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The Limits of Tyrants

by Andrew L. Roth

<http://www.projectcensored.org/newsflash/tyrants.htm>

"The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress." --Frederick Douglass

On the historic day in October 2006 when President Bush signed the Military Commissions Act he effectively suspended the principle of habeas corpus. Habeas corpus has been a cornerstone of Western justice since the Magna Carta of 1215. It epitomizes the value that laws, not individuals -- whether they are kings or Presidents govern a land.

The Act strips the right of habeas corpus from non-citizens that is bad enough -- but its impact goes further. It has profound consequences for legal permanent residents those who hold greencards and for citizens, too. President Bush can now detain anyone, citizen or non-citizen, whom he deems to be an "unlawful enemy combatant." Who is an "unlawful enemy combatant"? The definition is broadly worded and affords Bush power to imprison almost anyone.

Have we reached the limits of our endurance?

I want to touch on one further, related theme this afternoon. From the start, the weeklong sit-in and today's strike have been signaled as "non-violent," emphasizing the goal of peaceful protest. As Martin Luther King, Jr. taught: Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. I admire and support this. Which raises for me the issue of non-violence.

For several years I have been haunted by the typewritten letter that Gandhi sent Hitler in July 1939 -- just months before Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland. At the urging of friends and "for the sake of humanity," Gandhi wrote Hitler:

"It is quite clear that you are today the one person in the world who can prevent a war which may reduce humanity to a state of savagery. Must you pay that price for an object however worthy it may appear to you to be? Will you listen to the appeal of one who has deliberately shunned the method of war not without considerable success?"

Modest to a fault, Gandhi concludes by asking Hitler's forgiveness, if he has "erred in writing." Of course, numerous critics (perhaps most notably George Orwell) have questioned the sense of Gandhi's conviction to non-violence in the face of fascism. What to make of Gandhi's appeal? Was he naive? Foolish? Did the limits of his endurance stretch beyond our capacity? Confronted with a President and Vice President who flagrantly ignore the will of the American people not to mention the world's population can we continue to gather, to march, to petition?

Non-violent protest stands as one of the great forces of the 20th and, perhaps, the 21st centuries. But what do we do when it falls short? The Military Commissions Act and its broadly threatening definition of "unlawful enemy combatants" force us to address this question with urgency. Laws that potentially transform non-violent protesters into unlawful enemy combatants heighten the stakes. What do we do when the government our government attempts to de-legitimate non-violent resistance?

Here are some of author and activist Arundhati Roy's reflections on the failure of a grassroots campaign by indigenous Adivasi and Dalit people in India, who for 15-years non-violently opposed the Indian government's plan to dam the sacred Narmada River:

If we don't respect non-violence, then violence becomes the only option for people. If governments do not show themselves to respect reasoned, non-violent resistance then by default they respect violence.

We have not yet exhausted all the options of non-violent resistance attempted by the Adivasi and Dalit along India's Narmada River? The

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This late(st) issue of the North American Animal Liberation Press Office Newsletter is again filled with informative and educational articles from both the streets and academia. The underground arm of the animal liberation movement continues to be more active than ever, and the Press Office is here to report on and explain actions taken on behalf of exploited, oppressed, tortured and murdered non-human animals.

As an increasingly fascist state makes life difficult on those willing to show their faces, others will capitalize on the security and effectiveness of direct action. No state, no corporation, no one is going to stop the animal liberation movement, which grows stronger in its knowledge of truly effective tactics that do not depend on asking the master for crumbs as non-human animals are slaughtered around us for profit.

All successful liberation struggles have required sacrifice, just as they all embraced a wide array of tactics aimed at overpowering a powerful oppressor that thrived on exploitation. Animal Liberation is no different!

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Press Office Directive: The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO) was founded to communicate the actions, strategies, and philosophy of the animal liberation movement to the media and the public. Many of these actions are illegal under a current societal structure that fails to recognize the rights of non-human animals to live free of suffering, but validates and promotes the "right" of industries to do whatever they want to animals for profit or research. Within these conditions, those in the underground working for animal liberation often cannot speak out directly. Nevertheless, their actions and message is urgent and deserve to be heard and understood. Since animal liberation actions either go unreported in the media or are uncritically vilified as "violent" with no attention paid to the violence that industries and individuals gratuitously inflict on animals, NAALPO seeks to clarify the motivation and nature of actions taken in defense of animals.

The Press Office also provides a historical, social, and philosophical context for an objective understanding of the nature and motivation of illegal direct actions taken on behalf of captive animals.



Limits of Tyrants (continued)

toolkit of non-violent resistance contains many tools that we have yet to grasp and use including escalated forms of civil disobedience and direct action. Our work today should be to consider those tactics, and how to escalate them, gradually but effectively.

We need to be disruptive. Otherwise we legitimate a government that we reject, and we participate in the reproduction of a social order that we find immoral. As we approach the limits of our endurance for oppression, we must remember Frederick Douglass's insights. We act today to indicate to our political leaders that we, as citizens, have reached our limits. We will not accept any more oppression: neither our own, through the steady erosion of civil liberties; nor others', around the globe, through the escalation of immoral militarism conducted in our name.

We have reached the limits of our endurance for these oppressions -- which means that our political leaders must soon reach the limits of their tyranny, at home and abroad.

Douglass tells us: If there is no struggle, there is no progress. The question for us now is, How best to continue this struggle?

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<http://www.projectcensored.org/newsflash/tyrants.htm>

Norm Phelps' *The Longest Struggle: Animal Advocacy from Pythagoras to PETA*

Lantern Books, 2007, 367 pp.
by Steven Best, Ph.D.

"All of human history is one long horror story of the imprisonment, enslavement, torture, and murder of animals. Even countries whose culture has been shaped by religions that are more animal friendly than Christianity, like Hinduism and Buddhism, have a terrible record where animals are concerned." -Norm Phelps¹

Recently, there have been a number of excellent histories of the animal advocacy and/or vegetarianism movement that have filled significant gaps in knowledge, provided critical narratives to the stories told by those less-than-sympathetic or even hostile to these movements, and in cases such as Tristram Stuart's epic, *The Bloodless Revolution: A Cultural History of Vegetarianism from 1600 to Modern Times* (2007), have provided new perspectives from the animal and vegetarian standpoints that represent an important rethinking and revision of standard humanist histories -- as Stuart, for example, shows how key figures of the French Revolution had linked egalitarianism and vegetarianism in a radical holistic politics.²

Along with Diane Beers' recent work, *The Prevention of Cruelty* (2006), Norm Phelps' new book, *The Longest Struggle: Animal Advocacy from Pythagoras to PETA*, is an important history of the modern animal advocacy movement. Whereas Beers' book is largely a descriptive history, Phelps takes off the objectivist gloves to write a narrative that advocates the animal rights agenda. This is certainly a valid move, but -- like Lee Hall's execrable Stockholm-Syndrome-suffering attack on militant animal liberation in her self-published screed, *Capers in the Courtyard* (2007) -- Phelps advances an arbitrary and circumscribed notion of animal rights that quintessentially embodies the bourgeois, liberal, reformist, single-issue, state-based, legalist politics that *dominate* the thinking and tactics of the contemporary animal advocacy movement, whether welfarist, "new welfarist," or rights/abolitionist in theory and tactics.

Obediently, this approach eschews actions not pre-approved by the corporate-state complex and appropriates their hegemonic language to demonize those in the movement who chose tough direct action tactics and frequently stop animal exploiters where other more "civil" approaches

necessarily fail. Despite the fanfare of Gary Francione and followers who tout their abolitionist approach as radically different from welfarism, whether "old" or "new," the kissing-cousins welfare/rights/abolitionist orientations are more similar to than different from one another. One sees this in the shared vilification of militant direct action (e. g., Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty [SHAC] and the Animal Liberation Front [ALF]) and the uncritical belief that justice for animals can come from corporate-controlled capitalism, which begs the question whether the abolition of animal exploitation is possible without abolishing the omniscient capitalist system itself.

Phelps's fixation on reformist and legal strategies as the best or only path to animal liberation mires him in blatant inconsistencies and contradictions that betray conceptual foundations rooted in capitalist ideology and the psychological need structure of Christian/Gandhian dogma. Although these flaws seriously detract from the philosophical and political merit of the book, there is nonetheless much to gain from reading Phelps's comprehensive historical account of Western views toward animals.

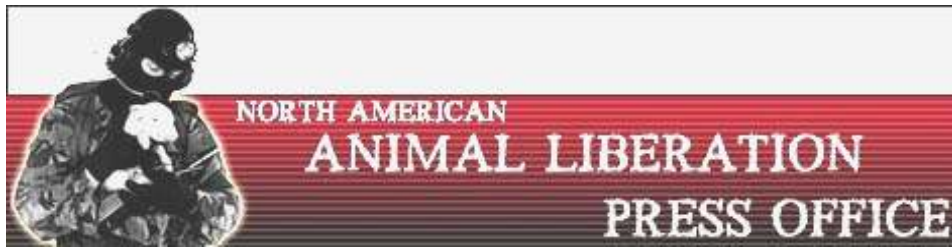
A Tale of Two Traditions

Phelps constructs a broad historical narrative that makes new and important sense of Western history from the perspective of animal advocacy and vegetarianism. By working from the animal and vegetarian standpoints, Phelps uncovers aspects of Western history that are as crucial to understand as they are systematically ignored. These standpoints shed invaluable light on the social and ecological crises of Western societies, the moral character of societies and individuals, and the deeply flawed attempts to a progressivist narrative of history from humanist principles that discount the effects of social development on animals and the earth as a whole. As typically conceived in its patently racist and Eurocentric form, this metanarrative charts the evolutionary movement from an early "savage" or "primitive" stage of culture to an advanced level of "civilization," such as culminates in the economic, scientific, and technological development of Western modernity.

Although Christianity abolished the pagan rituals of animal sacrifice and the atrocities of the Roman Coliseum, it helped legitimate and spread countless other forms of animal exploitation. While crucial in dismantling Christian rule, secular modernity, as developed through the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, and modern science, seemed to bear promise for a rational ethic of animal protection shorn of superstition and theology. Yet, aside from the progressive views of Leonardo da Vinci and occasional sympathetic remarks from figures such as Montaigne and Voltaire, Phelps maintains that modern cultures sought progress for humans only while ignoring the plight of animals. Indeed, beginning especially in the seventeenth century with the emergence of modern vivisection, this allegedly "enlightened" world proved itself more barbarous than any past culture as it reduced animals to nonsentient machines and tortured them mercilessly without anesthetic. The steady growth in vivisection meant a hellish suffering and death for millions of animals. Further scientific and technological advances in the twentieth century led to the industrialization of animal farming through factory farms and slaughterhouses, as well as to genetic engineering and cloning which even more invasive manipulation of animals' bodies.

