identify; film location is almost impossible to figure out so prosecutors do not know under what jurisdiction to try the case; and the statute of limitations on state anticruelty laws likely would expire before charges could be brought. H.R. 1887 eliminates these loopholes, and hopefully will contribute to the elimination of one notably horrific type of animal cruelty. 🐾

Turtles Dance, WTO Stumbles

by Ben White

In the months leading up to the Ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Seattle my challenge as AWI's international coordinator was to put animal issues on the map. Even though many of the most flagrant cases of WTO rules superseding national laws involve hormone treated beef, genetically modified organisms, dolphin-caught tuna and turtle-caught shrimp, there was a real danger of animal protection being lost amidst thousands of labor justice, human rights and environmental protection groups scrambling to be heard.



Robert Weissman

Turtles and teamsters marching together to fight the World Trade Organization in Seattle, Washington.

So, I latched on one crazy idea to make the animal message loud and clear: putting 240 people in sea turtle costumes on the streets. Without the foggiest idea what it would take to make that many costumes and fill them with volunteers, I began holding evening meetings to get the word out about the effect of the World Trade Organization on animal protection laws. Many didn't believe that any international trade group could actually kill hard-fought domestic legislation designed to make the consequences of our trade kinder: on sea turtles, on dol-

phins, on furbearers, on the environment and on workers around the world. It was only when the details were explained — that the WTO forbids the restriction of any product based on how it's obtained — that people came to grips with the organization's deadly embrace of child labor, slave labor, unsafe food and cruel fishing practices.

From these meetings grew turtle making parties in Seattle and Lopez Island, Washington. Lisa Wathne of HSUS, grassroots organizer par excellence, did an amazing job coordinating Seattle volunteers, generating about twenty workers for each manufacturing party. All hands were needed.

Each turtle costume began its life as a sheet of scrounged appliance carton. Patterns were traced on the flattened cardboard and cut out, one for the plastron (belly), one for the back (carapace) and one for the head. Then pleats were cut, hot-glued, stapled and taped, giving the backs the convex curve of a green sea turtle. All edges were taped in hopes of keeping the omnipresent Seattle rain

out a little longer. Then everything was given a thick coat of exterior latex paint, inside and out. With 240 plus costumes, that amounted to almost 1,000 sides painted, not including the heads. Then we brought in artists to paint the final designs. AWI associate Jen Rinick came out from Washington, DC to provide invaluable help in the last stages. We were still stapling and painting the turtle heads at 11:00 PM on the Sunday night before the first rally.

Until volunteers started showing up at the First United Methodist Church in Seattle that Monday morning, we were never sure we would actually have the bodies to fill the turtle suits. But they just kept coming. Everybody was issued a front, back, head and a flag. The flag was modeled on the early American Gadsden flag with a coiled rattlesnake and the slogan "Don't Tread on Me". In redrawing the design for silk-screening, I changed the motto slightly to Don't Trade on Me, and added NO/WTO SEATTLE 1999, ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE. Soon we had over 240 people ranging in age from 13- 80, suited



Mac Hawley (left) and AWI's Jen Rinick (right) were active anti-WTO marchers. Hawley filmed the marchers and other significant events in Seattle.

up and in a festive mood. I gave a brief speech exacting the promise from all that we would behave in a manner that would honor sea turtles – the pacifists of the animal kingdom: we would march peacefully for our sovereign right to make national laws protecting sea turtles.

The turtles were an instant hit. Everywhere we went, people cheered us. The lightheartedness of our approach combined with the beautiful hand made costumes won us huge popular support. We marched with about 3-4,000 other supporters of animals and the environment to a rally right next to the WTO venue. There I briefly joined Congressman George Miller, Senator Paul Wellstone, Carl Pope of the Sierra Club, and Patti Forkan of HSUS on the speaker platform to rally the turtles in a rousing cheer.

On Monday, volunteers were given a choice of actions for Tuesday, the official opening day of the WTO. One group met at 6:00 AM to join a massive civil disobedience demonstration

tance” it was meant to be: huge puppets, dancers, cheerleaders, jugglers, turtles and “trees” danced in the streets and celebrated the suspension of the WTO’s morning activities.

All morning, the direct action turtles moved to plug gaps in the protest lines that were keeping WTO delegates from the meetings. Even the police were glad to see us show up, throwing a peaceful line between themselves and other protesters. At one point I looked around and realized that at 48 years of age, as a veteran of dozens of often violent antiwar protests, I was one of the few people among either the police or protest lines who had been through this before. I spent most of my time trying to calm people down, telling them not to be afraid.

By early afternoon, the blocking of the entrances was an acknowledged success. A handful of very tired turtles, a little surprised not to have been arrested, waited alongside the parade route of the massive labor march. The feeling of joy and unity was unlike anything I have seen. Steelworkers



“We would march peacefully for our sovereign right to make national laws protecting sea turtles.”

— Ben White

designed to shut down the WTO peacefully by blocking all of the major streets around the Washington Trade and Convention Center. Another group of turtles met at 9:00 AM and marched with a mammoth inflatable turtle into the big labor march organized by AFL-CIO, the Steelworkers and the Teamsters.

7:00 AM Tuesday saw about forty turtles walking arm in arm down the middle of Seventh Avenue in a light rain as the gray skies slowly lightened. Flags flapping, we marched directly to the intersection we had been assigned to obstruct. Soon, a line of turtles stretched across Eighth and Olive. Behind us, the entire block was beribboned with about four miles of yellow “crime scene” tape that said UNSEEN CRIMES. At about 8:30 we were met by over seven thousand people organized by the Ruckus Society, Art and Revolution and the Direct Action Network. The antithesis of an angry mob, it was truly the “pageant of resis-

marched with Filipino workers, native rights advocates with child labor activists, Teamsters with organic farmers, monster puppets from Art and Revolution walked alongside AFL-CIO officials. “Where are the turtles?” I kept asking. “Oh, there are a bunch of them coming,” I was reassured.

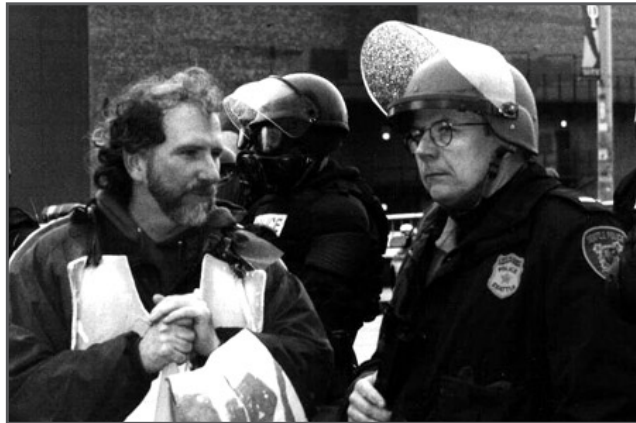
Finally, three blocks away I see an enormous green bubble coming towards me. As it came closer I saw dozens of absolutely ebullient turtles holding up the 20' long inflatable mama turtle. They told me that when they had marched into Memorial Stadium, already packed with tens of thousands of organized labor supporters, an enormous cheer went up for the turtles.

As upwards of forty thousand people marched peacefully through downtown Seattle, a few dozen self-avowed Anarchists from Eugene, Oregon went on a rampage breaking store windows and

spraying graffiti everywhere. They specifically targeted certain large corporations: Nike, Banana Republic, Starbucks, Nordstroms. Oddly, some police just watched it happen. When they finally responded it was against peaceful protesters. By Tuesday afternoon, the police were attacking with huge clouds of teargas and barrages of wooden and rubber bullets. Tuesday night saw a general curfew extended over all of downtown Seattle. Only those with WTO credentials were allowed on the streets.

Early the next morning seven volunteers showed up wanting to join ongoing protests in turtle suits. After they promised to stay together and stay peaceful, I handed out the suits. One hour later, watching news coverage as I waited for another wave of volunteers due at 9:00, I saw the volunteers cuffed in a circle with a pile of turtle costumes alongside. I decided then that organized peaceful protest had been foreclosed and that it was time to pack up. Some turtles remained, however, until the end of the conference on Friday. Not one ever engaged in any angry or violent behavior.

Writing this a few days after the conference closed, I can report on just the first fallout of the WTO protests in Seattle. On Saturday, the Seattle papers carried the banner headlines: WTO Talks Collapse. One of our major objectives, that there be no new round of talks to increase the power of the WTO over our lives, had been achieved. Delegates from small third world countries said they were emboldened by the protesters to refuse to accept decisions made by a few powerful countries meeting behind closed doors. Delegates now are at such a fundamental impasse it appears they will have difficulty getting back on track next year at their planned mini-meeting in Geneva.



Michael Reppy

Ben White discussing WTO policies with the Seattle police.

The real success coming out of the Battle of Seattle is the empowerment of civil society and the alliances made between groups that previously had little to do with each other. The corporate power grab of the WTO is so egregious it has galvanized activists of every social movement around the world. Suddenly it has become clear that it is the same people who are working globally against animal protection, against human rights and labor justice. Suddenly teenage kids are debating trade issues. And one image came through crystal clear: the turtles.

My favorite quote of the week was from the Seattle Province-Intelligencer. A reporter overheard two elderly ladies in Seattle talking. One said, "What is all of this fuss about WTO anyway?" Her friend replied, "Oh, I don't know, something about sea turtles."

That's when I knew that we had succeeded in putting animal issues in the forefront of the now international debate over the group that presumes to speak on our behalf: the WTO. 🐢



Jen Rinick / AWI

The mother turtle leads baby turtles to the Memorial Station for AFC-CIO rally.

