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through

# The Viva Vine



The newsletter of The VivaVeggie Society  
Subscription for one year is \$10 in U.S.

AN INOCULATION OF DEATH VIA NAFTA & GATT

## Pace Picks Up on Export of American Diet

by Pamela and Alan Rice

THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. MEAT EXPORT Federation Philip Seng declared recently that the livestock meat sectors "are stepping into a new era in foreign trade." The completion of the General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade (GATT) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) means there will be "new rules but more opportunities than ever before for meat trading."

John W. Nutt, president of the Arkansas-based J.W. Nutt Co., said at a conference sponsored by the National Grain & Feed Association late last year that with its exploding population and rapid economic

growth, Asia appears to be the next great venue for the booming U.S. poultry industry. "The potential is literally enormous," he said. "Internal expansion has been immense with vast spin-off benefits for providers of grain and feed."

In mid April, Bloomberg news service reported that a U.S. agricultural attaché based in Beijing forecast that China will need to continue importing significant quantities of corn and other grains in 1995 to meet demands of an expanding middle class. China's rapidly expanding livestock feed sector is "soaking up the

country's exportable surplus of corn and other feed grains," he said.

On March 10, the USDA reported that "last year

was a very good year for meat exports with beef, pork, broilers and turkeys showing increases of 26%, 22%, 46% and 16%, respectively."

Also, according to the USDA on February 23, "U.S. beef exports over the next 10 years are forecast to increase by 52%." The USDA's long term Commodity Baseline Projections, released at its annual Outlook Conference, said U.S. beef exports to all markets are expected to increase substantially as improved living standards and rising incomes in Asia, South America, and Eastern Europe increase demand."

This past March, the USDA released its complete forecast for the American livestock, dairy and poultry industries' 1995 production. Each American will, on average, consume 68.5 lbs. of beef, 53.8 lbs. of pork, 73.4 lbs. of chicken and 18.8 lbs. of turkey. This totals 218.3 lbs., or 9.6 ounces of flesh food per day. In addition, the average American will eat 240

chicken eggs in 1995.

... And what if this level of consumption is adopted around the world?

As noted in this issue's "Grapevine" (p. 2), scientists recently predicted that the depletion of natural resources will force people to eat a more plant based diet. Today, meat production is already petroleum intensive. With increased exports, transport of tons of grain and meat halfway around the world will use even more oil.

Ironically, it was in China where a massive epidemiological study was conducted. Known as "The China Study," it found, in 1989, that rural Chinese who ate virtually no meat products did not suffer the terminal and debilitating diseases of the average American with his meat-based diet. When meat goes overseas, ill-health will surely follow.

Willard R. Sparks, chairman of Sparks Commodities in Tennessee, was recently quoted to say, "Foreign buyers can purchase some U.S. meat and meat by-products for less money than they can produce them in their own country." Besides a weak U.S. dollar which lowers the price to foreign importers, "U.S. meat producers are very efficient" he explained.

Readers of *The VivaVine* can read between the lines, here, regarding "efficiency." With no laws today to protect animals used for food in the U.S., efficiency means death-camp conditions for the animals. Workers, too, have little protection either.

The business press and government statistics are telling us that the U.S. is exporting a commodity... In reality we're exporting a lifestyle with all the environmental devastation, health impairment, animal cruelty and worker injustice associated with it.

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Taking The Great American  
Meat-out to the streets

photo by David Ben-Ami

In mid February, *The New York Times* reported that a panel of experts predicted — at the then-meeting American Association for the Advancement of Science — that “energy shortages, exhausted land, scarce water and a doubling in population will combine to radically change the American diet by the year 2050, with less meat and dairy products, more grains and beans, and a sparser variety of vegetables.”

*VivaVine* consulting editor Henry Spira lost no time taking them one step further with a published letter to the *Times* editors. It reads as follows:

DEAR EDITORS: According to a panel of experts, dwindling water, land and oil combined with population growth will finally force Americans to adopt a healthy diet. Unfortunately it will take another 50 years to happen.

As advocates of a meatless diet, we ask: Why wait? Meat is a proven killer linked to heart disease, cancer and other debilitating illnesses. Meat production is destroying our environment, using up declining water reserves, polluting our rivers and lakes, and encouraging the destruction of rain forests.