A Critical Accounting

In *The Longest Struggle: Animal Advocacy from Pythagoras to PETA*, Phelps provides a lucid account of a complex history that leaves the reader with a clear sense of competing tendencies, such as between hierarchical and egalitarian traditions, as well as among welfare, rights, and direct action/liberation approaches. Adroitly, Phelps avoids the dangers of constructing a linear narrative, such as would result from a stage-theory of history that traced an alleged movement of increasing radicalism that unfolds in the transition from welfare to rights and liberation. He shows, for instance, how ancient Eastern cultures and early (pre-Socratic) Western cultures had more progressive views toward animals than subsequent Western societies, and he reveals how the much



The Longest Struggle (continued)

vaunted modern sciences and technologies, compared to the “Dark Ages” of medievalism, were utterly regressive from the standpoint of animals. Phelps separates what constitutes progress for humans and for animals, and “progress” typically involves a zero-sum game in which humans advance at the expense of the animals they enslave. Indeed, throughout Phelps’s book, there is a stirring emphasis on “human tyranny” rooted in the enslavement of animals. The book is a strong – and much deserved – indictment of the pretentiousness and hypocrisy of Western “civilization.”

Phelps and the Political Vacuum of Animal Rights

The social, political, and economic lacunae of Phelps’s analysis are no doubt related to his overall political views, which are reformist, pro-capitalist, and single-issue oriented. Phelps’s politics are muted in The Longest Struggle, but emerge more substantively in his 2007 interview Abolitionist Online. Here he muses on the proper relation between animal rights and human rights, between tactics appropriate to liberating animals and more radical strategies necessary for a larger social transformation that can dismantle forms of human oppression as well:

I think it would be a grave strategic error to tie animal liberation to the abolition of capitalism or any other more general restructuring of society. First, there are real and important gains for animals that can be made within the current social and economic structure, however unsatisfactory that structure may be on other grounds. To forego those gains by focusing on patriarchy and capitalism as opposed to focusing directly on animal oppression would, in effect, be condemning countless generations of animals to lifelong suffering and early death, at least some of which could have been alleviated.

Secondly, tying animal rights to a radical political agenda dealing with human issues, like socialism or anarchism, would convince the general public that animal advocates are a bunch of dangerous loony tunes, and set the animals’ cause back to where it was before Peter Singer wrote Animal Liberation. Animal rights is a hard enough sell without linking it to another cause that the overwhelming majority of the public is adamantly opposed to. The task of the animal rights movement is to persuade Middle America that animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on, or use in entertainment, and that animals are entitled to live their lives according to the dictates of their natures with as little interference from human beings as possible. We need to stay focused on that agenda.

Third, whenever animal issues are tied to human issues, the animals always come out losers because when the crunch comes, the human issues are given priority. When the human issue appears to come into conflict with the animals’ issue, the animals are abandoned. Something similar happened in the nineteenth century when abolitionists abandoned women’s suffrage. Up to and through the Civil War, the abolition and women’s movements had proceeded together. They had overlapping leadership, and advocates of one were typically advocates of the other. But during reconstruction, when a Constitutional Amendment was being drafted that would give former slaves the vote, feminists wanted female former slaves to be given the vote along with males. Afraid that this might endanger the amendment, abolitionists deserted women and opted for male-only suffrage. It was more than a half century before women of any color got the vote nationwide.³

Bourgeois Pride and Prejudice

As every history and narrative is partial and motivated, Phelps’s biases are clear. The book is heavily skewed toward a dogmatic embrace of peaceful, legal, “non-violent” forms of advocacy that have severe limitations. If such tactics were employed exclusively throughout the political battles for human rights during the last three centuries, this approach would have left many people still in chains and prisons. Without argument or cause, and sounding more like the reactionary corporate front group, the Center for Consumer Freedom (CCF) than a champion of animal rights, Phelps smears the ALF and SHAC as “reprehensible” (274) groups engaged in

nothing but “mischief-making” (276). Not content with this grotesque simplification of their theory and politics and distortion of their significance and accomplishments – the thousands of animals their militant tactics have freed, the scores of exploiters they have put out of business, and the countless more potential future speciesists they forced to rethink their career choice -- Phelps can only hurl the clichéd hysterical charge that direct action militants are “giving the animals’ enemies a weapon with which to destroy the entire animal rights movement” (276). It is precisely this line of thinking that motivates the top brass of HSUS to assail and demonize militant direct action. In one grotesque, McCarthyesque incident, HSUS executive Mike Markarian stated in the media that HSUS “applauds” the FBI witchhunt against “eco-terrorists” and hopes that they “go after” the radicals.⁴ In 2007, the FBI followed HSUS’ suggestion and arrested seven SHAC activists -- 6 of whom sit in jail as I write -- for the crime of running a website and an effective campaign against an unconscionable corporation that tortures and kills 500 animals a day.

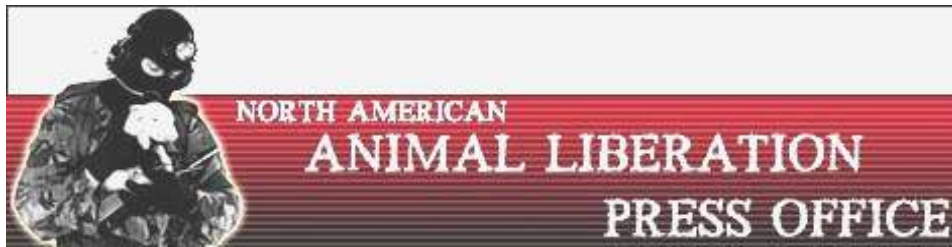
Phelps constantly criticizes the “species cant” that advanced thinkers like Bentham evinced in their inconsistent views on animals, such as defending their interests as sentient beings while also denigrating them in commonplace fashion for their alleged lack of reason or cognitive complexity. Yet, in the same way, Phelps advances strong insights and yet swallows the official party line against direct action peddled by corporate exploiters, state bureaucrats, the FBI, the CCF, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the HSUS Gestapo. Phelps carps against militant direction today in the same way that in the 1960s the NAACP chastised Martin Luther King Jr. as an “extremist” and urged he abandon his civil disobedience tactics and patiently “wait” for change.⁵

Like HSUS and much of the mainstream animal movement, Phelps uncritically accepts FBI, state, and corporate definitions of violence and terrorism which are then replicated in the critique of direct action, thereby condemning some of the most effective actions taken in the movement as “criminal” and “counter-productive.” Compounding the schizophrenic effect, Phelps attacks SHAC and the ALF but is entirely uncritical of Paul Watson’s own sabotage tactics, whether these involve sinking fishing vessels in a harbor, ramming pirate whalers to thwart their intent to murder whales, or ripping open a hole in the side of a whaler’s ship to disable it from its despicable task. I am certainly not criticizing Watson’s work, which I greatly admire, but rather pointing to another inconsistency whereby Phelps praises one form of property destruction but condemns another. Seemingly, Phelps is oscillating between two identities: a Dr. Jekyll who places trust in a death-dealing machinations of the corporate-state complex and the loving power of satyagraha (Gandhi’s “soul force”), and a Mr. Hyde who champions lawbreaking and sabotage if they advance the cause of animal liberation.

In another curious move, Phelps treats PETA with kid gloves despite their endless follies and demented policy of “euthanizing” thousands of cats and dogs, many perfectly adoptable. Needless to say, HSUS and other mainstream groups that have become part of the Beltway machinery are extolled effusively. Their path is portrayed as the one and only road forward, through the labyrinthine system of money and favors where citizen voices are drowned out by the cacophony of armies of lobbyists wielding bags of cash and exotic travel bookings. In corporate capitalism we trust.

Phelps blames militant direct action groups for driving a wedge within the movement, while ignoring the far more sectarian and divisive actions of groups such as the HSUS that leveled public critiques against the ALF and SHAC, that encourage the FBI to violate First Amendment rights to free speech, that cut and run from national conferences that allow a small handful of militants to speak, and that create their own conference settings that pander to the welfare crown and invite leaders of the meat industry to present their contemptible rationalizations of the mass murder of innocents.

So who really is driving a wedge into the animal protection movement? It is ironic that as Phelps levels misinformed accusations against direct action



The Longest Struggle (continued)

groups, he himself emerges as a factionist and divisive force. The truth is that the real wedge drivers are the mainstream welfare movements like HSUS and their supporters such as Phelps. I have never known anyone in the militant direct action camp to dogmatically insist that their approach is the one and only true one, and to not acknowledge the importance of many mainstream programs and actions. I also have never seen humility or understanding coming from mainstream figures in their view of direct action, as they and their organizations are fearful of serious struggle, of stepping outside their corporate-state imposed box, and of admitting that there are many effective ways of bringing about animal liberation. Phelps is flat wrong in his straw-man critique of the direct action advocates thinking that "violence" is the solution, as typically the radicals of the ALF, SHAC, and other groups advocate – and in their daily lives enact – a wide range of tactics that are necessary and helpful, including animal rescue and sanctuaries, public education, and vegan outreach.

Phelps represents yet another example of the inability of the mainstream movement to seriously engage direct action in its philosophical complexity and political efficacy. Instead, the pacifists of the mainstream rely on tired slogans and dogmas, dog-eared books of Gandhi and King, utopian concepts of human nature, and naïve views of the Machiavellian and nihilistic nature of the corporate-state complex and an ecocidal juggernaut of global capitalism that might just take us all down before we can bring about anything resembling animal rights. They typically see history only in pacifist terms, and thus uphold Gandhi and King as examples of the efficacy of non-violence, never mentioning the more militant and sometimes violent opposition forces also contributing factors to social change in India, the US, and elsewhere. Moreover, they tend to be ignorant of the history of social movements and the crucial role violence, force, and intimidation have played in bringing about progressive social and moral change. The corrective to wholesale consumption of Gandhi and King can be found in books such as Howard Zinn's, [A Peoples History of the United States](#) (which throughout emphasizes the crucial role sabotage and violence play in struggles for democracy); Ward Churchill's, [Pacifism as Pathology](#); and Peter Gelderloos's [How Nonviolence Protects the State](#).

If Phelps had not intruded simplistically and inconsistently into complex political debates, in order to score some rhetorical points and win favors from the mainstream potentates and disciples, his book would have been stronger and more satisfying. With the reader advised along these lines, [The Longest Struggle](#) nonetheless is valuable for uncovering the long, jagged, and varied history of animal advocacy and how egalitarian and vegetarian viewpoints thrived side-by-side with the dominant speciesist and carnivorous ideologies of Western societies. For a fuller social, political, and economic contextualization and interpretation of the history, nature, and significance of animal liberation, one must turn to other works, including those important volumes yet to be written.