By the time the smoke and gas cleared, over 600 protesters had been arrested. Almost all had been exercising their constitutional right to peaceful protest and freedom of speech. The Chief of Police has resigned and the Mayor may follow him, both very embarrassed by police overreaction and their blind welcome of the WTO in the first place.

The turtles were covered very favorably in the New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, the Christian Science Monitor, USA Today and many other media. They have somehow become an icon for "flamboyant" protests of the nineties. We now are making plans to put them on the streets of Geneva if and when the WTO decides to raise its ugly head again.



Jen Rinick / AWI

Like the precious free-roaming sea turtles, each turtle was unique in his or her own design.

Polish Delegation Investigates American Agribusiness Repudiates Factory Farming

by Tom Garrett

The New Breed and the Rise of Smithfield Foods

During the 1970s and 80s, U.S. meat packing was taken over by a “new breed” of ruthless entrepreneurs who broke the power of the unions, reduced real wages to a third of their previous level and replaced a stable, American-born workforce with a shifting population of Hispanic and Asian immigrants. Under this regime, workplace injuries have soared making meat packing the most dangerous industry in America. Deaths from food poisoning, with contaminated meat the primary culprit, have risen five fold to 9,000 annually. The Humane Slaughter Act because of the subjugation of the Food Safety and Inspection Service by the industry and a 2-300% increase in “line speed”—the speed of the conveyor on which animals are hung to be stunned and killed — is no longer enforced. Once unthinkable atrocities, such as dumping conscious hogs into “scalding tanks”, are now commonplace.

While the packing industry was being “reformed” a parallel trend gathered force in production of hogs. During the 1970s, investors in Duplin County, North Carolina began raising hogs in buildings with slatted floors, which can be cleaned by hosing the manure through the slats and flushing it into open cesspools. This technology grew rapidly during the 1980s. Hundreds of metal buildings containing a thousand or more hogs each and open cesspools filled with liquefied hog manure sprouted across North Carolina’s coastal plain.

In 1991, Smithfield Foods of Smithfield, Virginia opened the world’s largest slaughterhouse, 800 acres in extent, on the Cape Fear River in Bladen County, North Carolina. With the opening of the Tarheel plant, which is capable of killing in excess of 24,000 animals a day, hog factory development, no longer held back by a shortage of killing capacity, exploded. By 1996, one of every five hogs raised in the United States came from North Carolina and Smithfield Foods was propelled from the status of a regional piranha to that of a dominant player in the industry. As the North Carolina technology spread beyond the state, and hog factories metastasized through the mid-west, Smithfield expanded with them, buying up dozens of competing slaughterhouses. In 1997, Smithfield edged out IBP as the world’s largest hog butcher.

At the same time Smithfield moved toward “vertical integration” (a system that eliminates competition by controlling the rais-

“In 1991, Smithfield Foods of Smithfield, Virginia opened the world’s largest slaughterhouse . . .”

ing, slaughtering and marketing of pigs). Late in 1998, taking advantage of the unprecedented crash in the price of live hogs, Smithfield purchased North Carolina based Carroll’s Foods, America’s second-largest hog factory operator and a major turkey producer as well. In the fall of 1999, Smithfield announced the purchase of the world’s biggest hog production company, Murphy Farms. These acquisitions have left Smithfield as the owner of 675,000 sows, four times as many as its closest remaining competitor and enough to produce nearly 10 million pigs for slaughter each year. Around 23% of the pigs slaughtered in the U.S. in 1999 were killed in Smithfield plants. In the year 2000, Smithfield will raise six of every ten pigs killed in its slaughterhouses.

Smithfield’s multi-billion-dollar takeover in America has been matched by aggressive expansion overseas. In 1998, it gained control of Schneiders, Canada’s second largest packing company, bought two French meat processing firms, entered a joint venture with Mexican investors for a hog production complex in Hermosillo, Sonora and invested \$100 million in hog factories in the Brazilian state of Matto Grosso.

The Polish Connection

Smithfield’s most ambitious initiative fueled by a \$400 million line of credit with Chase Manhattan and a group of German, Dutch and Japanese banks, has been directed at Poland. In March 1999, Smithfield acquired 67% of the capitol stock in Animex S.A., Poland’s largest meat and poultry processing Company for only \$43 million. Exulting over having acquired the company at “a fraction of the hundreds of millions that it would take to build that same infrastructure today,” Smithfield CEO Joseph W. Luter made no secret of his intention to take over pork production in Poland. “The pork industry in Poland is, in many ways, similar to the U.S. pork industry of 30 years ago,” Luter concluded. “We believe the strategies and practices we have followed in the U.S. will work equally well, perhaps even better in Poland and Europe.” In July, it was learned that Smithfield was planning as many as four large hog factory complexes in western Poland including one near Poznan with a rumored capacity of 900,000 animals.

Luter’s assessment of Poland as easy prey may, however, prove egregiously wrong. Poland’s sturdy peasants staved off attempts at collectivization and emerged from communism with 80% of farmland still in private hands. Poland has two million farms with an average size of only 21 acres. A quarter of Poland’s people still live on farms and an additional 15% live in rural villages and towns. Having survived communism, Polish peasants show no disposition to submit gently to the pressures of the

“Joseph W. Luter made no secret of his intention to take over pork production in Poland.”

farm commodity prices that has driven tens of thousands more American farm families off the land, Polish farmers blockaded roads, highways, railroad bridges and border crossings all over Poland. With public opinion, even in the cities, favoring the farmers, the Polish government was forced to relieve the situation by buying commodities and raising tariffs against imports.

global market. Last winter, in response to a flood of subsidized E.U. imports and the same ruinous crash in

When trade journals reported in February 1999 that the spear-point of Smithfield's invasion of Europe was to be Poland, AWI worked to "get the word out" to Polish humane and environmental groups. In June, AWI President Christine Stevens gave the green light to my idea of bringing Polish activists to the United States to see for themselves exactly what Joe Luter meant in promising to "replicate" Smithfield's American success in Poland. The project gained force when Agnes Van Volkenburgh, a brilliant third year veterinary student at the University of Illinois who had volunteered to translate, spoke directly on the phone with Andrzej Lepper, head of Poland's Samoobrona (self-defense) farmers' union. Lepper, catapulted into prominence by his leadership of the blockades and ranking high in the polls despite press efforts to demonize him, eventually accepted AWI's invitation.

On September 7th, Agnes, AWI's Farm Animal Specialist Diane Halverson and I went to Dulles Airport to greet a Polish delegation that included not only Lepper and his deputy Janusz Malewicz, but Roman Wierzbicki head of Rural Solidarity of Independent Farmers and co-leader of the blockades and Marek Kaczynski, chairman of Poland's Parliamentary Commission on Agriculture. Arriving with them were humane activists Ewa Gebert and Zbigniew Jaskolski, ecologists Dr. Kazimierz Raszyn and Malgorzata Jermak, Samoobrona deputy Janusz Malewicz, and two journalists Harald Kittel and Igor Parnas. At dinner hosted by AWI's senior diplomat, John Gleiber, I sat between the two farm leaders. Courteous, well informed, insightful, they bore absolutely no resemblance to the crude demagogues portrayed by the Warsaw press.

September 8th began with breakfast for the Polish delegates at the Washington Headquarters of International Union for Food with officials from the Food Allied Service Trades (FAST) and Food and Commercial Workers Union at the table. The subject was Smithfield's "union busting" activities with myriad instances of intimidation, bullying, bribery and other thuggish acts designed to keep company workers free of union influence. The Poles, from a nation liberated from communism by grass roots unionism and where trade unions are at the core of both major political blocs, seemed genuinely shocked.

The next stop was a meeting hall near the little town of Tillery, North Carolina that serves as the headquarters of the Black Farmers and Agriculturists Association (BFAA). Here we sat down for a lunch cooked by the black families who had come from miles around and waited patiently for our arrival. Then BFAA President Gary Grant and his associates, with Agnes translating, recounted the stark fate of black farmers in America. In 1920, there were 926,000 black farmers in America; in 1992 fewer than 19,000 remained. Almost half of black operated farms are smaller than 50 acres. The black land base is evaporating week by week. For example, in 1950 black farmers owned 1.2 million acres of land in North Carolina; today they own 200,000 acres.

Why had the disaster engulfing family farmers descended with such particular vengeance on those who are black? One obvious reason is that black farmers have been systematically denied credit. And nowhere, as Gary Grant showed, has the bias been more extreme than in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 1984-5, for example, of 16,000 farmers who received USDA loans only 209 were black. In 1998, USDA agreed to settle a lawsuit filed against USDA by BFAA by dispensing \$1.2 billion to black farmers victimized by discriminatory policies. Thus far, however, not a dime has been dispensed.

Floyd Hawkins, one of the only remaining family hog farmers

in the region, described how Smithfield has destroyed traditional hog farmers in North Carolina by forcing small slaughterhouses out of business and then refusing to buy small lots of hogs on the grounds that they "lack uniformity."

The Poles, with a sense of injustice honed by decades of oppression and conflict, were clearly moved by what they heard. Driving southeast on secondary roads toward New Bern, on the central coast we passed hundreds of abandoned farmhouses and crumbling barns, depressing visual confirmation of Gary Grant's statistics.