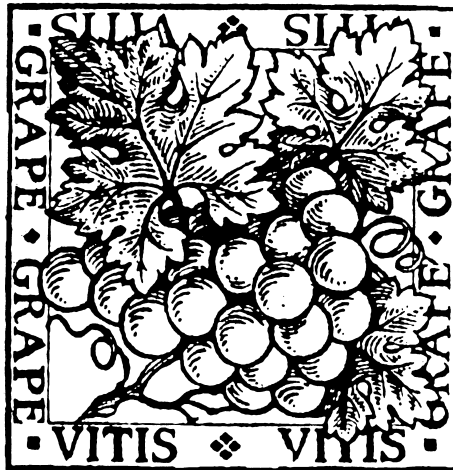
As if that is not enough, the need to maintain the highest levels of cheap meat production has led to the most abusive treatment of animals in the history of this planet. Why wait until what is already clearly a problem reaches crisis proportions? Other than satisfying an addiction, meat has no benefits. Let's cut it out or cut it down.

—Henry Spira, Coordinator,  
Animal Rights International

In the last issue of *The VivaVine*, there was a “Grapevine” query from the editorial staff, regarding the possibility that sugar is processed using animal bones. Thanks go out to new calendar editor Dean Milan for digging up the following information first published in the newsletter of the Pittsburgh Vegetarian Society. In its Nov./Dec., 1993 issue, correspondence, initiated by E. Dyak, was published.

Ms. Dyak reported that her correspondence revealed that two sugar processors — Topco and Imperial Sugar — confirmed that sugar is indeed processed with bone charcoal. In a letter, Topco wrote, “Raw sugar contains impurities making it

# GRAPE VINE



unfit for human consumption as a direct food product. To make it “pure,” raw sugar is washed and filtered to remove impurities and color. Tanks filled with bone char attracts and traps the impurities leaving the sugar which is then filtered out, clean and white. Bone is not part of the pure sugar that is packaged, sold and consumed.” Imperial Sugar similarly explained their process.

DEAR PAMELA:

I love The VivaVine! The nut milks from from the recipes you published last year are delicious.

—Tina Yeamans

A doctor from Pennsylvania wrote that he took objection to the term “veg-evangelist.” In his words, “Wrong approach. Do it by example and earn respect for the veg philosophy and beliefs.”

[Ed. Note: I replied to the doctor, “I hope to be facetious with my play on words, “veg-evangelist.” The idea usually gets a laugh and breaks the ice a little. My methods are never shrill — in fact quite mild mannered. Humor makes my work more effective. I’ll do anything that works! including living an exemplary life.”

—Pamela]

In a similar vein ... and to paraphrase the thoughts of *VivaVine* editorial consultant Karen Davis, never apologize to a meat eater for your vegetarian way of life. Stand firm and resolute. Do we simply

challenge child abusers, for instance, by offering ourselves up as a collective example of non-child abusers? Vegetarianism is more than just a peculiar dietary lifestyle. Being a vegetarian is a political statement. It is a political act.

Dear Pam: I like the new direction of *The VivaVine* (I loved “The Militant Vegan” entry). I’ve met and have a great respect for all three of your new editorial consultants. (You could not have found anybody better.)

—Charles Patterson

(*VivaVegie Society member and author of a newly published book chronicling the history of the U.N. with an introduction by Boutros Boutros Ghali; also the author of Animal Rights*)

## Cruelty at 30,000 feet

*VivaVegie* member Alix Fano received letters from four airlines she challenged for including veal on their menus. Her letter focused on the inhumane conditions of so called “milk fed” veal, the routine use of drugs on the animals, and the health benefits of a plant-based diet. She also gave a list of celebrities endorsing Veal Ban Day, the Mother’s Day, F.A.R.M. (Bethesda, MD) -sponsored, day of action.

➔NORTHWEST AIRLINES responded with a nondescript form letter. ➔CONTINENTAL acknowledged that she “made several valid points, from a business standpoint as well as from a humanitarian one.” They forwarded her comments to their dining services department. ➔USAIR forwarded her letter similarly, assuring her that her “comments regarding the ethical treatment of animals and the steps taken to produce veal will not be taken lightly,” also noting that her comments would prove useful when making decisions about future menu choices.” ➔AMERICAN AIRLINES agreed that the inhumane treatment of any animal species is unacceptable, but after a review found their veal supplier acceptable from an animal welfare standpoint, stating that “veal is a popular choice with our customers and we shall continue to serve it...We do not make judgments about the moral or political correctness of the items we serve.” [Thanks, Alix, for keeping the pressure up!]

## Interview with Karen Davis, President of United Poultry Concerns Humane Methods of Slaughter: Contradiction in Terms?

THE VIVAVEGIE SOCIETY: Some people wonder why you are working for a humane slaughter act for chickens. Does the working for amelioration of slaughter procedure somehow condone the eating of chickens, and isn't this something we should avoid?"