¹ "The Dominion of Love: Animal Rights According to the Bible," Norm Phelps interviewed by Claudette Vaughan, *Abolitionist Online*, Issue 6, May 2007 (<http://www.abolitionist-online.com/06phelps.html>).

² On standpoint theory, see my review of Charles Patterson's book, *Eternal Treblinka*, in this issue, and also my forthcoming book, *Animal Liberation and Moral Progress: The Struggle for Future Evolution* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2008).

³ "The Dominion of Love: Animal Rights According to the Bible," Norm Phelps interviewed by Claudette Vaughan, *Abolitionist Online*, Issue 6, May 2007.

⁴ See Steven Best, "HSUS Crosses the Line," *North American Animal Liberation Press Office Newsletter*, Volume 1 Number 3, September 2005 (<http://www.animalliberationpressoffice.org/Newsletter/archives/sep2005/hsus.htm>).

⁵ See King's rebuttal to their self-serving conservatism in his classic 1963 essay in defense of direct action, "Letter from Birmingham Jail," widely anthologized or available online at sites such as: http://www.stanford.edu/group/King/popular_requests/frequentdocs/birmingham.pdf.

Press Officer Lindy Greene: Speech to DIY Conference January 2007

My name is Lindy Greene, and I'm one of the North American Animal Liberation Press Officers. I'm also an animal rights and anti-war activist. I will be 60 on my next birthday, so I guess I qualify as what the British refer to as a "granactivist." I thank you for the privilege of allowing me to speak before you today about the Press Office and what we do.

The North American Animal Liberation Press Office (NAALPO for short) is a legal, above-ground organization that receives, clarifies, and releases to the media the anonymous communiques sent by underground animal liberation activists who carry out illegal direct actions in defense of animals tortured and murdered by individual and corporate profiteers. The Press Officers do not, themselves, engage in illegal activities and do not know the identities of those who do. We rather serve as a voice for exploited animals and the activists who go to battle for them. I like to put it that we speak for those who can not - and for those who dare not.

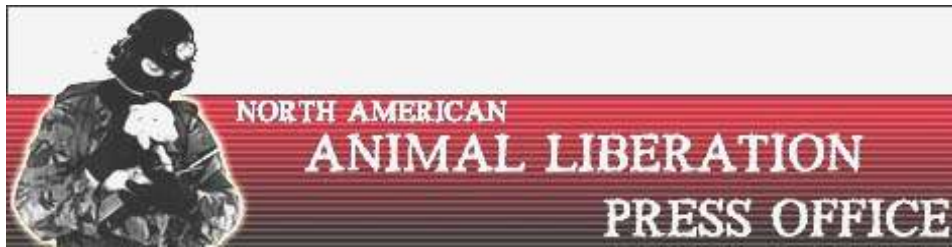
You may be familiar with the name "Animal Liberation Front," or ALF. Its actions typically involve liberations - like freeing mink from fur farms - or economic sabotage of personal and industry property. What motivates liberations is the desire to immediately remove animals from the clutches of those who brutalize them - while the purpose of economic sabotage is to reduce or prohibit monetary gain from the abuse of nonhumans. Underground direct actions often involve both, as when liberationists spring animals from a laboratory and - in order to delay or prevent its continued operation - simultaneously destroy records and equipment.

The Animal Liberation Front adheres to a strict guideline that no life, animal or human, be harmed during an action. Other groups - such as the Animal Rights Militia, the Justice Department, and the Revolutionary Cells - do not rule out violence as a legitimate and justified tactic in the conviction that species membership is not a valid criterion to place someone outside the circle of moral compassion and beyond the reach of effective defense. The Press Office does not pass judgment on the nature of the underground actions reported in the communiques it receives. Rather, we reserve our outrage for those who gain financially from the torment of other sentient beings.

The animal rights movement focuses on several issues. Some common ones are fur; vivisection (animal research); factory farming; circuses, rodeos, and hunting; the annual massacre of 350,000 newborn harp seals off Newfoundland; and the slaughter of tens of thousands of companion animals in the municipal shelters. Activism occurs basically at three levels: rescue/welfare, legal/above-ground, and illegal/underground. Let's look at how laboratory animal experimentation might be fought from the three different perspectives. A welfarist would petition for increased cage space. An animal rights activist would participate in public pickets to raise social awareness. An animal liberationist would break into the lab, re-home the animals, and smash the computers. Tactics or strategies can be passive (such as tabling or leafleting), militant (such as home demonstrations), or illegal (such as raids and property destruction). The Press Office believes that all styles working in concert represents the most effective approach.

Animal rights activists in Los Angeles are currently working on four campaigns. These are UCLA, POM, HLS, and the six City pounds (or, as we refer to them, "Death Camps"). UCLA addicts monkeys to crystal meth. POM severs the penile arteries of rabbits in order to make bogus claims that its pomegranate juice helps erectile dysfunction. HLS - or Huntingdon Life Sciences - is a product-testing lab that poisons to death 500 animals a day. And Los Angeles Animal Services slaughters 40,000 lost and homeless companion animals and wildlife every year.

Underground actions will often occur in tandem with above-ground campaigns - but the latter has no ability to predict or control such activity. It seems like the underground will give the above-ground some time to make



Lindy Greene DIY Speech (cont.)

inroads. If progress is negligible or slow, the underground may "step in." Several noisy - but legal - home demonstrations have recently been held in the neighborhoods of POM executives. After about 6 months of such protests, the Animal Rights Militia sent in a communique claiming that it had contaminated - apparently with some kind of mild gastrointestinal irritant - 487 bottles of POM juice in nutritional product stores along the Eastern seaboard. No one to date has come forward claiming digestive discomfort or distress after imbibing a POM product - but the action succeeded in drawing national attention to POM's grisly animal experiments and fictitious product health claims when the Press Officers were solicited for multiple media interviews. In typical fashion, POM - able with impunity to torture and murder animals and tout false product health benefits to consumers - wails interminably about being "harassed" by animal rights "radicals."

You've no doubt noticed the current political climate which actively marginalizes, demonizes, and criminalizes dissidence. The impediment for the government is the U.S. Constitution. That "pesky 'terrorist' document" is still in effect, though only barely so under a President defying it - and our supposedly legally binding international covenants - to commit genocide and torture. The authorities have had to find creative ways to get around the Bill of Rights in order to prosecute and punish animal rights activists. Suddenly, "demonstrating" has become "stalking," "harassing," or even "terrorizing." Organizing demos or posting "Action Alerts" (calls to protest) is "conspiracy." Rhetoric or chants that are admittedly "edgy" but technically protected speech are "threats." And while the courts may be ultimately forced to dismiss such trumped-up and spurious charges, such are still levied against activists in the interim in order to subject them to citations, civil suits, lengthy criminal justice proceedings, injunctions, arrests, incarcerations, grand jury subpoenas, and home raids.

In the latter, police and FBI appear at an activist's door with guns drawn and a search warrant for the premises. Officers and agents ransack drawers, shelves, cabinets, and closets hoping for "proof" of "ties to" or "participation in" illegal direct action. Animal rights literature; tee shirts, sweatshirts, and buttons saying "Support ALF"; placards and leaflets; and bandanas or balaclavas (masks) constitute "evidence" - at least of "sympathizing" (which we don't deny), if not a tangible liaison - with the underground. The real prize the authorities are after is personal computers - so that they can look into the address books to identify other activists and defrag the hard drives to retrieve e-mails. I have been the recipient of two home raids (and I know there will be more). Another Press Officer - and several local grassroots campaigners - have also been targeted.

The first time for me was 21 months ago. I was home and forced to remain seated on the couch under FBI guard. The second time occurred on this past Hallowe'en Day. I was at a legal demonstration at UCLA. Under the Patriot Act, however, law enforcement had the authority to break down my door and enter my apartment without my presence. Trick or Treat! It's the cops and the feds! If I'd known, I'd have done my weekly cleaning a couple of days early - so they wouldn't think me a slovenly housekeeper!

I actually believed (this is how naive I can still be, even after eighteen years in the animal rights movement) that I would not have another computer confiscated - because the FBI told me straight up after the first raid that they were en route to my Internet Services Provider with a warrant to read my e-mails. I figured they wouldn't bother to defrag another hard drive when they can snag my electronic communications right off Adelphia's servers! I'm told I'm a fairly good writer with an irrepressible sense of humor - so, I trust they're having a good time. I'll even provide the coffee and doughnuts! When they read my bushrants, I'll probably be placed on the no-fly list - or maybe even sent to Guantanamo Bay to be treated to some of those "alternative interrogation techniques." I now have a whole-disk encryption program installed on my computer. Is it because I have something to hide? Most emphatically not! It's pure revenge.

Los Angeles has been a hotbed of ALF activity, and law enforcement is

highly frustrated. Because they can't identify and catch members of the ALF, they are harassing above-ground activists. As one protester puts it, "As long as the heat is on the above-ground, the underground remains safe." While that heat is aggravating and inconvenient, we are not being tortured and murdered (well, not yet, anyway) like the animals. Our court cases do end, and we do get out of jail. For the animals, there is no "end" and no "getting out." Their only release is death. What's so laughable to seasoned above-ground activists is law enforcement's ingenuous fantasy that the underground would organize, announce, and stage public demonstrations at which it would be videotaped and identified - and then send out "demo wraps" of same to online list serves.

With all the heat on the above-ground, the consensus seems to be that it is now safer to fight underground! But the Press Officers and our local contingent of grassroots activists have already chosen public paths. It's too late to change course. We are all known on sight across several police jurisdictions and by the FBI and JTTF (Joint Terrorism Task Force). I joke about myself that I am the only 5'11" 60-year-old redhead protesting in Los Angeles. The authorities would nail me in a New York minute if I were to engage in illegal activity. We're all proud of and content with our roles demonstrating, writing, and speaking. The animal rights movement needs a public face. Mine is now lined and aging, but the animals don't care about that.

Sometimes people ask, "Why do you fight for animals when there are so many humans who are oppressed?" Well, we would - and do - fight for people, too. That question seems to imply, though, that animals are somehow less "worthy" of compassion and defense. Discrimination on the basis of species membership is called "speciesism." It is analogous to - and just as ugly as - sexism and racism. By dismissing animals from the social collective and excluding them from statutory protection, we condone their subjugation and tyrannization. We accept today - in theory, at least - that children are not here to serve adults, women are not here to serve men, and blacks are not here to serve whites. It is now incumbent upon us to analogize that animals are not here to serve humans - and to recognize that the capacity to suffer is not species-dependent.

There is so much injustice in the world today - and no one person or group has the time or resources to address every worthy cause in existence. We are consequently obligated by intrinsic and extrinsic constraints to "pick and choose our battles." The same forces oppress both humans and animals. We have a common enemy. If we would stand and work together in support and solidarity, we could increase our power exponentially.