Arriving in New Bern at dusk, the delegation was welcomed, in fluent Polish, by John Dove, the 93-year-old Polish-American father of the Neuse Riverkeeper, retired Marine Corps Colonel Rick Dove. On September 9, Col. Dove, who is hired by the Neuse River Foundation to try to protect the river, opened a half-day seminar on the Neuse ecosystem. He began with an extraordinary video, assembled from years of patiently acquired footage that chronicled the decline of the beautiful and productive Neuse River during a period coinciding with the explosion of hog factories in its watershed. Much of the footage dealt

"Viewers were then taken inside the hog factories where sows spend their entire lives, never smelling the earth or seeing the sky, in steel cages so small that they cannot even turn around."

with the toxic dinoflagellate *Pfiesteria piscicida*, the "cell from hell" which has killed billions of fish in North Carolina rivers and estuaries over the past decade. This appalling organism, with

one of the most complex life cycles observed, can kill fish at a concentration of only 300 per milliliter. Dove filmed many thousands of dead, dying and suffering fish all displaying the ghastly, ulcerative lesions that are the mark of *Pfiesteria*.

The video then shifted to the sources of the nutrient overload that has stimulated blooms of algae and led to toxic concentrations of *Pfiesteria* in North Carolina's rivers and estuaries. Aerial footage showed sewage from open cesspools being sprayed on reclaimed marshland crossed with drainage ditches that lead directly to the Neuse and even sprayed on fields partially inundated from heavy rains. Close up shots showed the same effluent leaching — sometimes pouring — into the river. Viewers were then taken inside the hog factories where sows spend their entire lives, never smelling the earth or seeing the sky, in steel cages so small that they cannot even turn around. Many were chewing the bars in a repetitive motion called stereotypies typical of animals deprived of normal sensory stimulation. This was followed by utterly sickening scenes from an undercover video taken by a member of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) member working in a North Carolina hog factory which document a pattern of vicious, deliberate cruelty, especially against sows whose time has come to be "culled."

A battery of scientific experts then took the floor. Dr. Larry Cahoon from the University of North Carolina discussed the pollution of North Carolina's rivers and estuaries and explained what scientists do, and do not, know about *Pfiesteria* and other toxic algae and dinoflagellates. Dr. Lynn Grattan, Director of the Neuropsychology Program at the University of Maryland, described the effects of *Pfiesteria* on humans, hundreds of whom — fishermen, tourists, commercial watermen, even children playing in the water — have become victims. The ugly lesions and ulcerations appearing on victims' bodies are by no means the only results of exposure. *Pfiesteria* emits a potent neurotoxin, which leaves persons subjected to repeated exposures mumbling like punch-drunk fighters, unable to concentrate or even to count or perform simple tasks. Fortunately, after a sufficiently long period of non-exposure, most victims appear to recover. Dr. Melva Okuni from the North Carolina School of Public Health then

described her research on the long-term impact of hog factories on the health of those who live nearby and are unable to escape the stench and disruption. One common response, said Dr. Okuni, is severe depression.

The seminar ended with presentations by two veterans of North Carolina's hog wars, Tom Mattison and Don Webb. In 1996, Mattison, Riverkeeper of the smaller New River, faced what — to that time — had been the world's largest hog spill, an estimated 20 million gallons of raw hog waste flowing directly into the river. For days, Mattison told us, state officials, rather than take measures to protect public health, tried to cover up the spill and deny that it existed. Ex-hog farmer Don Webb, a big man with a voice to match, described how Smithfield and the hog barons had driven traditional hog farmers (whose numbers in North Carolina plummeted from 27,000 to under 5,000 in barely over a decade) out of business and dwelled on the political corruption that facilitated the corporate takeover.

By this time, the Poles had heard enough to respond. Ewa Gebert reminded everyone that cruelty to animals and cruelty to children and other humans are part of the same syndrome. The leaders of the two powerful farm unions stated simply and bluntly that hog factories will

“These are concentration camps for hogs,” said Andrzej Lepper. “We had concentration camps in Poland before. We will not allow them again.”

not be permitted in Poland. Asked by reporter Penny Round if the unions would employ “aggressive means” to prevent Smithfield from building hog factories in their country, Rural Solidarity head Roman Wierzbicki replied “We will do whatever we

have to do to stop them.” “These are concentration camps for hogs,” said Andrzej Lepper. “We had concentration camps in Poland before. We will not allow them again.”

Lepper made a remark which was to prove prophetic: “Learning of this situation, I am reminded of a Polish proverb,” he said, “God forgives always. Man forgives sometimes. Nature never forgives.”

During the afternoon, Rick Dove mobilized his “airforce,” three light aircraft flown by ex-military pilots, and each of us had an opportunity to view the crop of hog factories, sown thickly across the Neuse floodplain, from the air. The installations look very much alike, a neat row of long metal sheds with one, and sometimes two open cesspools, bilious green in color, positioned nearby. Several units were often visible at the same time and even in a comparatively short flight we over flew dozens. A striking feature was the proximity of cesspools to watercourse, which could be easily identified by the lines of trees bordering them. It appeared that the designers had deliberately positioned cesspools on low ground.

The Heart of Darkness

On September 10 the delegation drove to Duplin County, the Pandora's box where the spreading plague of hog factories finds its origin. In John and Becky Lancaster's immaculate living room, the Poles listened to local residents explain how the hog industry had changed their lives. While the previous night's rain had cleared the air said Mrs. Lancaster, many days the atmosphere around her house was, quite literally, nauseating. Visitors held their noses hurrying from their cars to the house; the children couldn't go outside to play. An emaciated woman stood up to say that her doctor had urged to move out of the county because the ammonia from hog cesspools aggravated her asthma. “But how can I?” she asked. “Everything I own is here. Who would buy my house?” Others mentioned water pollution. “Blue baby syndrome” traced to nitrites in drinking water is common in the county. A man said his children had been chronically ill until he began buying bottled water. “The worst thing of all,” said former county commissioner Darrel Walker, with others nodding, “is the complete takeover of this county by the hog industry. They bought everyone who can be bought, and bullied and intimidated most who can't be. At this point they simply own the county government.”

We set off with our friends, for a tour of a county that has abandoned itself land and soul, to industrial agriculture. Ordinary agricultural pursuits seem to have been forgotten. Most farms are unoccupied; fields are often overgrown, farm equipment often left to rust. Fine two story farmhouses stand empty and weathering while imported laborers live in trailer houses propped on cinder blocks. One is rarely out of sight of the telltale glint of metal buildings housing hog factories. We stopped at a sign proclaiming “Hog Hell,” and turned up a narrow dirt road to an open field. On every side were hog factories; in the center was a small house. The stench, although not overpowering, was pervasive. “This is a good day,” said Mr. Johnson, who had stayed home from work and stood waiting, among a small multitude of dogs, to greet us. “You should be around when they spray or when it settles in. There's five cesspools — they call 'em lagoons — in half a mile.” He explained that he owned only five acres and the right of way along the road. As for his twenty-six dogs: “They're about all strays” he said. “I don't know how they know to come here, but they do. They've got a right to live too. If they can stand the stink, and the others will let 'em eat, they're welcome. I feed a sack of dog food a day.”

Several of us walked down the road to a hog factory, a row of metal sheds and an open cesspool, that we had passed on the way in. Soon, the party followed and the Poles began peering in the buildings. A feed truck approached and a young man got out, looking worried. “This ain't good,” he said. “The Boss is comin' and he ain't gonna like this.” He had no sooner spoken than a pickup truck appeared,

“We set off with our friends, for a tour of a country that has abandoned itself land and soul, to industrial agriculture.”

jouncing at high speed up the uneven road. The driver leaped out. “This here's private property! Who the hell are them people?” he shouted. “You brought 'em, did ya? Who the hell are you? Show me some identification.”

“Show me your badge and I'll be glad to” I said. “I ain't got a badge,” said he, “but I damn sure know somebody who has”. Then, apparently finding me menacing, he locked the doors of his pickup and began dialing a cell phone “He's callin' the Sheriff,” the young man advised, “you better git them people out real quick.”

“Welcome to Duplin County” said John Lancaster after the delegation was safely loaded. “We've got our own little police state right here.” He had another reminder when we reached a cafeteria for a farewell meal. “Take off that anti-hog button before we go in. Remember where you are.”

En route back to D.C., we reached the town of Smithfield, Virginia, and motored past the cavernous slaughterhouse from which Smithfield Foods earned a 12.6 million dollar fine, the largest ever imposed under the Clean Water Act, for over 6,900 illegal discharges into the Pagan River. Up river is Smithfield's new corporate headquarters, with Joe Luter's yacht anchored nearby.

Journey to Middle America

September 13 began with an early morning flight from National Airport to Kansas City. There, we boarded vans and drove to Unionville, Missouri for a rendezvous with Terry Spence, a leader in the struggle against Premium Standard Farms (PSF, now owned by Continental Grain) which is the second largest hog factory operator in the U.S. Northern Missouri is an area of rolling hills with numerous creeks and live oak thickets. The only disquieting feature of this bucolic landscape is the extraordinary number of derelict farmhouses; a mute commentary on the tragedy that has overtaken Rural America.

After meeting Spence, we entered an area absolutely dominated by hog factories. There are 22 “units” in this cluster of hog factories Spence told us, totaling 198 sheds in which 218,000 feeder pigs are confined. We stopped at one unit, consisting of nine metal sheds, each containing 1100 hogs. A pickup truck containing PSF security men, which had been tailing us, parked 100 yards away to keep the delegation under surveillance.