KAREN DAVIS: I don't like working for a humane slaughter poultry law. It's very difficult to fit the effort to extend humane slaughter protection to poultry into a model of thought that considers the murder of these birds to be murder, no different from the murder of an innocent person. The slaughter of the innocent is intrinsically wrong. There is no such thing as humane slaughter; that is, "humane slaughter" is an oxymoron.

In practice, even in countries such as Canada and Great Britain where there are humane slaughter laws, the poultry industry is essentially ungovernable, for a variety of reasons. Governments generally support business, and business means mass producing birds as any other commodity — getting as many birds out as expediently possible, adapting the slaughter process to commercial considerations at the expense of the birds. For example, in Great Britain, according to investigative reports that have been done, birds there, despite the laws, are continually being subjected to inadequately low currents just before slaughter, effectively immobilizing their bodies, but not rendering them unconscious or free of pain.

VVS: Laws, therefore, can give people a sense of false confidence that there is some humaneness going on when there isn't.

DAVIS: On the other hand, the fact that birds are excluded from a humane methods of poultry slaughter act suggests to the public that these birds are not even worthy of something so low and miserable as humane slaughter protection. It gives people the idea that, well, birds don't suffer as much as mammals, and it's incredible the extent to which this viewpoint prevails among all kinds of people, including some in the animal protection community — despite all the evidence to the contrary. Incredible amounts of pain research have been done on birds demonstrating without any question that birds are highly sensitive beings. Birds have all the apparatus of pain.

Pain receptors are distributed throughout their beaks and the rest of their system, their skin, etcetera, the same as mammals. Scientists who have conducted very horrific research on chickens, pigeons and other birds have concluded that the experience of pain and suffering in avian beings is comparable to that (and they use very circumspect and cautious language) of mammals — sometimes even more so in certain areas of their bodies.

The problem we have is that we have over 30 million birds being slaughtered every day in this country and the number is growing. Now, what do we do about this? Do we do anything? Right now, without a humane methods of poultry slaughter law, there is no possibility of prosecuting any single solitary thing that takes place in a slaughter plant. I mean it's not even theoretically possible, because there is no law. The poultry industry does not even have the same requirements in regard to safety, so called food safety, as the so-called red meat industry. Of course the whole thing is rubbish in any case. The fact is, the poultry industry is 100% off the hook in every way.

VVS: Gary Francione, of the Animal Rights Law Clinic, takes a hard line approach, calling for nothing short of full rights for animals, saying that anything less leaves a crack in the door for the society to take away those rights.

DAVIS: But society can't take away animals' rights, because the animals don't have any rights in this society. They don't have any legal standing. They are not recognized as beings with rights under the law.

VVS: Nonetheless, it is a dilemma for animal protection people, wouldn't you say, whether we should go "all the way" toward animal rights asking nothing less, or should we work within an animal welfarist system?

DAVIS: You can certainly frame your campaigns to alleviate the suffering of animals at human hands. You have to stick with your issue, but you can't let it overshadow you — the issue has to be placed in a context of overall ethical concern. I think one of the things the animal community needs to be able to learn to do better is to think paradoxically instead of either/or.

*continued on page 6*

## The VivaVine

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**All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.**

— Edmund Burke,  
English statesman  
and orator

**We need your help.**

The VivaVegie Society desperately needs resources to stay afloat, to grow, to help our point of view get heard.

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Lend your talents.

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**VivaVegie needs:**

- a volunteers coordinator (critical)
- storage space in Little Italy or SoHo in NYC (critical)
- a circulation manager
- ad sales people (make 10% commission)
- lawyer (to gain non-profit status)
- a special projects coordinator (surveys, advocacy actions)
- typists, especially with access to a computer
- accountant/treasurer
- grant writer/business plan writer
- clerical work, filing, correspondence

**Contact:**

**The VivaVegie Society**  
**212-966-2060**

"Surfing the Net." That's what everyone's talking about. Through the Internet, The VivaVine has gained easy access to a lot of industry

(i.e.: agriculture industry) information. Though we feel we have only scratched the surface, The VivaVine has come across a few ways to access farm information. We have keyed into the "Advances Technology Information Network," a fairly complete agriculture news service, gaining access via: telnet caticsuf.csufresno.edu; login super. Following are a few headlines we found of interest to VivaVine readers there:

- ◆Chickens Leaner with Amino Acid in Feed
- ◆World's Largest Fruit and Vegetable Basket Promotes 5-A-Day
- ◆Salmon Sinking to Record Lows
- ◆Plan to Protect 10 Plants Angers Ranchers
- ◆Super New Tomato
- ◆Asia Likely to Extend Poultry Industry Boom
- ◆Farmers Question Protecting Plants
- ◆Coming to America: Ostrich, The Other Red Meat
- ◆U.S. Milk Output and Dairy Exports are on the Rise
- ◆GOP's New Clout Pays Off for Ranchers with Lower Public-Lands Grazing Fees
- ◆Farmers Told Plants are No Threat
- ◆Lower Beef Prices are Spurring Consumption and Exports
- ◆Bioengineered Tomato Clears Hurdle
- ◆Pork Council Poised for Pigskin Blitz

Following is a sample of two stories from this news service. (It was hard to pick one.)

March 06, 1995 AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY NEWS: BIRDS OF A DIFFERENT FEATHER (The Fresno Bee) — Bob Kloster raises ostriches, emus and rheas, all of which are ratites—flightless birds with a flat breastbone. Ostriches, rheas and emus all have the same type of meat, which is lower in cholesterol and fat than beef, poultry, and pork. Kloster says researchers have turned ostrich fat into cooking oil, arthritis ointment and cosmet-

ics. Car owners use ostrich plumage instead of abrasive brushes or cloth strips; and the western crowd love to two-step in their ostrich kick-

ers. Paul Evert, renowned RV salesman and owner of an ostrich ranch, said several Fresno restaurants should be serving ostrich by April 1. People interested in touring the ranch may do so by calling 209-497-1500 for hours and directions.

March 15, 1995 INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL NEWS: EXPORTING TO THE WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS NATION: THE CHINA SYNDROME

(Meat & Poultry) — ...What does 1.2 billion people with the world's fastest growing economy mean to the American meat and poultry industry? Quite a lot, according to China watchers and executives who have already entered the market. As experience with other Asian nations such as Japan, Taiwan and South Korea has demonstrated, increased prosperity means increased consumption of meat by a newly affluent middle class. Today you find the highest-volume McDonald's in the world at the corner of Wan Fu-Jing and the Avenue of Eternal Peace. It wasn't too long ago that the idea of paying 10 or 20 yuan (which is like one or two U.S. dollars) on snack food was not within the budget of most Chinese. But now you see literally thousands of people every day eating McDonald's hamburgers.

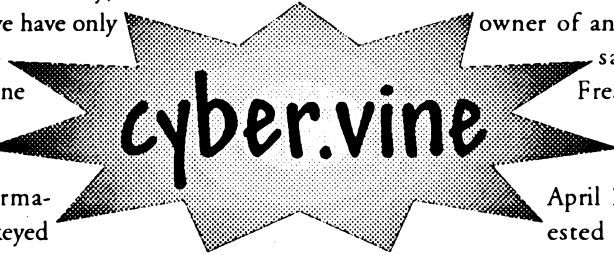
Renowned China scholar and beef rancher Orville Schell says. "They're not only eating higher on the hog, they're finally eating the hog."

**Newsgroup Download:**  
**rec.food.veg**

A David Goodwin (goodwid@python.-CS.ORST.EDU) wrote: "Eating meat is something we're equipped for, so: why shouldn't we do it?"

•A response came from: seshadri@cup.hp.-  
*continued on next page*

**Email address:**  
**vivavegi@novalink.com**



com (Raghu Seshadri) "Ok, if this is the argument, may I point out that we are also equipped to put our hands around children's necks and squeeze till they stop breathing. Does that mean we should do it?"

•From: gimila@tartarus.uwa.edu.au (Susan Whitham): Newsgroups: rec.food.veg, alt.mcdonalds, alt.flame, alt.food.mcdonalds Subject: Re: Pro BEEF: "I'm not trying to 'preach' vegetarianism to people. I'm just tired of hearing the same old misinformation being flung around and having to constantly defend my personal choice. (I'm a vegetarian because I disagree with the cruelty involved in the farming of animals. The health benefits, in my opinion, are a side effect. :) I have been vegetarian for 15 years, have never been anemic; and in my last physical fitness test was in the top 5% for my age group. This is a single case and doesn't, therefore, prove anything...I just added it for those who think I must be anemic and literally dying at the terminal (i.e.: computer terminal) \*grin\* :)"

•The following came from: jai@aloha.com (Dr. Jai Maharaj) "The raw materials needed for food production from livestock exceed all oil, gas and coal consumption. Meat-eaters hurt themselves, their families and others."