Thank you again for listening. Please visit www.animalliberationpressoffice.org and come over to chat personally at the NAALPO table. We have a lot of interesting literature and would love to add you to our e-mail list to receive Press Releases. We'd also like to learn more about your causes and how we can assist. Be sure, also, to stop by the Animal Defense League Los Angeles (ADLLA) table if you'd like to become active in any of our local animal rights campaigns.

It was truly an honor to be here with you today.

The Trouble With Animal Models

Why did human trials fail?

By Andrea Gawrylewski

<http://www.the-scientist.com/article/home/53306/>

On October 26, 2006, at the opening day of the Joint World Congress for Stroke in Cape Town, South Africa, disappointing news spread quickly among the attendees: The second Phase III clinical trial for NXY-059 had failed. The drug, a free-radical spin trap agent for ischemic stroke, had been eagerly anticipated as a successful neuroprotective agent for stroke patients. As the drug developer, AstraZeneca, issued a press release reporting the news, e-mails circulated quickly within the stroke research community, many with the subject line, "Have you heard the bad



The Trouble With Animal Models (continued)

news?"

"We were optimistic that this would be the new stroke drug," says Marc Fisher, director of the stroke program at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, who was at the conference in Cape Town. "We were all talking about it. There were a lot of long faces that day."

To the dismay of clinicians and researchers of acute stroke, the compound showed limited efficacy in neuroprotection versus the placebo. Instead, NXY-059 joined the family of more than a dozen failed neuroprotective agents, including glutamate antagonists, calcium channel blockers, anti-inflammatory agents, GABA agonists, opioid antagonists, growth factors, and drugs of other mechanisms. All had reached Phase III clinical trials and failed miserably at doing what their animal model tests had suggested they would: stop the cascade of necrosis in the event of stroke, and protect the remaining viable brain cells.

That NXY-059 had fallen victim to the same fate was particularly disheartening to a stroke roundtable group that had, in 1999, directly addressed the disconnection between animal models for stroke and their counterpart human trials. The group had devised a set of guidelines whose aim was to standardize the path to stroke therapeutics. During its development, NXY-059 had been its poster child. "This drug was being hailed as the first one to follow the standards," says Sean Savitz, assistant professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School. "But it didn't do that."

"It was very disappointing to all of us to have it fail, and it totally failed," says Sid Gilman, director of the Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Research Center in the Department of Neurology at the University of Michigan, and one of the consultants for AstraZeneca on the Phase III clinical design.

If the outcome of the Stroke Acute Ischemic NXY Treatment (SAINT) trials was an anomaly, investigators might have just shrugged it off. But it's not: Nearly half of all molecular entities that come into development fail, according to Janet Woodcock, deputy commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. "There's no doubt about the absence of an effect [of NXY-059], and that called into question the many other studies in stroke, and how good are the animal models?" Says Gilman. "So many agents appeared to be effective in the animal model and failed in human trials."

Because of these failures, hundreds of millions of dollars, and a potential approach to stroke treatment, have disappeared down the drain. The failure of NXY-059 may have stalled the quest for a neuroprotective agent, at least for some time. "This trial has poisoned stroke studies," says Gilman. "I'm doubtful that investors will want to invest in clinical stroke trial[s] for a while." The fault, it appears, may rest in the slipshod use of animal models.

In 1998, Fisher flew from Boston to Germany to help a drug company, along with academics specializing in animal modeling, to examine two sets of clinical trial results for a new stroke treatment that had failed. They wanted to uncover where they had gone wrong. (Fisher declines to disclose the company and trials that were involved.) AstraZeneca also tested NXY-059 in the CHANT clinical trials to treat intracranial hemorrhage, but further development past the phase II trial was called after the failure of SAINT II.

On his return flight, it occurred to Fisher that the chaos the stroke research field had been facing for years might benefit from the kind of meeting he had just attended: industry and academia collaborating to develop standardized practices. The next year, Fisher convened the first Stroke Therapy Academic Industry Roundtable (STAIR) group that devised a set of recommendations for preclinical and clinical stroke drug development. On the preclinical side, some of the recommendations seemed obvious: The candidate drug should be evaluated in rodents and also higher animal species; blind testing should be performed; tests should be done in both sexes and in varying ages of animals; and all data, both positive and

negative, should be published.

Approximately 26 million animals are used for research each year in the United States and European Union, according to estimates by the Research Defense Society in the United Kingdom. However, the number of animal procedures has been reduced by half over the past 30 years, likely due to stricter controls, improvements in animal welfare, and scientific advances.

Still, unlike in human clinical trials, no best-practice standards exist for animal testing. STAIR is the stroke research community's attempt at standardization. NXY-059 was the first neuroprotective agent to be developed under the auspices of the STAIR guidelines, though the implementation of the guidelines may have been just lip service. In particular, as Savitz wrote in an article published online in *Experimental Neurology* in May, the preclinical testing had several holes, including statistical robustness and the way in which the results were translated into clinical design.¹

The main problems, Savitz writes, were randomization and bias. In the initial evaluation of NXY-059 in rat models of focal ischemia, reports didn't say whether researchers had been blinded with regard to drug administration, behavioral testing, and histologic analysis. The results from the rodent study were mixed, showing a range of reduction of cerebral infarction size over a variety of intervals. However positive the results might have been, Savitz notes, the clear lack of statistical robustness calls any result into question. A subsequent report on the effects of NXY-059 in a rabbit embolic model showed a 35% reduction in infarction after 48 hours, but it did not indicate whether statistical analysis, blind testing, physiologic measurements, blood flow monitoring, or behavior assessments had been done.

AstraZeneca maintains that the preclinical animal tests and the clinical phase of SAINT adhered to the STAIR guidelines: "The design of the SAINT trials was sound and well considered in light of the strong evidence for neuroprotection that existed across the models and species tested at the time," according to a statement sent to *The Scientist* in response to Savitz's paper. Gilman, also editor-in-chief of *Experimental Neurology*, says he is not aware of any official response being drafted or submitted by AstraZeneca. "So many agents appeared to be effective in the animal model and failed in human trials."

The statistical troubles that mired some of the NXY-059 preclinical trials are common in animal models. Surveys of papers based on animal models find errors in about half, according to Michael Festing, a recently retired laboratory animal scientist at the UK Medical Research Council and board member of the National Center for Three Rs (NC3Rs- replacement, refinement, and reduction), an organization that advocates using fewer animals in research and streamlining current animal tests. "Whether those are serious enough that the conclusions are invalid is debatable," Festing says.

Even the innumerable successful cases of animal experimentation that led to effective treatments for high blood pressure, asthma, transplant rejection, and the polio, diphtheria, and whooping cough vaccines were all carried out without standardized testing methods.

"People don't report if studies are randomized," says Ian Roberts, professor of epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. How animals are selected, or whether assessments were blind, are rarely included in the methods and thus create a potential for bias. "Imagine a cage of 20 rats, and you've got a treatment for some," explains Roberts. "So you stick your hand in a cage, and pull out a rat. The rats that are the most vigorous are hardest to catch, so when you pull out 10 rats, they're the sluggish ones, the tired ones, they're not the same as the ones still in the cage, and they're the control. Immediately there's a difference between the two groups."

The NC3Rs, in cooperation with the National Institutes of Health, is



The Trouble With Animal Models (continued)

surveying a group of 300 papers, half from the United Kingdom, half from the United States, for their statistical quality in mouse, rat, and primate model studies. Researchers hope that by fall they will have a report describing how well (or not) the studies were randomized and whether they used the correct statistical methods. In an initial pilot study of 12 papers conducted in 2001 for the Medical Research Council, Festing reported: In six of the papers the number of animals used wasn't clear; only two of the papers reported randomization; and only six of the papers specified the sex of the animals tested. (For more on how gender can influence results, see "Why Sex Matters".)

Statistics aren't the only problem. Methodology is arbitrary, replication is lacking, and negative results are often omitted. A report in *Academic Emergency Medicine* by Vik Beberta et al. in 2003 showed that animal experiments where randomization and blind testing are not reported are five times more likely to report positive results.² In a December 2006 paper in the *British Medical Journal*, Pablo Perel et al. showed that in six clinical trials for conditions including neonatal respiratory distress syndrome, hemorrhage, and osteoporosis, only three of the trials had corresponding animal studies that agreed with clinical results.³ The authors attribute this discrepancy to poor methodology (i.e., bias in the animal models) and the failure of the models to mimic the human disease condition.

The difficulties associated with using animal models for human disease result from the metabolic, anatomic, and cellular differences between humans and other creatures, but the problems go even deeper than that. When experimenting in animals researchers often use incorrect statistical methods, adopt an arbitrary methodology, and fail to publish negative results.

One of the major criticisms of the NXY-059 testing was the lack of correlation between how the effects of the drug were monitored in animals versus in humans. In the rodent model, researchers induced an ischemic event, administered the drug at various time intervals, and measured the size of the infarction. During the clinical trials, however, the drug's effect was evaluated in stroke patients using behavioral indicators such as the modified Rankin scale and NIH stroke severity (NIHSS) scale. In the primate tests the behavior assessments were based on a food-reward system, showing that NXY-059 did not improve left arm weakness in the aftermath of a stroke. "Even if we accept that NXY-059 does improve arm weakness," writes Savitz, "how would such a finding translate to human acute stroke studies that use the modified Rankin scale and NIHSS scores as primary outcome measures?" Indeed, some consider the two phases of testing, from animal to human, completely out of whack, and that only by statistical fluke was SAINT I, the first clinical trial, deemed a success.

Some say that animal research is best when targeted at specific mechanisms of action. "Animals are better used for understanding disease mechanism and potential new treatments, rather than predicting what will happen in humans," says Simon Festing, executive director of RDS (and son of Michael Festing). RDS is a UK organization that advocates the understanding of animal research in medicine. "The 2001 Nobel Prize in medicine involved sea urchins and yeast, organisms that evolved apart from humans by millions of years," says the younger Festing. "And yet, they are ideal models for studying cell divisions- research that is being used in cancer therapeutics in humans now."

For specific models of human disease, Simon Festing adds, the farther away from the human species the animal studies get, the less predictive the model will be. For example, researchers studying some conditions, including Parkinson disease, have established a clear animal model. The primate model displays symptoms similar to human symptoms, whereas a mouse model may not be able to show the distinct tremor in the limbs. While this difference in essence relates back to fundamental anatomic variation among the various species, finding the best model is inherently difficult. "The choice of animals is rather narrow,"

says Michael Festing. "There are 4,000 species of rodents, but we use only three or four of them. Then there's a shortage of anything that's not rodents, and in some cases we're restricted to dogs and cats- which are a problem from the ethical point of view - and primates, also a problem from the ethical point of view. So [choosing the right animal model is] sort of done by default: Eliminate the ones that are not suitable and choose from what's left."