As we drove on (always with one or two “units” in sight) we noticed silo like structures built at the edge of low hills. These are repositories for dead pigs. The “dead truck”, which visits each shed daily, backs up to the top of the silo and disgorges its cargo. When the silo is full, a larger truck backs under the bottom of it, a trap door is opened and the carcasses cascade down and are hauled to the PSF rendering plant. There they are processed and fed to the surviving pigs.

Once safely off PSF land we drove to the Spence farm. The yard was already full of pickup trucks; 30 or so local farmers had come in to meet the Poles. It was a clear, warm evening amid the rolling Missouri hills. Fortunately, the wind was in the right direction to clear away the scent of hog factories.

After supper, the farmers stood up, with painful earnestness to tell about their trouble with Premium Standard Farms. We tried to work within the system, they said. But the system betrayed us. Even now, after purported legal victories, we are nowhere. They are still here and they are slowly destroying us. What can we do?

The two Polish farm leaders responded. Even across the language barrier they were eloquent and forceful, and the farmers, listening intently, broke into clapping again and again. The Poles described the tactics they had been forced to use when the government ignored their problems, how they had occupied buildings, sometimes local offices, sometimes entire ministries in Warsaw. They told how they set up roadblocks, turning back trucks but allowing ordinary traffic to go around and how they had resisted the police when attacked. In these cases they had often set fire to rows of old tires to deter the police charges. They also equipped themselves with numerous buckets of liquefied hog manure, which they mixed and sealed in their barnyards before setting out. The police, said Lepper, were very sensitive to being doused with liquid hog manure because it is almost impossible to get the smell out of their woolen uniforms.

When Kaczynski, taking exception to his colleagues, urged the Americans to operate strictly within the rules, Scott Dye, the deep voiced Sierra Club staffer whose mother lives downwind of PSF hog factories, had an answer. “Been there! Done that!” he said. “We went to our legislators. The company bought them. We went to our state officials. The company bought them. We went to the courts. It goes from appeal to appeal. The Feds are supposed to be on our side. So far that has meant nothing.” Terry Spence stood up to say that if he had known what he now knows, he would have taken direct action at the beginning and either stopped PSF or “gone down fighting.”

Wierzbicki had the last word. “My friends” he said, “Listen to me. If you take direct action, plan an action that you have a real chance of winning. If you undertake something you can’t win, the farmers may become discouraged and give up. Conversely, a win — even if it is a small win — will encourage them and they will continue to fight.”

On the 15th, we drove through the variegated southern Iowa landscape for a noon press conference in Des Moines, arranged by the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. After lunch, we continued north to the town of Clear Lake. Northern Iowa is much flatter than the southern part of the state and has fewer streams and lakes. The farmland here is so valuable that instead of being left derelict, as in North Carolina and Missouri, abandoned farmsteads are bulldozed away. This has been the fate not only of countless farms in the region, but of churches, country schoolhouses and even villages. One sees fields of corn or soybeans stretching, almost without interruption, to the horizon.

That evening, the delegation attended another seminar, which included hog farmers down from Minnesota to tell how they

had been victimized by the John Morrell Packing Company owned by Smithfield. The following morning, clear, windless and warm, with the first scents of autumn in the air, we visited farms

“The piglets would approach curiously, with big eyes, then suddenly take fright and run to the other end of the pen. In a moment they would return, the bold ones leading, the timid ones hanging back, to repeat the process until some of us captured their interest by tossing out ears of corn from the adjoining field.”

raising hogs for Niman Ranch according to the humane husbandry protocol developed by AWI’s Diane Halverson.

Our first stops were at adjoining farms owned by the Menke brothers. We began at Paul Menke’s farm, walking through a cornfield to a couple of small — perhaps one acre — enclosures bordered by elm trees. Each contained three or four sows with thirty or so piglets a few weeks old. The piglets would approach curiously, with big eyes, then suddenly take fright and run to the other end of the pen. In a moment they would return, the bold ones leading, the timid ones hanging back, to repeat the process until some of us captured their interest by tossing out ears of corn from the adjoining field.



Feeding sows and boars on the Willis Free Range Pig Farm on a crisp winter morning.

Paul Willis

Then we skirted the cornfield to a much larger compound, a miniature pig city full of farrowing huts of every type and state of repair, watering troughs, feeding troughs, “creep feeders” (designed so piglets can enter but sows cannot) even an old school bus body for shade. Each sow had *her* hut, big enough to accommodate her and her piglets and provide shelter for them during rainy spells. Paul told us that all of the corn he raised on his farm was ground up and fed to pigs and that once he had harvested a field he turned the pigs on it to graze. “They glean every kernel,” he said.

Paul explained that the pigs have separate summering and wintering quarters. In late spring, summer and early fall, the pigs live in field compounds; in late fall and winter they live in “hoop houses” piled deeply with straw or cornstalks. After each summer season, the entire hog city, school bus and all, is moved to another tract. Paul waits five years before returning with his pigs to the same piece of ground. “Hopefully five years is enough time for the soil to rid itself of pathogens,” he said. “So far, I’ve had almost no disease.”

Pat Menke’s operation is similar to his brother’s but with the refinement of a spray system rigged so pigs can stand under it in hot weather and get cooled down. Pat, who also follows a five-year cycle, stresses the soil building features of his system. “I had pigs on that piece of ground last year,” he said, pointing to a cornfield next to his compound. “I expect to get 200 bushels without a pound of fertilizer.”

Paul Willis’ operation is similar in principle to the others, but on a grander scale with a full 20 acres for the pigs to roam in. On the Willis property we had a look at some hoop houses which were opened up and used by the pigs for shade. The frames were covered with heavy, plasticized canvas, which, absent a severe hailstorm can be expected to last at least six years. I asked Willis about tail biting. “For the most part we are free of it,” he said. “But from time to time



Paul Willis

Expectant mothers in winter housing area on the Willis Free Range Pig Farm. Composting in the deep bedding keeps the pigs warm.

a female — always a female — starts to bite tails. There is nothing to do, once you identify her, but to segregate her from the others.”

We examined one more farm, where weaner pigs lived in barns on deep straw and exercised in adjacent lots. Then we said good-bye to our friends, including anti-corporate activists, Jim and Pamela Braun, and turned toward Chicago.

The last night, before a final press conference and reception in Polish Chicago, was spent at the Sinsinawa Visitor’s Center, a Catholic retreat across the Mississippi from Dubuque, Iowa. There we awoke to an extraordinary view: to the east the red sun rising through a caul of mist over the hill country of northern Illinois, to the south and west the great river hidden by a slowly ascending blanket of fog. The scene from the dining hall, fully glassed for 120 degrees, was especially panoramic. We sat at our own table among a couple of hundred sweetly smiling nuns, eating breakfast and gazing at a sight most of us are unlikely to see again.

Nature Never Forgives

Even as the tour came to an end, the truth of the Polish saying “Nature never forgives” was borne out as floodwaters from Hurricane Floyd poured across North Carolina’s coastal plain. The flood waters inundated scores, probably hundreds, of hog factories in North Carolina and southeastern Virginia drowning — by USDA estimates — at least half a million pigs trapped in their stalls as well as millions of chickens and turkeys. Most of the installations the delegation viewed from the air were submerged.

Vast quantities perhaps, as much as a quarter billion gallons of liquefied hog waste, were released by the floods. Satellite images showed a brown plume of waste filling Albemarle and Pimlico Sounds and moving out to sea. Persons returning to flooded homes found their belongings coated with a fecal scum; tens of thousands of water wells were contaminated. Despite frantic efforts of North Carolina officials and the hog barons to cover up the magnitude of the disaster, its impact on fishing and tourism can be hardly short of calamitous. Beaches will eventually stop stinking, but no one knows how long it may take fragile coastal ecosystems to recover.

In the meantime, having been exposed to the realities of American agribusiness, the heads of Poland’s powerful farm unions have stated publicly and unequivocally in Polish media that they will not allow Smithfield to build hog factories in Poland. Andrzej Lepper has addressed an ultimatum to Smithfield CEO Joe Luter telling him that Samoobrona cannot be bought and that “if Smithfield does not heed Samoobrona’s warning it will feel Samoobrona’s fists.”

Lepper has invited AWI to assemble a delegation of U.S. activists for a tour of Poland at Samoobrona’s expense. Two other farm unions, Rural Solidarity and Farmer’s Circle have asked to co-host.

“... Having been exposed to the realities of American agribusiness, the heads of Poland’s powerful farm unions have stated publicly and unequivocally in Polish media that they will not allow Smithfield to build hog factories in Poland.”

The unions and public interest groups are anxious to enter co-operative projects, such as setting up a model farm to demonstrate the humane husbandry techniques observed in Iowa. Lepper has asked for American help in applying the river keeper’s concept as a means of protecting Polish rivers.

One of the most gratifying effects of the Polish tour was seen in the U.S. During the tour, as though a fairy godmother had waved her wand, the words “cruelty” and “animal welfare” ceased to be taboo. Rick Dove set the tone by showing excerpts from the PETA video. The Poles, one and all, attacked hog factories for their cruelty. American speakers, as though it was no longer “sissy” to speak what had been in their minds all the time, picked up the theme. 🐾

THE THOUGHTS OF

Andrzej Lepper

President of Samoobrona (which means self-defense), a major Polish Farmers' Union



Diane Halverson / AWI

Photo above, from left to right: Gary Grant, President, Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association, Andrzej Lepper, President of Samoobrona and L.C. Cooper, Chapter President, Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association.

These provocative ideas came to Mr. Lepper during the course of the AWI-sponsored invitational tour for Polish leaders designed to show them the enormous contrast between humane family farms and the appalling hog factories in the United States.