Perhaps because of its abundance and short gestation, the mouse has become the flagship of animal testing, especially useful with genetic modifications, gene knockouts, and knockins. In 2003, NIH launched the Knockout Mouse Project (KOMP) and has awarded more than \$50 million with the goal of creating a library of mouse embryonic stem cells lines, each with one gene knocked out.

Nonetheless, even genetically manipulated mice have their problems. The current knockout mouse model for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) may be completely wrong, according to John Trojanowski at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He and colleagues recently showed that two versions of the disease, sporadic and hereditary, are biochemically distinct, and that a different mechanism controls the disease in each case.⁴ In hereditary ALS the disease is associated with a mutation (SOD-1), whereas the sporadic cases are associated with the TDP-43 protein. Until now, research has focused primarily on SOD-1 knockout mice, with virtually no success in human trials. The new findings relating to the TDP-43 protein suggest that the SOD-1 knockout model for ALS could be wrong. "There was this nagging doubt" about the validity of the current models, Trojanowski says. "And there may be a whole new pathology characteristic, so we need models based on TDP-43."

A recent study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology shows distinct differences between gene regulation in humans and mouse liver- particularly how the master regulatory proteins function.⁵ In a comparison of 4,000 genes in humans and mice, the researchers expected to see identical behavior- that is, the binding of transcription factors to the same sites in most pairs of homologous genes. However, they found that transcription factor binding sites differed between the species in 41% to 89% of the cases.

Many of the underlying limitations associated with mice models involve the inherent nature of animal testing. The laboratory environment can have a significant effect on test results, as stress is a common factor in caged life. Jeffrey Mogil, a psychology researcher at McGill University in Quebec, demonstrated last year that laboratory mice feel "sympathy pains" for their fellow labmates. In other words, seeing another mouse in distress elevates the amount of distress the onlooker displays. The average researcher, when testing for toxicity effects in mice for example, likely assumes that they are starting at a pain baseline, when in truth the surrounding environment is not benign and can significantly affect results, Mogil says. Choosing the right animal model is "sort of done by default: Eliminate the ones that are not suitable and choose from what's left." -Michael Festing

In new research, Mogil's group is demonstrating that the very presence of a lab researcher can alter behavior in mice. "The surprising thing is that these effects are visual, not auditory or olfactory," he says. "It's a huge surprise. Most people think [mice] are mostly blind anyway. I'm being convinced that the visual world of the mouse is a lot richer than expected."

Although the failure of NXY-059 may be one insult too many for clinicians and patients eagerly awaiting a neuroprotective agent, some experts feel that this hurdle is far from being the final chapter. Whether they blame weak animal test standardization, poor clinical design, or inadequate statistical analysis, questions often return to the NXY-059 itself as an indicator for the future of neuroprotection. "This drug is known to have antioxidant effects, but it was never shown what its mechanism was on the brain. Early studies were only hinting at possibilities," Savitz says.

In a field where much work is concentrating on nitro-based spin trap agents, NXY-059 became the parent compound. But it's clear that it wasn't the answer. "The drug probably isn't a good drug to begin with," says



The Trouble With Animal Models (continued)

Myron Ginsberg, professor of neurology and clinician at the University of Miami School of Medicine. Despite NYX-059's disappointing failure, other neuroprotective options are still in the pipeline. Ginsberg is in the early stages of working on albumin as a neuroprotective therapeutic, and researchers are also considering hypothermia as a way of preserving brain cells after ischemic stroke. "The fact that this drug failed, Ginsberg says, "doesn't say anything about the potential for neuroprotection [in the future]."

Better Lab Testing May End Use of Animals

Associated Press: June 12, 2007

WASHINGTON - Improved laboratory testing could speed the process of checking chemicals for toxicity and reduce reliance on test animals, according to an analysis released Tuesday.

The National Research Council said improvements in methods of testing cells and tissues could lead to fundamental changes in the way toxicity testing is done.

Using cells, preferably of human origin, lab tests could indicate potential danger to humans by observing the effect on those cells or cell lines of commercial pesticides and other chemicals.

Currently, chemicals are generally tested by giving them to animals in large doses. Humans are usually exposed to much lower doses, however, so the animal results are not always directly applicable.

Improved methods could accelerate process
And, the current system can be time consuming, while lab tests in calls can be done more quickly, according to the council, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences.

The study, requested by the Environmental Protection Agency, recommends looking into newly developed test methods focusing on cellular pathways that, when disturbed, tend to lead to illness.

So called "high-throughput assays" can test hundreds or thousands of chemicals over a wide range of concentrations determine the chemicals' effects.

While animal testing will still be needed, using new test methods could reduce the need for such tests and potentially eliminate it at some point, the report said.

However, substantial research will be needed to develop and prove the value of the new tests, the report noted.

The National Academy is a private institution chartered by Congress to advise the government on scientific matters.

When can we reasonably expect abolition?

Months not decades

Arkangel Magazine

How many times have you heard the line of compromise: "we look forward to a time when we have better methods, and animal tests can be abandoned"? It's a line they've been using to justify vivisection for decades. But this line isn't going to work anymore. The thinking behind it has the potential to start dismantling up the industry right now. Interested in making this happen? Read on.

There's a big gap between what can be proved, and what is generally known. Decades ago it was understood that animal tests were not the reliable pre-clinical test they were claimed to be. For most of the last

century good non animal methods existed. But the real change has been the last decade, when the use of technology has meant that the 'alternative' non-animal methods are so incisive and accurate that they are preferable to animal tests. That time - at which animal tests can be abandoned with no concern for the impact on science - is now.

Cell culture technology

In the year 2000 toxicology experts compared cell culture and animal data against human data in an international study. It was discovered that cell culture was much more predictive of human data than animal tests were. Since then, cell cultures have improved in accuracy. Several skin and eye models have evolved, which means product safety is more accurately assessed.

Finding useful drugs

Previous efforts to test cancer drugs for effectiveness used animals, which was admitted by all involved to be a disaster. It was believed to have missed useful drugs, and all drugs it did identify were useless or toxic. Now, the American National Cancer Institute maintains cultures of 60 different human cancers, and can screen thousands of drugs and plants a year against them. It's cheaper, quicker, and much more accurate.

Healthy Babies

While birth defect rates are rocketing, a review of animal tests for teratogenicity (the ability to cause birth defects) showed that they had been terrible: slightly more effective than pure guesswork. There's even a theory that any substance can be shown to a teratogen by animal tests, and there's no substance discovered which proves this wrong. Oxygen, essential vitamins, fruit juices and water have been 'proven' dangerous in animals, although safe in humans. Over 97% of substances identified as dangerous by animal tests are safe.

The alternative? The Embryonic Stem Test (EST). In cell culture, it's more accurate than a range of animal tests. The Micromas (MM) is similar and 100% effective in identifying strong teratogens. This whole area of vivisection could and should be abandoned now.

Computers

Given the rate at which computer technology is advancing, it's not surprising that amazing things can be done. Virtual hearts can be given virtual drugs and the effect on their rhythm and activity simulated accurately. Drug companies are taking this technology on readily. An entire virtual human has been in development recently, and versions are already available. Drugs can be tried on these flexible models, which give accurate results.

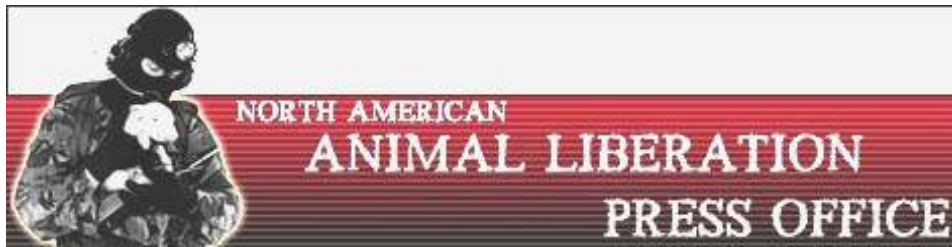
Microdose

Imaging technology was developed by brain researchers and enables great insight into what's going on in the body. It can even trace the effect and pathway of tiny doses of test drugs when they're given to a human. To evaluate the technique (known as 'microdose'), one millionth (0.0001%) of HIV drug AZT was given to patients. Conclusions were in detail, for example "between 30 and 45 minutes 0.09% of the oral dose resided in the white blood cells of the blood". They were also able to see how it entered the genetic material.

By comparison, animals metabolise drugs along different pathways, at different rates, and because their organs are different, the reactions are usually different. Through using computers, cell culture and microdosing, we can easily gain a better picture of a drug's safety, and can therefore abandon animal tests in this area too.

Protein analysis

Now it's understood that disease starts in the individual cells, which are



When can we reasonably expect abolition? (cont.)

different in all animals. It's increasingly clear that the individual proteins in the cell determine how illnesses develop. Proteomics analyses proteins and is cataloguing them. This area is already giving masses of information about individual illnesses.

The above techniques are only scratching the surface of the masses of technology which wasn't available before, but is now.

The point is that if we could only stop animal experiments when suitable replacement methods are available, that time is very clearly here.

But this comes at a time when animal tests are increasing. The UK Home Office has just lost a court case over its failure to regulate animal tests. Drug companies are still getting licences to use animal tests when alternative methods are not only available, but they are superior.

What are we going to do with this?

The gap between the general knowledge of this situation and the reality is massive. We need to bridge the gap. There's no easy answer, and new suggestions and methods are welcome. VIN has recently started a Newspaper Group to target national and regional press to help spread the truth. If you have ideas, please get in touch. If you'd like to help but are unsure about your own writing skills etc., you'll get help so get in touch.

VIN (Vivisection Information Network) exists to get the medical information better known, knowing that this evidence has the potential to bring vivisection to a stop - literally. If we're going to make this happen, the first question we need to ask is what each of us can individually do to spread this knowledge.

Vivisection Information Network. P O Box 223, Camberley, GU16 5ZU
vivisectionkills@hotmail.com



These fighting deadly diseases now find themselves under attack.

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UC Davis clears staff in deaths of monkeys Los Angeles Times- July 17, 2007

DAVIS, CALIF. — Researchers at UC Davis did not mistreat seven monkeys who died in their care after a building ventilation system malfunctioned, according to a report released Monday by the university.

The report dismissed allegations that had been raised last year by a former employee who said that researchers routinely abused monkeys at the university's primate research center.

In the report, campus investigators called the allegations "unfounded, out of context or too vague to be pursued properly."

"Our initial reaction to these claims was that they were baseless, but I nonetheless felt it appropriate to request an investigation," center director Dallas Hyde said in a statement.

Cheri Stevens, a former animal care technician at the California National Primate Research Center, said seven monkeys died in the summer of 2004 after the building's ventilation system failed.