Ecological Farming and How To Interpret It

Ecology is an area of interest and activism in modern society which calls for preserving the natural environment: building new relations between humankind and nature: and determining a new role for mankind as “guardians” of the world. In other words, it is a philosophy of creating a new order, a new way of life in harmony with the laws of nature and socioeconomic progress, in which humankind and respect for all forms of life are the greatest values.

Ecology means order (logos) in our homes, in accord with the laws of nature, and by home I mean the family home, the country, the world and the cosmos.

A new style of life in harmony with nature, a new style of progress of civilization and respect for all life, not only human, wise and conscientious use of natural resources introducing harmony of life between humankind and nature - all of this constitutes ecological development.

We define humankind as the greatest player in this development and respecting laws of nature as its greatest value. In reaffirming and broadening the concept of “humaneness” we create a new philosophy for humankind as co-creators of evolution, as thoughtful caretakers who shape the environment, without abusing it, without devastating nature and inflicting suffering in the world on non-human animals.

No one is as entrenched in the issues of the environment as farmers. The country is their natural environment, a sanctuary from the pollution produced by large cities and industry. The majority of the public is not aware of these facts. The public does not acknowledge the arguments for maintaining a natural balance in the environment nor the need to clean up the environment at the cost of all of society—for all of society’s health.

Farmers and the rural community are not only the “guardians” of natural resources, they also must produce adequate amounts of healthy food. Ecologically appropriate technological methods need to be employed in raising crops as well as livestock.

Healthy food is most readily produced in conditions afforded by family farms.

The well being of all humankind is at stake. Healthy food consists in many kinds of products of plant and animal origin. The concept of healthy food does not include chemically contaminated products of animal factories, rather it necessitates natural farming and Polish farming is natural farming.

Along with the majority of Polish farmers, I am a Catholic, so here are my moral and religious impressions on this issue. I think humankind, the highest form of life, received (as the Bible tells us) a concession from God, to use nature and living

“We have enslaved the earth and all its life; We have disturbed the natural order instead of accepting it...We should NOT create situations which may prove to be globally disastrous.”

beings for our benefit. But we have violated the planet; we have violated the biological balance; we have polluted the air and waters: not to keep alive, but for material gain, to amass riches, to live in luxury and beyond our needs. We have misunderstood the Bible’s directions. We have enslaved the earth and all its life; we have disturbed the natural order instead of accepting it. We have failed to be good stewards of the earth that God has given us. We should love the earth that sustains our life, and thoughtfully use her goods and resources. Today, as intelligent beings, we must be fully aware of our responsibility to use that

TRANSLATED FROM THE POLISH BY *Agnes Van Volkenburgh*

intelligence. The fact that nature has allowed us to expand and harness its power doesn't mean we should fulfill our unnatural whims at the price of the environment and the fundamental natural order. We should not create situations which may prove to be globally disastrous.

Farming must take on a new obligation: keeping the country ecologically safe. Accepting this obligation requires proper knowledge and training from the scientific community — we do not have that. This lack of training is not viewed as important by some politicians and economists who focus on financial gain.

Ecological humaneness requires the rural economy to adopt humane attitudes towards farm animals. These are living beings who have emotions, who feel and experience suffering, and have natural instincts which need to be expressed.

It is essential, therefore, to do everything to allow the animals on farms an opportunity to live happy lives, to treat them with respect and empathy. A broadened concept of humaneness and regard for all forms of life should motivate us to respect the natural laws of the animal world, in the same way we respect the human right to dignity. The right to live with dignity in the case of animals is a life without suffering and without taking away their natural environment. The life of any being is a great mystery and a natural phenomenon deserving of the greatest reverence and care.

Problems of ecologically preserving the environment and humaneness toward life of all species is becoming a global concern. Europeans still care what happens to the rain forests of the Amazon, the waters of the oceans, the ice of Antarctica. The inhabitants of the Americas care about the rivers and mountains of Eastern Europe. As well as International coordination of environmental activism even international jurisdiction over violations of nature and its devastation.

Society, just like the environment, is subject to damage by pathological factors, economical and political. This pollution is evident in Poland.

There is a need to introduce a new order and harmony into our lives and our society. It is a problem in human ecology, as mentioned by Pope John Paul II, the moral postulate of "love thy neighbor," the practice of which is often so difficult. Let's remember this when we take a stance on international issues, like the current topic of ecology. 🐾

Is Poland's Private Farming In Danger?

During my visit to the U.S., sponsored by AWI (September 7 through 18), I saw industrial "hog factory" farms and poultry farms, much the same as the ones which existed in Poland during the communist times. Many of those are still in existence today.

Smithfield Foods Inc., with the permission from the U.S. Government, with no regard for animal welfare or the environment, built hundreds of farms which produce millions of hogs. Smithfield led to the destruction of countless private farms. If we idly stand by and watch the expansion of this company in our country, the same fate awaits our farmers. That is

why we appeal to everyone, farmers and local governments — **Do not allow the construction of factory farms for hogs, poultry, or cattle, not only by Smithfield, but by any other company!** By blockading the construction of factory farms we are saving our beautiful environment, we are protecting animals from being raised in inhumane conditions but most of all we are saving our family farms.

"The construction of factory farms must be stopped! Let us not allow Poland to be invaded by this cancer, which we already experienced during the communist times!"

American farmers were tricked, they woke up too late, let us not make the same mistake! Let's act before it is too late, not after!

The President of Smithfield Foods, Inc., Joe Luter, has announced that he will conquer Poland, and has received permission to do so from anti-Polish, anti-farmer successive governments of Poland.

The construction of factory farms must be stopped! Let us not allow Poland to be invaded by this cancer, which we already experienced during the communist times! It is our duty! Future generations of Poles will not forgive us the sin of idly standing by. 🐾

North Carolina Flooding

September 28, 1999

Since the factory farms were destroyed by the flood and given the amount of destruction they have brought to the environment and to private farmers, it is clear that they should not be rebuilt.



Hogs desperately trying to save themselves from the cruel flood waters.

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There is a saying in Poland: "God forgives always, man sometimes, nature never." Sooner or later, Nature avenges human interference with its laws. The North Carolina disaster is just one example of Nature's "ecological payback bomb," many of which have been exploding in different parts of the globe.

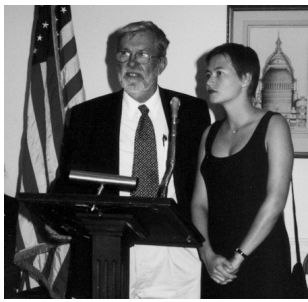
If the U.S. Government is considering giving money for the rebuilding of destroyed farms, that money should go to the thousands of private farmers whose farms were destroyed by the corporate factory farming system. Private family farms are the ones we need to rebuild! 🐾

Farming Humanely

by Dwight Ault

To introduce myself, I am a sixty-nine year old sustainable and organic farmer from southern Minnesota. I have farmed nearly forty years and am more excited about the art of farming than ever. Wendell Berry says that good farming is an art. He is right.

My strong suit, labor and income-wise, is raising pigs from birth to market. I, along with a dozen or so hog raisers,



Dwight Ault at AWI's reception at the Capitol for the Polish delegation. Agnes Van Volkenburgh translated his remarks into Polish.

mostly from Iowa, came into the Washington D.C. area in early September as guests of Niman Ranch Pork. It is through Niman Ranch that we market our top-notch pork. Our first responsibility was to be farmer ambassadors in the *Fresh Fields/Whole Food* stores in the Washington area. All in all, it was a wonderful experience as we met many interested and supportive customers most who had never met a guaranteed, honest to goodness, hog farmer from the Midwest. When they viewed our many pictures of our farm, they were quite impressed with the care of the animals.

For you readers who are not “up to speed” in the Animal Welfare Institute’s efforts concerning what has gone on with our domestic critter friends, the pigs, let me tell you. In order to be eligible to sell to Niman Ranch Pork, one must not give any form of antibiotics to the pigs from birth to market, must not cut off tails, must always give the pigs deep straw in which to bed or have them on green pasture, must not use animal by-products in feed. Niman Ranch further requests its pork to be tested for tenderness, taste and color.

The reaction from customers was fun for us to hear. Two couples said, after hearing our explanation, that they were going to buy pork right then and there. They had not purchased

pork for several years because of the reputation of the present factory-produced pork formerly sold in *Fresh Fields/Whole Food* stores. The meat counter employees were continually saying that they were pleased with the number of customers which we were sending to their counter. Many asked, “Can we find this meat brand in other stores also?” and we would, of course, tell them that no other stores presently carry it other than *Fresh Fields*. In short, they were very pleased to have access to this quality meat. I soon realized that I did not expect this reaction as we had been led to believe that, in general, the urban consumer did not much care where and in what conditions the pigs were raised. Not true at all! They very much cared regardless of whether or not they were consumers.

I think that they were impressed that we producers cared that much and that we could produce pork under the protocol set up by the Animal Welfare Institute. It was simply a wonderful experience for the consumer and producer. I, for one, must ever be thankful to the Animal Welfare Institute for its tireless efforts in establishing and promoting this decent movement. If I were to have to produce pork as I did a few years back, I would get out of the business. My son, Grant, who will carry on the farm and who now farms with me, agrees. I look back and realize that without the gentle persuasions of the Halverson sisters (Diane and Marlene), I no doubt would never have made the switch to a system based on caring and ethics. Well-cared-for pigs, in short, bring joy to their owners, and to my way of thinking allow pigs to know joy in return. Technical progress has brought terrible consequences to the main part of livestock production as far as animal care is concerned. There is a statement which says that “out of agony comes true beauty.” I hope this will be so in pork production.

I think AWI’s concern for the Polish farmer is terribly important. My wife and I had the opportunity to meet these people while in Washington and understand their dilemma. If they are not successful in protecting their farmers and pork production system, then we all end up being victims of large factory systems based on the “ethics of the dollar.”

May our Creator give the strength necessary to the Polish farmers to do what they must do in order to protect decency and their way of life. This is the obligation of us all. 🐾

Death and Disintegration of Truck Driver in Murphy Farms Hog Factory Cesspool

Excerpts from *The Daily & Sunday Oklahoman*, Copyright, 1999 Oklahoma Publishing Company

The body of the man still missing in a 25-foot-deep hog lagoon after two weeks, is “extremely, badly decomposed by this time,” Ray Blakeney, director of the state medical examiner’s office, said Tuesday.

Blakeney said if Murphy Farms, owner of the lagoon, is using a bacterial process to break down the hog manure, it would contribute even more to the decomposition of the body of Jack Plain, 58.

On the night of December 1, Plain was driving the bobtail truck that was backed into the lagoon when it missed wheel blocks, submerging the truck in the lagoon...

Calls to Murphy Farms spokeswoman Darra Johnson were not returned Tuesday.

Ellis County Sheriff Dewayne Miller returned a call to *The Oklahoman*. Miller said he has been at the site most of the time but did not want to talk about the incident over a cellular phone.

Members of the Plain’s family have continually questioned why the hog company doesn’t drain the lagoon, but Darra Johnson said Monday that there’s too much effluent to spread it anywhere...

Miller said if these recovery efforts don’t work, a next step would be to drain the lagoon. 🐾

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- Mick Hinton, dated December 15, 1999

AWI Welcomes its International Committee's Newest Member

Agnes Van Volkenburgh, whose translations appear on pages 12-13, has accepted an appointment to represent Poland on the AWI International Committee. A third-year veterinary student at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, she has directed her talents to improvement of life for animals in both the United States and Poland. As a tireless translator, Agnes made possible the dialogue, both official and informal, between the Polish-speaking delegates and their host Americans throughout our U.S. tour (a photograph of her appears on the opposite page [14]). General Stanislaw Maczek, Agnes' great-great uncle, is recognized throughout Poland as a hero of his homeland. He commanded a motorized cavalry brigade in 1939 and later led the First Polish Armored Division in fighting in Belgium, Holland, France and Germany, from 1942-1945.

Agnes has written a scholarly paper reporting "Effectiveness of a Coordinated Veterinary and Public Education Program in Achieving Pet Sterilization in Poland." The surveys that she conducted on veterinary attitudes before and after the veterinary education campaign were accompanied by a survey of public attitudes, followed by a public education and media campaign. As a result, almost three-quarters of veterinarians in Warsaw will recommend sterilization to their clients. Excerpts from conclusions reached on results of the study are reproduced below.

"This study is the first step in a long journey. It provides a successful model of effective public and veterinary education aimed at increasing the knowledge about and the acceptance of sterilization. Educational programs developed in this project need to be continued and expanded to reach other areas of Poland and audiences of different age groups... Further public and veterinary education is essential to get the culture to the point at which pet population control is a commonly accepted responsibility.


"The study was widely publicized in the United States. The *Champaign News Gazette* ran a feature story about my work in Poland. A Polish television station in Chicago invited me to speak about the problem of pet overpopulation in Poland and the United States on their program, in which they showed footage

of the Early Sterilization Conference in Lublin. *Alfa*, a Polish language weekly in Chicago, and *Polish Daily Zgoda*, a Chicago Polish language daily, ran stories about my work in Poland. This widespread media coverage contributed to increasing the awareness of Polish-American audiences of pet overpopulation and will benefit the welfare of animals in the United States.

"The translated articles and educational brochures produced as a result of this project have been made available to veterinary colleges, animal shelters, and humane agencies throughout Poland. The literature will also be distributed to 'Animals' Foundation youth groups across the country and will thus contribute to creating a new generation of responsible pet owners. The results of this research will be published in a Polish

veterinary journal, *Magazyn Weterynaryjny*, reaching veterinarians throughout Poland and providing a model for achieving increased sterilization rates in other communities.

"... My immediate objectives include the continuation of the public and veterinary education programs, a campaign for humane treatment of farm animals, and developing a mobile spay/neuter clinic for rural areas of Poland.

"... This project gave me the opportunity to explore ways by which I can help address international issues of animal welfare as a future Doctor of Veterinary Medicine." 

The project was supported by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Ralston Purina Company, Hills Pet Nutrition, and major veterinary colleges in the United States and Poland.


The Day I Saw a Full-grown Pig Gambol in Frenzied Delight

This event was witnessed by Louise van der Merwe when a South African hog factory boar was allowed a brief interval of freedom.

"We let these boars out for 10 minutes every day to keep them healthy," the farmer told me.

"Really?" My face lightened. "Do they enjoy it?"

The farmer asked a nearby laborer to let one of the boars out while we went to wait outside. The boar's big body emerged from the shed door and he trotted heavily on his short legs along a narrow cement passageway leading to an enclosed strip of sand that ran along the back of the shed.

As his front trotters reached the sand, he suddenly broke into a frenzy of excitement, maneuvering his big, bulky body back and forth and up and down like a bucking bronco. He stopped momentarily to dig his snout as deep as possible into the sand, and then began to frolic and gambol once more. 

— Louise van der Merwe, Founder of Animal Voice

Bequests to AWI

To any who would like to help assure the Animal Welfare Institute's future through a provision in your will, this general form of bequest is suggested:

I give, devise and bequeath to the Animal Welfare Institute, located in Washington, DC, the sum of \$_____ and/or (specifically described property).

Donations to AWI, a not-for-profit corporation exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), are tax deductible. We welcome any inquiries you may have. In cases where you have specific wishes about the disposition of your bequest, we suggest you discuss such provisions with your attorney.

Fighting the Tiger War in the Tiger State

by Debbie Banks

Even in the shade, the mid-April temperatures in Madhya Pradesh (MP), central India, can reach 42° and there we were, wandering across an exposed black desert in the searing heat. But what we were walking across was not a natural desert. Rather, it was what was left of a once healthy forest on the borders of Panna Tiger Reserve.

Panna, one of five Tiger Reserves in the self-declared "Tiger State" of Madhya Pradesh, has been turned into an island. The black waste from the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) diamond mine has formed an expansive moonscape. Spanning miles, the mine's tailings have smothered the land and extinguished all life. And tigers are expected to cross this?

The indiscriminate destruction of tiger habitat in and around protected areas not only exacerbates the threat to tigers, but has disastrous affects on other wildlife, the forests, the water table and the people who depend on them. The loss of much of this habitat is due to industrial activities.

Tiger populations may thrive in core areas of Tiger Reserves, but they are often surrounded by mines, dams, roads, agriculture, plantations, human settlements and livestock. Fragmentation of habitat inevitably leads to increased conflict, and tigers are forced into isolated populations that are more vulnerable to local extinction.

This in turn impairs the probability of long-term survival as population size and reproductive success are reduced and dispersal patterns of subadults are impaired.

While conducting a five-week field investigation for the Environmental Investigation Agency's *The State of the Tiger: India's Tiger Crisis*, we were continually coming across examples of government negligence, indifference and even collusion with those who were out to destroy tiger forests for the financial gain of a few.

In the Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh, local tribal peoples have lost their land and the valuable trees on it to corrupt politicians, including the brother of the former State Forest Minister.

In Pench Tiger Reserve, commercial fishing is conducted by mafia-style businessmen in violation of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. In the guise of agitating for the "traditional" rights of local communities, they have coerced the State government into issuing fishing permits for 305 people.

Yet most of these people have alternative means of subsistence, most live 25-100 km away from the Reserve, and since the Pench river is not perennial, the only water body is the Totladoh Reservoir completed in 1990, hardly a traditional source of fish! 🐾



Bengal Tiger

Kenya Battles the Ivory Trade

by Adam M. Roberts

Just months after three Southern African countries auctioned off their stockpiled ivory to Japanese buyers, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has reported its biggest ivory seizure in the decade since the 1989 international ban on commercial ivory trade. According to the KWS statement, 45 pieces of ivory weighing over 350 kilograms were seized from three different sites in a town north of Nairobi. The tusks represent at least 23 dead elephants and there were bullet holes through two of the tusks. Two people have been arrested and will be prosecuted.

Acting KWS Director, Nehemiah Rotich, told the *Associated Press* "the poachers had probably been stockpiling the ivory in the field in anticipation of an increase in the price [of ivory]." Kenya was one of over half a dozen African elephant range states that opposed the downlisting of elephants from

Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique at the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in 1997. This opposition stemmed from the fear that any renewed international legal trade in elephant ivory would lead to poaching in other elephant ranges states. Rotich concluded in his AP interview: "We hope that it will not take the deaths of any more elephants for the world to recognize the threat that the ivory trade poses to our elephants."

As the year 2000 began, *Reuters* reported a shoot out between the KWS anti-poaching patrol and elephant poachers, four of whom were killed in Garissa in northeast Kenya. The story notes that "poachers had killed eight elephants in the Kora National Park but were challenged after burying the ivory which they planned to recover later. The poachers, armed with three automatic rifles,

exchanged fire with the game wardens before they were killed."