She said officials did not respond to her requests that the monkeys be moved even though the room's temperature reached 115 degrees.

Stevens, speaking last fall at a news conference that had been convened by the activist group Stop Animal Exploitation Now!, also complained of routine mistreatment and starvation of the monkeys.

Michael Budkie, the executive director of the Ohio-based group, called the UC Davis report a whitewash and said that better national oversight of primate research was needed.

"To begin with, the people that are conducting this investigation are the very people who would be on some level at fault if there was any admission of impropriety," Budkie said.

The investigation was led by the university's attending veterinarian and members of the campus Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

The university paid a \$4,815 fine to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in December 2005 because of the deaths of the monkeys.

Animal Experiments Continue to Rise in UK

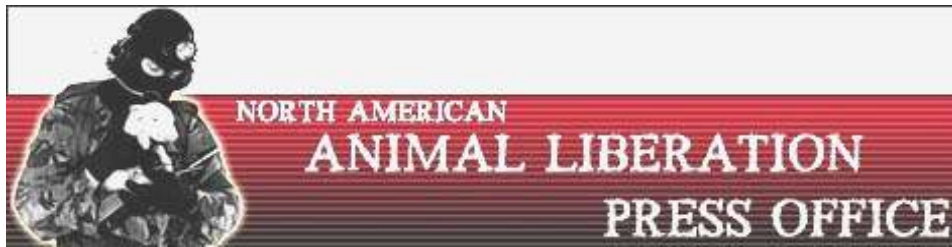
UK Government figures show rise to over 3 million scientific procedures on animals in 2006.

Latest Government figures for 2006 on animal research show a rise to 3.01 million of scientific procedures on animals in the UK, up 115,800 on 2005 or just under 10,000 a month. In addition the report showed that 133,800 more animals were used in experiments, representing a 5% increase on the previous year.

Jan Creamer, chief executive of the National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS) said: "The increase in the use of animals in research is out of step with public opinion in the UK and Europe today." A MORI Poll in February 2005 recorded that 81% of people agreed that there needs to be more research into alternatives to animal experimentation and 76% could only accept animal experimentation with no unnecessary suffering to animals.

A new poll released today by PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) also concurs with the findings of the 2005 MORI poll, showing that 80 percent of the GB public are in favour of some type of a ban on experiments which cause suffering to animals.

The public opinion poll conducted by YouGov also showed that forty-three per cent of respondents think the government should support a ban on



Animal Experiments Continue to Rise in UK (continued)

experiments causing any suffering to animals, and 34 per cent think the government should support a ban on experiments causing the most suffering to animals. The poll questioned adults on whether the government should support bans on such experiments in new legislation which is currently passing through the European Union. The Home Office figures show that a total of 2.94 million individual animals were used in 2006, an increase of 4.6 per cent since 2005. The number of experiments performed has broken the 3 million barrier for the first time since the early 1990s.

The poll, which was sponsored by PETA and conducted this July, also shows that more than half of respondents want the government to actively introduce a strategy to reduce animal experiments (51 per cent) and increase the allocation of funds for developing non-animal research methods (53 per cent). Animal experiments in the UK were reduced by half between the 1970s and 1997, but since 2000, numbers have been rising. Government expenditure on developing alternatives to animal experiments is currently estimated to be between £2 million and £10 million each year – a maximum of only 0.2 per cent of the government's total science budget of £5 billion.

Jan Creamer continued "It is outrageous that at a time when there are more non-animal methods of research available than ever before, the number of animal experiments in the UK continue to rise, and rise, and rise. The public has shown their distaste for genetically modified (GM) food and products and yet the use of GM animals has more than quadrupled since 1995, accounting for 37% of all procedures in 2006, up by 74,500. These increases are happening as results from animal research are increasingly shown to be unreliable, as well as being unethical and unnecessary."

BUAV Chief Executive Michelle Thew commented "'The Government's handling of the entire animal experiment licensing system is deeply flawed. The Home Office is this week charged in a Judicial Review at the High Court with ignoring its duty to ensure laboratory animal suffering is kept to a minimum and pulling the wool over the public's eyes about the numbers of experiments that cause substantial animal suffering in laboratories up and down the UK."

It's high time the Government woke up to public concern on this issue by demonstrating real political will to take steps to end the suffering caused by animal experiments in the UK. At the very least the public should expect is a long overdue open and honest public debate."

Academics now dominate animal experimentation - Universities carry out nearly half (45%) of procedures, with commercial interests such as drug companies, in second place carrying out 35% of procedures. This has been a dramatic shift in recent years. Previously the majority of animal experiments were conducted by drug companies.

Tests on macaque monkeys dropped by 12%, giving hope that the use of this species can be halted. The NAVS currently has a Written Declaration before the European Parliament calling for a phase out of primate tests, which has the backing of 296 MEPs.

2006 statistics on animal research - main points:

- The number of scientific procedures increased to just over 3.01 million 4% up on 2005 four times the increase from 2004-2005 which was 41,254 (1%). Up by 115,800 it represents just under 10,000 more animal tests a month.
- 133,800 more animals were used (5% increase) in 2006 in experiments in the UK
- The use of animals solely for procedures for breeding harmful mutant and genetically modified animals accounted for 1.1 million procedures (37%) in 2006, up 74,500 (7%) from 2005 as part of a continuing trend.

- Genetically modified (GM) were used in 1.04 million (34%) procedures in 2006, some 77,900 (8%) more than in 2005. The use of GM animals has more than quadrupled since 1995.

- About 698,400 (67%) GM animals were used to maintain breeding colonies, a similar proportion to last year. An additional 311,200 (30%) were used for fundamental biological research.

- Number of horses & other equids was 701 up from 294, an increase of 407 or 230%.

- Use of mice in experiments was up by 106,000 procedures, an increase of 5%.

- Genetically modified mice: 1,237,563 up from 1,147,000 an increase of 90,563

- Only 38% of procedures used anaesthesia - i.e. 1,866,200 procedures, 62% of procedures, did not use any anaesthesia.

- Although numbers of old world primates increased by 440 from 2004-2005, the increase in 2005 was marked at 11%. New world primate procedures stayed more or less level, down by only 13.

- Use of animals in Appendix 1 on the CITES list or in Annex C.1 to the Council Regulation (EEC) 3626/82 amounted to 84 procedures performed on animals in this category in 2006, all 'other' birds.

- Universities carry out nearly half (45%) of procedures with commercial interests in second place carrying out 35% of procedures.

US Food and Drug Administration figures show that 92 per cent of drugs which pass animal trials are found to be unsafe or ineffective in human trials and never reach the market. More than 10,000 people are killed every year in the UK by side effects of prescription medicines – now the fourth biggest killer in the Western world – which were approved after being tested on animals.

On Informants

By Zig-Zag

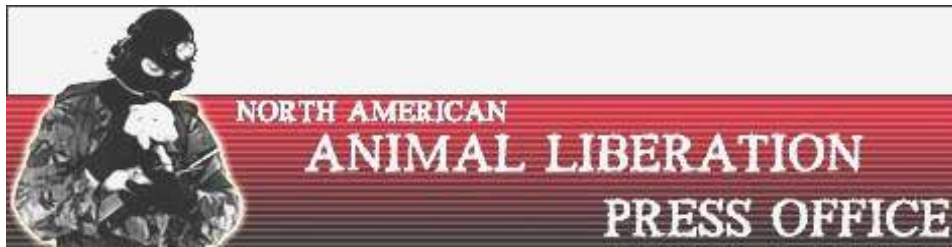
An excerpt from "A Report on the Case of Anna Mae Pictou Aquash, the Trial of Arlo Looking Cloud, John Graham, AIM, & FBI Counter-Insurgency"

Informants, collaborators, rats, snitches. These are ugly words with negative implications. Some people would rather not think about such 'unpleasant' things. Nevertheless, those engaged in resistance must understand the role and nature of informants & collaborators.

Informants are persons in a group, or associated with it, who give information to our enemy. They may be genuine members who turn against the group, or people who enter the group with the intent to gather information. The term informant is usually applied to civilians recruited or cultivated for this purpose (i.e., a cop who infiltrates a group is not an informant, he/she is a cop).

Collaborators are persons who work with or in some way assist our enemy. They may provide information, but may also take a more active role.

The most common method of recruiting informants is to find people with problems. These could be financial, drug addictions, legal charges & possible imprisonment, mental or emotional problems, etc. Also recruited are group members who are isolated or who feel betrayed by the group. All of these are potentially vulnerable to pressure.



On Informants (continued)

Money itself can be a motivating factor for someone to turn informant, and in many cases it is the primary motive for informants over extended periods of time.

Why are informants and collaborators so despised and shunned? Because they have violated a sacred trust and a principle. That principle is simple: do not betray others to our common enemy. By doing so, a person loses our trust. But these are philosophical matters.

In practice, informants & collaborators are dangerous because of the sensitive and intimate knowledge they may have of individuals and groups. This is why they are used by police agencies. The passing of such information to enemy forces can, and does, result in casualties. It is a common charge in both military and civilian legal codes, usually referred to as treason. It is most frequently punished with death.

It is also common for resistance movements engaged in combat to punish and execute informants and collaborators. Why? Because they contribute to casualties, repression, demoralization, and defeat. It may be an unpleasant part of conflict, but it is a reality that cannot be ignored. A movement which does not defend itself is doomed to defeat.

- In the Aquash case, it has been asserted that even if Aquash was an informant & was therefore killed by AIM, this is inherently wrong and therefore the shooter(s) must be punished. In principle, is the execution of a woman, believed to be an informant, an acceptable practice?

If we agree that under conditions of war, collaborators are in fact executed in order to defend the group & individuals, then we must accept this irregardless of whether or not that person is a man or a woman. The act of collaborating does not distinguish itself based on one's sexuality.

Therefore, the claim that Anna Mae's death is inexcusable because she was a woman, "informer or not," is not correct in either principle or in practice.

There are many important lessons to be drawn from the case of Anna Mae Pictou Aquash, who died either as a direct, or indirect, result of FBI counter-insurgency operations against AIM. These lessons include the following:

- Our enemy is armed and dangerous, and actively works to destroy our movements using whatever means necessary.

- Collaborators & informants lead to casualties, demoralization, and eventually defeat. These activities must be discouraged & seen as Unacceptable for members of our movement to engage in.

Direct Action Since Our Last Newsletter

Activists Shrug Off New Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act

Many more anonymous communiques have been received by the North American Animal Liberation Press Office in the last few weeks, including those signaling support for jailed animal liberation prisoners. Below are selected excerpts from the messages received :

July 5, 2007

Several ALF members spraypainted the home of Ellyn Brown, who sits on the board of the NYSE, with slogans that read, "NYSE Puppy Killers" and "Drop HLS" Just days later, a banner was dropped across her front gate that read, "Drop HLS from NYSE for Good"

July 8, 2007

According to media reports, seven restaurants that serve foie gras and/or veal were vandalized in Austin, Texas late on July 2. Slogans were spray-painted on the following restaurants: Aquarelle, Eddie V's Edgewater Grille, Fleming's, Restaurant Jezebel, Ruth's Chris Steak House, the Spaghetti Warehouse and Truluck's.