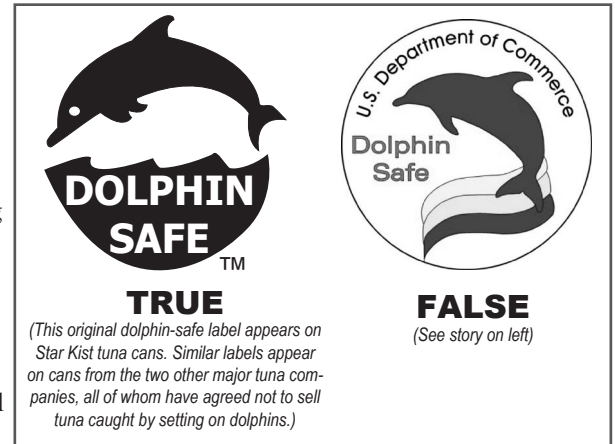
All of this poaching activity looms ominously as the world prepares for the next Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES which is to be held in Kenya in April 2000. An interesting clash will take place there when South Africa follows the lead of Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia, and tries to downlist its elephant population from Appendix I to Appendix II to allow, among other things, trade in raw ivory. Meanwhile, to their credit, Kenya and India are submitting a proposal to put Zimbabwe's, Botswana's and Namibia's elephant populations back on Appendix I for their long-term protection. AWI will be sending two delegates to the Kenya meeting, Ben White and Adam Roberts. When they return, Ben and Adam will provide a full report of the outcome of the meeting in the *AWI Quarterly*. 🐾

U.S. Department of Commerce's False "Dolphin-Safe" Label

by Ben White

Thanks to the U.S. Department of Commerce, it is easy to tell which canned tuna one should **not** under any circumstances buy: the one with their "Dolphin-Safe" label! In an effort to dupe American consumers, the Agency has cooked up this new label to describe tuna caught under the "Dolphin Death Act" of 1997. Under pressure from a Mexican WTO challenge asserting that our embargo on tuna caught by chasing, encircling and netting dolphins is an unfair trade restriction of their dolphin-deadly tuna, the U.S. Government has changed the definition of dolphin safe. Under their label, dolphins can still be harassed, chased for hours by speed boats and helicopters, and caught in purse-seine nets so long as no dolphins are *seen* by the single observer to be killed or seriously injured.

Fortunately, you still have a choice. Canned tuna bearing the old label that says Dolphin Safe, **without** the Department of Commerce banner is still caught without setting nets on dolphins. Because the major tuna packers in the United States have heard your voice clearly, all of them are sticking with the old label and the old definition. Chicken of the Sea, Bumblebee, and Star Kist have all promised to refuse to buy dolphin-caught tuna or use the Department of Commerce's lying label. 🐾



Russian Beluga Slaughter Halted

by Ben White

The power of the global whale protection movement kicked into high gear in September when Russia unexpectedly opened up a new commercial whaling operation on small whales. About 36 beluga whales were killed in the Sea of Okhotsk and shipped as meat and blubber to Japan. Within days of this brutal and dangerous precedent, the outcry was so loud and well organized that the Russian government pulled the plug on any continued slaughter. A permit to kill 2,100 of these lovely white whales was cancelled.

The deadly ramifications of a whole new front of commercial whaling galvanized opposition from the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, the State Department, the Marine Mammal Commission, Congressman William Delahunt (D, MA) and many non-governmental organizations. The enterprise was perceived as an end-run around the International Whaling Commission and an attempt to weaken current global prohibitions on commercial whaling. The hunt and transport was the first major international sale of small cetacean meat in modern times.

The sale between countries of meat obtained from the larger species of whales is illegal because of their listing on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Unfortunately, small cetaceans are listed on Appendix II, allowing some limited trade if it can be done "without threatening the population." A Russian CITES export permit for the beluga meat was issued over the objections of many Russian officials and scientists who protested that not enough was known about the belugas being decimated.

The Animal Welfare Institute was one of the organizations clued in to the emergency. We responded by sending out an email alert that produced calls, letters and faxes to the Japanese Embassy and Consulates. We were investigating the possibility of traveling to Russia and filming the continuing slaughter when it was called off. Congratulations to all involved, especially Karen Steuer and the International Fund for Animal Welfare who had a film crew waiting for the ship when it delivered its grisly cargo to Hokkaido, Japan and was central to organizing the incredible, overwhelming, rapid response. 🐾

NMFS Plays Politics with Beluga Extinction

As expected and feared, the National Marine Fisheries Service has capitulated to Anchorage big business interests and declared the Cook Inlet population of beluga whales depleted (under the Marine Mammal Protection Act), instead of the far more protective endangered status (under the Endangered Species Act).

As described in the *AWI Quarterly* of Spring 1999, the beluga whales of Cook Inlet have been reduced from over a thousand to only about two hundred in a decade. The primary cause has been native hunting for commercial sales in Anchorage. But whereas most native hunters agree with listing the whales as endangered in hopes of bringing the population back to healthy levels, a huge outcry has come from the Anchorage business community. Anchorage dumps its sewage directly into Cook Inlet, with only primary treatment. And a string of oil rigs dotting the inlet enjoy a unique status among the fifteen hundred oil rigs on the continental shelf of the U.S.: they are permitted by the EPA to dribble poisons such as lead, mercury and arsenic into the water.

Whereas the endangered listing would open up scrutiny of these habitat influences on the whales, the depleted status does not. It is also unclear how the government will now move forward on a co-management scheme with native hunters. There is a temporary ban on hunting in place.

The Animal Welfare Institute is preparing to sue the National Marine Fisheries Service for dodging their legal responsibility to protect these whales. We urge members to comment directly to the agency on the proposed inadequate depleted listing:

Chief, Marine Mammal Division
Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910 🐾



Dr. F. Barbara Orlans

The Human Use of Animals: Case Studies in Ethical Choice

F. Barbara Orlans, Tom L. Beauchamp, Rebecca Dresser, David B. Morton, and John P. Gluck
New York: Oxford University Press, 1998, 330 pp., illus., index, \$26.50; ISBN: 0-19-511808-8.

Dr. F. Barbara Orlans, a long-standing and much valued member of the Animal Welfare Institute's Scientific Committee, has written many books seeking to improve conditions for animals used in research, testing and education, and to ensure that high school students do not

harm animals under the rubric of a science fair project. The most recent book, of which she is the lead contributor, has been widely reviewed, with opinions from both sides of the perennial argument on use of experimental animals.

It was a pleasure to find that The Physiologist, the journal of the American Physiological Society, took a very sound view. "This book," wrote C. Terrance Hawk of Duke University, the reviewer, "will make you reflect on your own ethical outlook and does so in a surprisingly non-judgemental fashion."

Following is the full review, as published in Vol. 42, No. 3, 1999, of *The Physiologist*:

This book is primarily a set of case studies on animal use. To effectively analyze these case studies, the introductory chapter prepares the reader by providing broad background information. The introductory chapter contains discussions of morality and the moral community, animal minds, the moral implications of Darwin's theory of evolution, defining moral standing, and descriptions of moral philosophies (utilitarianism, Kantianism and rights theories). This introductory chapter also includes discussions of the justification of the human use of animals and a consideration of alternatives to the use of animals.

Subsequent chapters are individual case studies covering most major areas of animal use and each stands alone from all others. Four well-known case studies are presented in the section entitled Biomedical Research, including "Baboon-Human Liver Transplants: The Pittsburgh Case," "Head Injury Experiments on Primates at the University of Pennsylvania," "Patenting Animals: The Harvard 'Oncomouse'," and "What Does the Public Have a Right to Know," a case involving the Progressive Animal Welfare Society and the University of Washington, Seattle. Most case studies provide a historical description of the problem and also include a discussion of the ethical issues and welfare concerns.

Other sections include case studies in the use of animals in cosmetic safety testing, in behavioral research, in wildlife research, in education, in food and farming, as companion animals, and in religious rites.

I was most impressed with the short primer on reasoning through moral problems that is contained in the introductory chapter. It is noted by the authors that problems normally appear when "some evidence or reason indicates that an act is morally right, and some evidence indicates that the act is morally wrong, but the evidence on both sides is inconclusive." So how does a person reason through such dilemmas? Several methods are described that can be used to help understand and more objectively approach the problem, including specification of one's general moral commitments, balancing values, and the use of facts.

This book will make you reflect on your own ethical outlook and does so in a surprisingly non-judgmental fashion. If you are a member of your Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee; are a member of faculties in basic science, law, medicine, veterinary medicine, philosophy, or ethics; or have a general interest in the welfare of animals, then this easy-to-read book is certainly recommended. 🐾

Alternative Traps

Tom Garrett

Washington, DC: Animal Welfare Institute,
1999 revised edition, 51 pp., \$8.00

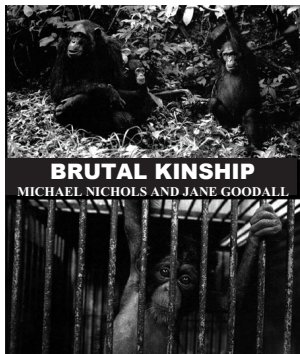
A new edition of *Alternative Traps* by Tom Garrett has just been published by the Animal Welfare Institute. This is an update of Tom's comprehensive review of the many less cruel traps now available, in addition to full coverage of the worst traps and the terrible torture they inflict.

With a Foreword by Cathy Liss, AWI's Executive Director, the updated edition includes information on the continuing struggle against the steel jaw leghold trap and the strangling snares still widely used throughout the world from Alaska to Africa. Eighty-eight countries have banned steel traps, but the U.S. still lacks federal legislation against them.