July 29, 2007

An interesting package was mailed to the home of Arthur Rosenbaum at 465 Loring Avenue, Los Angeles. Arthur is a sick and twisted animal torturer and murderer involved in the primate vivisection program at UCLA. Be careful Arthur. We are only just getting started. This action is a mere token when compared to the other things that we can and will do. Your address and your phone numbers are out along with your dirty and disgusting secrets and you will be feeling even more pressure. You have one choice. Stop vivisecting!

August 2, 2007

Recently, Eliot Spindel, vivisector at the Oregon National Primate Research Center earned a visit from the vegan vigilantes called the ALF. His mansion at 5899 Sunbrook Drive in Lake Oswego Oregon, was given a makeover.

Eliot was awarded this privilege because his crimes against nature are particularly vile. Eliot's research involves addicting pregnant monkeys to Nicotine and killing their newborn babies at regular intervals to test what has been known for decades that smoking causes birth defects. It's time for Eliot's blatant abuse of primates to end.

Our message to Eliot is simple: Quit the torture industry and issue an apology or we swear we will make an example out of you. Tonight you got your home and car fucked up with chemicals and spray paint, but what's going to be next, Eliot, spray paint, broken windows or fire bombs?

Look out behind you, Eliot. We have thousands of supporters and more every day. Whatever they pay you in one year, we promise we can match in damage in one night. We are everywhere, love and inspiration: ALF

August 8, 2007

On the night of August 5, the ALF commenced Operation White Marlin. The White Marlin Open is the biggest sport fishing tournament in the world. Killers from all over the world competed to slaughter the lives of our brothers and sisters.

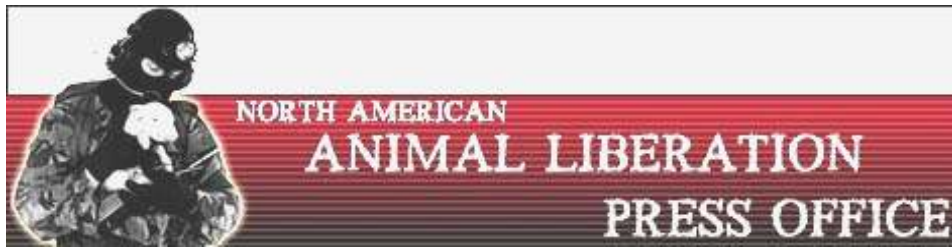
Ex-military members of the Animal Liberation Front donned scuba gear and tactical equipment and took to the sea. 8 boats were permanently disengaged and disabled with their props welded and holes cut in the hauls allowing them to fill with water. Unfortunately there were 400 boats involved in the slaughter. 8 will never be used again. By Wednesday night the marina was heavily patrolled by coast guard and security and they attempted to divert boats to other marinas. Little did they know the ALF was in the water beneath them tracking the boats with their middle fingers extended. Thanks to the complicity of slactavists in the area the tournament continued but with fewer boats. Below is the slaughters names, boats and docking areas. We urge activists to take appropriate measures. Till Every Life Is Respected -ALF

August 15, 2007

According to media reports, as many as 500 mink were released from their cages at Berkshire Furs, in Hinsdale, Massachusetts, early in the morning of August 14. A police officer told local media, "Whoever did it had a plan. They knew what they were doing and knew what they wanted to do. They went in and cut the fence. They had it well planned." A member of the Carmel family who operate the farm described the impact of the raid as "devastating." Losses were estimated to be \$100,000.

August 30, 2007

Svolvaer, Lofoten Islands, Norway: On the night of august 30th we decided to celebrate the end of commercial whaling in Iceland by removing a large section of cooling pipe in the engine room of the norwegian whaler "Willassen Senior". After ensuring that the vessel was unoccupied the salt water intake valve was opened unleashing a torrent of water into the heart of the killer ship that two years earlier took 14 minutes to brutally murder a threatened minke whale. The sinking of the whaler and the silencing of its deadly harpoon is dedicated to the memory of the yangtze river dolphin who because of humankind's greed will never again grace the waters of



Direct Action (cont.)

our blue planet. The turn of our wrenches is a rational response to a world where tens of thousands of species disappear every year.

- Agenda 21

September 10, 2007

Under the light of the moon on the morning of September second an office building owned by Farajollah Mahjoor the owner of Phenomenex was redecorated by the Animal Liberation Front. This property at 180 La Pata in San Clemente California was purchased with money soaked in the blood of tortured animals inside Huntingdon Life Sciences. Phenomenex is a key supplier to HLS and is directly responsible for the five hundred innocent animals who are vivisected and murdered on a daily basis inside their labs.

The front walk was stained blood red and twenty windows were destroyed by etching fluid and notes painted reading "We found you." That's right Farajollah we found you. You tried to hide the purchase of this property but we found it. You can't hide. Have fun replacing those windows and hang on to the glass company's phone number... you're going to need it.

It is our understanding that there have been many visits to your home and the homes of your family by committed and brave activists. We commend those activists and say to them "Keep it up." But Farajollah you have failed to listen and failed to make sound compassionate choices. Because of this we are on you now. We are the ALF and you are on our agenda now. Expect more. Expect worse. We will be passing thru your area again in the future. Drop HLS before then if you are smart. With reliable and humane options in existence to vivisection your continued support for HLS proves your vile greed. The murder and torment of beagle puppies that you support is dispicable and we have no issues with serving you true justice. Drop HLS! -ALF

September 17, 2007

According to media reports, as many as 6,000 mink were released from cages early Saturday at a fur farm near Harcourt, a town on the east coast of Newfoundland.

The Harcourt Mink Farm (located 1 kilometre east of Ryders Brook Bridge, off of Route 232, on Trinity Bay) is owned by Jorn Mogensen, a Danish mink farmer who operates several fur farms and related businesses in the area.

September 26, 2007

A bmw auto and an S.U.V. owned by Paul Moravek of 1613 Tyler Drive in Fullerton California will be needing new paint jobs after tonight, the night of Sunday Sept 23 2007. Paul will also notice his driveway flowing blood red, with the pristine white cement thoroughly stained.

Paul Moravek is V.P. of Moravek Biochemicals, a company in the practice of producing and selling hazardous and radioactive substances. As if this isn't moral violation enough, Moravek INC. is in the habit of supplying their toxic and deadly wares to H.L.S. where they are used to induce untold pain and disease upon hundreds of animals on a daily basis. H.L.S. conducts fraudulent science and tortures and murders without conscience.

For your support of H.L.S. Moravek, you were rewarded with a visit from the animal liberation front. Next time you cash an H.L.S. check remember that your gated neighborhood isn't very secure. Remember that we stood in your driveway and watched the flickering blue light from your t.v. Remember that we are capable of doing so much more. Tonight we used restraint that we are not convinced you deserve. Drop H.L.S. or there will be a next time. -ALF

September 26, 2007

"IN MEXICO WE ALSO FIGHT!

On October 1, a pet store was attacked, padlocks hit, paint-filled light bulbs thrown and a letter was left in the building, explaining the reason for the action and that if the captivity of animals continues, they would suffer the consequences. The F.L.A has arrived!"

Original Spanish communique:

"EN MEXICO TAMBIEN LUCHAMOS! el pasado 1 de Octubre se escucho el grito de Liberacion Animal en Mexico, se ataco una tienda de mascotas, se cellaron los candados, se hicieron pintas, se lanzaron bombillas de pintura y se dejo una carta en el inmueble, explicando la razon de la accion y que si seguian con el cautiverio animal, se ateneran a las consecuencias. ¡arriva el F.L.A! ¡MUERAN LOS GOBIERNOS QUE SOLAPAN A SESINOS!"

October 25, 2007

WATERFRONT PROPERTY IN BEVERLY HILLS FOR SALE! Edythe London, your job as administrator of the UCLA center that addicts primates to methamphetamines is dispicable. You appear to make all of the sick perverted vivisectors who addict primates to meth possible. Have you ever even witnessed the innocent monkeys that your mad scientists have addicted to methamphetamines as they convulse throughtout excrutiating withdrawl symptoms?

You may have the privilege of coordinating all of this pain and suffering from a slight distance, but as people who act out of conscience we will not allow you to simply lurk in the shawdows of UCLA's labs of torture. You are now in the spotlight of justice. Your address at 1249 Shadybrook Drive in Beverly Hills is now publicized for all to see. Until we see the end of primate vivisection at UCLA we will remind you of our presence. Push them to stop Edythe or we keep pushing. We never back down. We always win.

Here's how we get started. We found your million dollar house in Beverly Hills on the windy night of Saturday October 20, we discovered you weren't home so we snuck around to your backyard. First we effectively clogged the intake drain of your pool pump. It probably ran dry for a couple of hours and burned itself out. If it didn't happen, wait for it. It will. Next we smashed a window and inserted your garden hose, turned on to full blast of course. Bet you were surprized when you came home. Edythe do you have flood insurance?

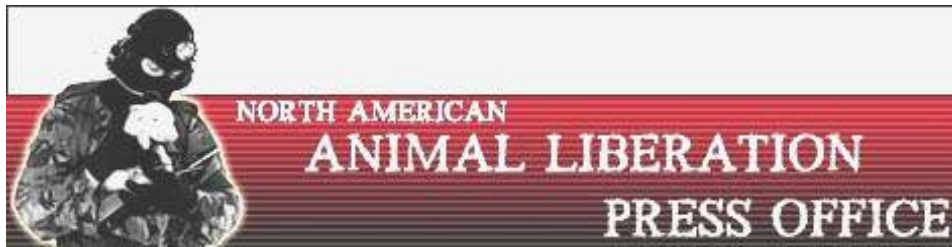
One more thing Edythe, water was our second choice, fire was our first. We compromised because we in the ALF don't risk harming animals human and non human and we don't risk starting brush fires. It would have been just as easy to burn your house down Edythe. As you slosh around your flooded house consider yourself fortunate this time. We will not stop until UCLA discontinues its primate vivisection programe. We are the ALF

November 1, 2007

On the night of Thursday November 1st, the Animal Liberation Front entered a shed at Shepherd's Egg Farm near Spanish Fork, Utah to liberate as many hens as possible from this living hell.

In this single shed out of several, we saw literally tens of thousands of hens suffering in conditions even worse than we imagined. Words cannot sufficiently capture this nightmare. They were so crowded in battery cages they could hardly move at all, let alone spread their wings. They all had significant feather loss from struggling to get through the wire cages to escape for their lives. Many birds had their heads or wings stuck in the wires of their cages, and were left to die because they could not reach any food or water. Their beaks had been mutilated by factory workers. Everyday they must breathe in the overwhelming and disgusting stench from the mountains of manure below their cages. It should be no surprise that none of these birds receive one bit of veterinary care for their numerous injuries and diseases. There was a hole in the floor of the farm for workers to throw dead birds into a garbage can below (see footage). While the view inside Shepherd's Eggs was gruesome, it is in no way unique. These cruelties can be found in all modern egg farms, including so-called "free range" facilities.

We moved quickly to remove as many birds as we could. We knew that Shepherd's Eggs cared so little about their birds that they would likely not



Direct Action (cont.)

even notice that they were gone. We took one or two from each cage, so the remaining chickens would have a little more room. The exploiters will try to scare consumers out of supporting this liberation by saying we increased a risk of some sort of biological contamination. This is a lie. We took every possible precaution to ensure we wouldn't harm the hens or ourselves, including being covered head to toe with all of the necessary bio-safety gear.

Altogether we rescued 102 hens. All hens received veterinary care and were placed in loving homes. They ran around their new homes with joy, appreciative of their first experience of freedom. None were released into the wild. In their new homes they all have access to the outdoors. They can all breathe in fresh air. They are able to dust bathe and scratch the soil, instead of metal wires. They will all live out their full lifespan here instead of being killed when no longer profitable. In other words, these chickens can finally live like chickens.

All sentient animals, like these chickens, will always suffer as long as they are seen as nothing more than objects whose exploitation leads to increased profits and cheaper food. The only solution is to simply stop buying eggs and other animal products. Less than 1% of the hens at Shepherd's Eggs could be rescued today. It's up to consumers to save the other 99%.

Until consumers become responsible and stop paying the exploiters, you can count on the ALF to continue hurting their profits directly through property destruction and other forms of economic sabotage. Around the world the ALF is making progress and saving lives. This action is dedicated to all animal liberation prisoners including Barry Horne. Barry died six years ago today on a hunger strike. He would still be alive today if it wasn't for the stubborn cruelty of humanity. We will never forget Barry and we will never forgive the exploiters. -A.L.F.

November 9, 2007

To honor the SHAC Saturday, 10 November National March and Rally, Wachovia Bank, the second largest owner of Huntingdon Life Sciences shares, was targeted on the corner of El Toro Road and Paseo de Valencia in Laguna Woods, California.

Wachovia Bank, you may see torturing animals and fraudulent science as a sound investment. So we see you as one of our newest enemies. We dropped a small incendiary device into the after-hours deposit queue of your Laguna Woods branch last night. You will see more. Sell your shares in HLS.

Every single branch has one of these queues. It will be a large metal drawer next to the automated teller walk-up. Come on, activists! Leave off being bullied by police at demonstrations and give the abusers what they really deserve. -ALF

November 9, 2007

The entry gate to the walk up teller at a Wachovia satellite office in downtown LA was made inoperable by jamming super glue into the card access slot. A small sign reading "Wachovia tortures animals. Drop HLS assholes" was also affixed with super glue along with some other graffiti. Wachovia drop HLS or else this will not end. -ALF

November 16, 2007

On November 16, 2007 ALF visited a butcher shop in Queens, New York and spray painted 'MEAT=MURDER, SHUT DOWN OR DIE' across the wall. If this butcher shop does not follow the immediate request, a much more punishing action will be dealt against these scum. Making profit at the animals' expense is a filthy ritual. We will be back! Just know what to expect next time. Will it be a broken window? An arson attack? -ALF.



From Dusk 'Til Dawn,

a book written by former ALF member Keith Mann, is now being distributed by The North American Animal Liberation Press Office. Keith wrote this monumental book over the past fifteen years, much of it while serving time in prison, or while on the run after his escape from prison.

From Dusk 'Til Dawn is truly an "Insiders View of the Growth of the Animal Liberation Movement", and has been given rave reviews by Morrissey as well as John Feldman of Goldfinger and Ingrid Newkirk. The novel would be a GREAT X-MAS gift to anyone who cares about the struggle for Animal Liberation. Even though the book is over 600 pages, it's a fast-paced and exciting read.

Though NAALPO supports the ideology of liberation groups who go beyond the non-violence of the Animal Liberation Front, we believe this book to be a necessary read for anyone who is interested in not only the ALF but in all others struggling for animal liberation.

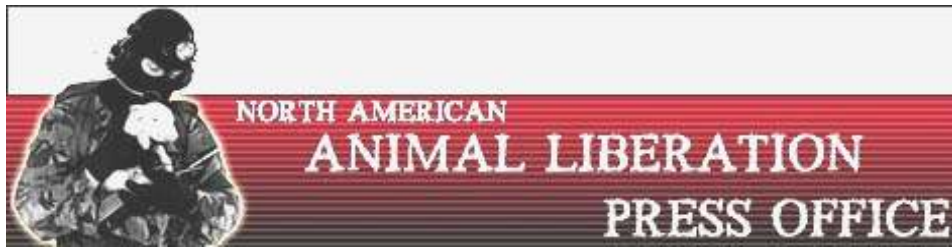
Whether or not you support the ALF, after reading this book you will have a much better understanding as to why and how these brave individuals are willing to risk their lives and freedom to engage in direct action on behalf of non-human animals being oppressed, exploited, tortured and killed by humans for their own greed and satisfaction. For more information on the book, go to:

http://www.animalliberationpressoffice.org/Merchandise/Mann_From%20Dusk%20til%20Dawn.html

The book is \$38.00 US, plus \$5.00 shipping cost, the lowest possible price and a huge savings in postage compared to ordering from the UK directly. The Press Office will make sure Keith receives every dollar spent on the book, and is helping subsidize shipping costs to US buyers.

Send us your order by email to press@animalliberationpressoffice.org, making sure to include a complete address; you can pay us directly using a credit card via PayPal (send funds to naalpo@yahoo.ca), or send check, cash or money order to:

NAALPO
6320 Canoga Avenue Suite #1500
Woodland Hills, CA 91367



Prisoners Update

" If they haven't got prisoners, we have stopped fighting. If our prisoners are forgotten about, they have beaten us ."
-Keith Mann, ALF activist and former prisoner

**Jonathan Paul #07167-085
 FCI Phoenix
 Federal Correctional Institution
 37910 N 45th Ave.
 Phoenix, AZ 85086**

Jonathan was jailed October 31, 2007 after sentencing in August 2007 to 4 years and 3 months imprisonment for role in 1997 fire that destroyed the Cavel West horsemeat packing plant in Redmond, Oregon.

**Daniel McGowan #63794-053
 MDC Brooklyn
 Metropolitan Detention Center
 P.O. Box 329002
 Brooklyn, NY 11232**

Daniel McGowan is an environmental and social justice activist from New York City. He was charged in federal court on counts of arson, property destruction and conspiracy, all relating to two actions in Oregon in 2001. Daniel was sentenced to 7 years in prison on June 4, 2007.

**Jeffrey "Free" Luers # 1306729
 Lane County Adult Corrections
 101 West 5th Ave
 Eugene, OR 97401-2695**

In June 2001, 23 year-old forest defense activist Jeffrey "Free" Luers was sentenced to 22 years and 8 months in prison for the burning of three Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV's) in Eugene, Oregon. To make a statement about global warming, Jeff and his codefendant, Craig 'Crittter' Marshall, set fire to 3 Sport Utility Vehicles at a Eugene car dealership. Pending re-sentencing!

**Joyanna Zacher #703794
 Multnomah County Iverness Jail
 11540 NE Iverness Drive
 Portland, OR 97220**

**NATHAN BLOCK #36359-086
 Sheridan Federal Detention Center
 P.O. BOX 6000
 Sheridan, OR 97378-6000**

Connection to the Jefferson Poplar Farm fire which occurred in 2001 in Clatskanie, Oregon.

**Justin Uribe #T-29257
 C-5/236 up
 Pleasant Valley State Prison
 PO Box 8503
 Coalinga, CA 93210**

Serving the final years of a 6-year term for arson. These actions were not animal or environmentally motivated, but Justin is an avowed animal liberationist, scheduled for release within a year.

The SHAC 7 are six individuals--Lauren Gazzola, Kevin Kjonaas, Jake Conroy, Josh Harper, Andrew Stepanian, and Darius Fullmer--and the organization Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (USA). They are all serving lengthy prison sentences for simply speaking out! They were found guilty on all charges on March 2nd, and are were sentenced on September 12th in Trenton, NJ. They received the following sentences:

JACOB CONROY- 48 months
 # 93501-011
 FCI VICTORVILLE MEDIUM I
 FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
 P.O. BOX 5300
 ADELANTO, CA 92301

DARIUS FULLMER- Released!

LAUREN GAZZOLA- 52 months
 # 93497-011
 FCI DANBURY
 FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
 ROUTE #37
 DANBURY, CT 06811

JOSHUA HARPER- 36 months
 # 29429-086
 FCI SHERIDAN
 FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
 P.O. BOX 5000
 SHERIDAN, OR 97378

KEVIN KJONAAS- 72 months
 # 93502-011
 FCI SANDSTONE
 P.O. BOX 1000
 SANDSTONE, MN 55072

ANDREW STEPANIAN - 36 months
 # 26399-050
 FCI BUTNER MEDIUM II
 FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
 P.O. BOX 1500
 BUTNER, NC 27509

**Chris McIntosh #30512-013
 USP Hazelton PO Box 2000
 Bruceton Mills, WV 26525**

Chris is currently in his 3rd year of an 8 year sentence for arson at a McDonalds in Seattle.

**Eric McDavid X-2972521 4E 231A
 Sacramento County Main Jail
 651 "I" Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814**

Conspiracy to destroy property by means of fire or explosives, facing up to 20 years imprisonment. Lauren Weiner and Zach Jensen, Eric's two co-defendants, are cooperating witnesses against Eric.

Things to remember when writing to prisoners:

1. Don't discuss any illegal activity (ALL mail is read by prison officials).
2. Each prison has its own mail restrictions.
3. Do not put any stickers inside or outside the card/letter (including Air Mail/Par Avion stickers, if writing from overseas)
4. Do not include any paperclips, staples or anything extra in your letter.
5. Write your address on the envelope AND inside the letter, since prisoners often are not given the envelope.
6. Do not send money to the prison address (please contact activist's support groups to financially support prisoners).
7. Prisoners appreciate books, but they must be paperback, and must ship directly from the publisher or from online retailers like Amazon.com.
8. Your letters are appreciated , even if you don't receive a response (prisoners are only allowed a limited amount of paper, envelopes and stamps, making it difficult to respond to every letter).