When the European Union banned them in all its member states in 1991, we hoped that its import ban against fur from 13 species in the wild fur trade would force U.S. compliance. But instead, our Government threatened to challenge the E.U. under the World Trade Organization, asserting that this law for animal protection would create a barrier to free trade.

This is the third edition of this fully documented reference source. The first was issued in the form of three monographs in 1984. Tom Garrett's engineering expertise served him well as he traveled across the United States, Canada and the European Union to gather little-known facts; for example, interviewing trapper-inventors who had succeeded in developing traps that rendered animals unconscious instantly instead of putting them through unimaginable pain and fear in steel jaw leghold traps or strangling snares. But these traps — the Gabry's and the Kania — have never been seriously encouraged by industry as alternatives in the remote areas for which they were designed.

Humanitarian organizations and law enforcement agencies will find this unique publication useful whenever they are called upon to rescue an animal from a trap or to make decisions that will help to prevent the enormous amount of unnecessary suffering inflicted by the steel jaw leghold trap and the often homemade strangling snares left for long periods in the bush. 🐾



Brutal Kinship

Michael Nichols and Jane Goodall

New York: Aperture Foundation, 1999, 128 pp.,
\$25.00; Hardcover ISBN: 0-89381-806-2

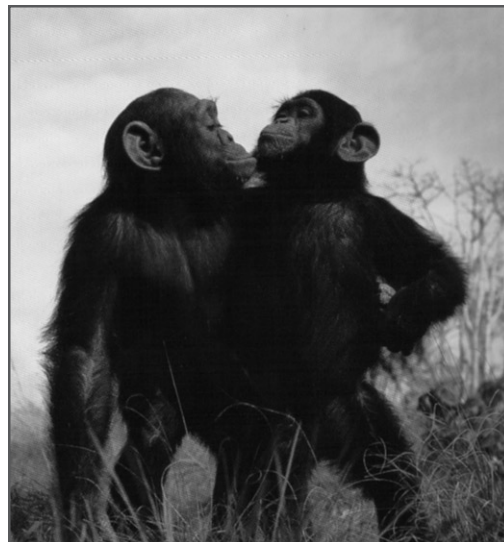
In one enlightening volume, Brutal Kinship melds photographer Michael Nichols' stirring photos with world-renowned ethologist Jane Goodall's moving prose in an awesome combination of sadness and hope concerning the human connection with chimpanzees, and more pointedly, the way in which humans abuse that fragile relationship. Nichols contends that the book is about "creating awareness and shame about our moral myopia.... If we can see that our treatment of chimpanzees has been and is wrong, then we have truly evolved."

In Nichols' first chapter, "In The Wild" we journey through the Tai Forest in Côte d'Ivoire where chimps share fruit unselfishly, use stones to open hard-shelled nuts and where a mother carried her dead infant around for days in mourning before "finally giving it a gentle touch and leaving it behind;" and into Tanzania where chimps carefully use twigs to dig for ants or termites and where Dr. Goodall has spent nearly 40 years studying their independent and interactive behavior. Chapter 2, an essay by Jane Goodall, recounts her historical experience at Gombe and the important findings of her in-depth research there. Goodall writes of her work to rescue a single chimp named Gregoire who lived alone in cage in the Brazzaville Zoo since 1945, to her efforts to keep the retired Air Force chimps out of the hands of The Coulston Foundation, and ultimately, on behalf of chimps in abusive situations everywhere. Goodall refers to a "strong sense of guilt, the guilt of my species" and what horrors humans inflict on animals such as chimps. Her chapter closes with a full two page photo of a former carnival chimp living in a cage behind his owner's bar in Ohio: in solitude he sits, hunched over behind the bars of his cage, as smoke rises near his right eye from the tip of the cigarette protruding from his dark lips.

Chapter 3, "Research and Captivity," shows the myriad abuses humans inflict on "our closest relatives in the animal kingdom." Whether it's in crowded zoos, medical testing laboratories, or performing animal acts, humans, with our supposedly greater intelligence and ability for compassion, have a remarkable capacity to inflict suffering on these unwitting victims of our brutality. Nichols' pictures of a bushmeat hunter in Liberia, a chained and abused adult chimp in Côte d'Ivoire, a chimp forced to ride atop an elephant and another forced to wear a tuxedo and pose for a photographer's camera in Florida, all vividly exemplify the magnitude of our inhumanity.

But some hope appears in the final chapter on "Sanctuaries" where chimpanzees may live out the remainder of their natural lives "in safety and comfort." One look at the book's final photo of two orphaned infant chimps looking at each other in a sensitive embrace is enough to make anyone want to do more to help chimps everywhere. Goodall notes that "not many people can look into the bewildered, traumatized eyes of an abandoned infant and turn away." By the time one closes *Brutal Kinship*, she or he will not only be incapable of turning away from the plight of chimps, but will be actively seeking ways to help them. 🐾

— Adam M. Roberts



Fast friends, a pair of orphans face the future together at Tchimpounga.

(Continued from page 2)

of a chimp named Eason. It's hard to keep up with them all.

The Coulston Empire should be crumbling, though. Settlement was reached with the USDA regarding the formal complaint mentioned above. TCF was ordered to give up 300 chimpanzees by 2002, restricted in its ability to acquire or breed new chimps, and required to employ an adequate veterinary staff. Michael Dunn, an Under Secretary at USDA, originally claimed, "This is an unprecedented consent agreement and a big win for these magnificent animals." But it can only be a win if the chimps are all taken from Coulston; clearly this settlement has not deterred TCF from committing atrocious acts of animal cruelty.

When USDA reached its agreement with TCF, it facilitated settlement of a separate lawsuit brought by the Doris Day Animal League and the Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care (CCCC) against the U.S. Air Force. The Air Force, seeking to divest itself of the surviving offspring of the heroic "space chimps," awarded most of them to TCF. Now, 21 of those chimps, who preceded the astronauts into space, will be welcomed to CCCC's Florida sanctuary by the summer of 2000 where they will live out their remaining years in a peaceful and enriching environment.

Immediate action is essential to save the rest. Echo, Jello, Holly, Terrance, Muffin, Eason, Donna, Dean, Babu, Kimberly, Albrow, Rosie. Who's next? 🐾

— Adam M. Roberts

Animal Farm Expansion Rebuffed

Marshall Farms, a major U.S. breeder and supplier of beagles and ferrets to laboratories for experimentation and testing, struck unexpected resistance when it tried to establish itself in the Département of Allier in central France.

Public opposition was enormous. The Mayor of Montbeugny announced that she would resign if Marshall Farms were allowed to construct its proposed facility.

A French animal protective group, Trente Millions Amis, used their television program and website to focus on mistreatment of laboratory beagles in the U.K., where a lengthy undercover videotape had been shown on television.

Dissemination of information about the proposed Marshall Farms facility resulted in a staggering number of petitions opposing it: 1,297,241. The petitions were signed by prominent French public figures, including former President of France, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Brigitte Bardot, Raymond Devos, 11 deputies, 5 Senators, and large numbers of scientists, doctors and veterinarians, hundreds of schools and colleges, and major corporations such as France Telecom, RTL, and TF1. Petitions were received from Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, England, Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Brazil, Canada, Singapore, Senegal, Romania, Tunisia, the United States, Poland and Norway.


A Council of the Département of Allier presented Prefect Gregoire with an unfavorable report on Marshall Farms' proposal to build a large breeding and supply facility to sell beagles to research laboratories. The company then withdrew its proposal, which ended the matter. Two other towns, Blyes, near Lyon, and Ledonjon, also refused to allow Marshall Farms to establish itself in their precincts.

Following is a glimpse of Marshall Farms' record in the U.S.: A fire January 16, 1998 at Marshall Farms burned 449 puppies and 151 pregnant beagles to death. The fire was started by a heating pad which had been marked "Bad" in February 1995! The fire was investigated by the Wayne

County Sheriff's Department and Peter Vallas and Associate, Inc. which reported shocking irresponsibility on the part of Marshall Farms.

In 1995 a USDA inspection report stated, "All technicians performing spays, castrations and [ferret] descenting are operating without masks or head covers. Several have long hair which was hanging into the operating field. All survival surgeries... must be performed under aseptic conditions." The inspectors also noted lack of a written program of veterinary care and methods of euthanasia which should follow the recommendations of the American Veterinary Medical Association Panel on Euthanasia. The inspectors further noted, inadequate space for animals. For example, eight puppies were squeezed into an enclosure only big enough for four.

In 1991, Marshall Farms attempted to export 74 beagle pups to an experimental laboratory in Switzerland. An Affidavit from the Supervisor of Cargo Operations for Swiss Air Transport Company stated the beagles were crated in wire mesh containers, which are not acceptable in international shipments. "The wire mesh had many sharp burrs on the metal which was dangerous for both the animals and the cargo handlers." The dogs were able to put their paws through the wire mesh. Further, two dogs were fighting in one of the cages, and "The animals were only able to reach their food and water from the top half of the containers. They could not reach any further because of the size of the containers." The ASPCA Animalport stopped shipment of the 74 beagles, citing New York State law.

Repeated use of improper sized wire mesh flooring has seriously injured both beagle pups and ferrets. Marshall Farms' insistence on use of wire mesh cage floors has been their standard practice for many years. It allows an enormous number of animals to be housed using limited numbers of cleaners and caretakers. Such floors are sometimes called "self-cleaning." An advertising brochure includes a large photograph of a beagle on the sort of wire mesh that led to the 1991 penalty. 



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