•The response from Jay Hutter <jayhutt@li.net was: "We are on the top of the food chain, it took a long time, Meat is what my dad ate, what his dad ate, what my god dam caveman ancestor ate and he did pretty dam good I think!! So shut up and go have a nice Big Mac and a Camel non-filter afterwards."

•Gerry Browne (gbrown@ozemail.com.au) wrote: "A friend of mine told me all vegetarians have a homosexual gene. Is this true?"

•A response came from: rwahl@netcom.com (Robert Wahl) "Yeah. I even got mine to replicate, and have been having a great time. Read about how to do it in the National Enquirer. :) 'Standing by a stump, waiting for rabbits...'"

## SATYA

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•From: vanessa@vancam.demon.co.uk (Vanessa Campbell) "I had a vegetarian boyfriend and had problems feeding him during his visits but I remember once saying that he couldn't risk eating my biscuits because they had animal fat in them. He said that he didn't mind eating them. I later found that he was two-timing me as well as being unfaithful to his animal cause."

**The VivaVeggie Society via  
Email: vivavegie@novalink.com**

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## UK McLibel Campaign

# McSkeletons being brought out of the McDonald's closet

Why would a \$24 billion company care to bring a suit against a couple of unemployed social activists? McDonald's is probably wondering that right now themselves.

After it decided it was going to bring libel charges against former postman Dave Morris and gardener Helen Steel for publishing a very creative and convincing anti-McDonald's pamphlet, the fast food monolith has been saddled with the task of straightening out a dent in its image. High profile and be-wigged wit-

nesses have been marched into UK High Court one after the other to answer the pamphlet's accusations, that is that McDonald's underpays its employees, destroys the environment including the rainforests, contributes to the torture of animals, advertises (panders) to children and exacerbates hunger around the world.

The now already one year old case first began after 4 years of preliminary hearings, and is predicted to go for at least another 8 months with an estimated 180 witnesses and an esti-

mated final cost of £2.5 million to British taxpayers — not to mention the cost in the millions to McDonald's shareholders.

The fact remains, that without the libel suit, the claims of the two pamphleteers would certainly have been dismissed by the public as extremist rant. But now the claims of Morris and Steel are news all over the world.

Donations can be sent to: McLibel Support Campaign, Box 62, Craftsbury, VT 05826. Call: 802-586-9628.

KAREN DAVIS: *continued from page 3*

VVS: Yes.

DAVIS: You know. I don't make any pretense to anybody that I'll be satisfied if we have a humane slaughter law. I mean if somebody were to ask me whether I think it's okay to slaughter poultry, and the question has been asked of me ("if we have a law, is it okay with you?"), I would say without any hesitation, "no, it isn't." However, as long as we're slaughtering them, I feel they are at least entitled to the consistent coverage with cattle and sheep. That's my answer. It's wrong, but they're at least entitled to this as we work towards a society which will one day consider it unthinkable to bring a creature into the world to be killed to satisfy human appetites.

VVS: That puts it very succinctly.

DAVIS: The one thing a humane poultry slaughter bill does is, and I'm not saying this is an excuse for it or a sufficient reason for it; but it does create an opportunity to talk about the issue and to acquaint people with some of the realities of poultry slaughter.

*Write United Poultry Concerns, P.O. Box 59367, Potomac, MD 20859. Call 301-948-2406*

# VEGETARIAN ART SHOW

- Friday, May 5: Mark Braunstein, author of Radical Vegetarianism, will speak on the topic "Vegetarianism in Art," 7 p.m., at Loeb Student Center of New York University. Call NYU's Earth Matters at 212-998-6059 for more information.
- Saturday, May 6: **OPENING: The Vegetarian Art Show**, 12 Noon to 5 pm., Sunnen Gallery, 49 Prince Street, NYC. Call 212-966-3188 for details. (The Art Show runs till May 25.)
- Sunday, May 7: Impromptu parade with The VivaVegie Society. Vegetarian advocates, dress in your most spirited t-shirts and lapel buttons. We'll march through lower Manhattan distributing literature. 1 p.m. Meet at gallery.



## WEEKEND OF EVENTS

**Press contact: Pamela Teisler: 212.966.2060 or email: vivavegie@novalink.com**

# Endangered Species Act: Endangered

By Kathleen Casey of The Sierra Club

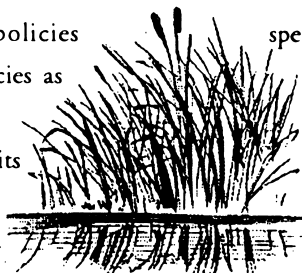
The Endangered Species Act (ESA) — our most powerful safeguard against the complete pillage of U.S. wilderness areas — is under attack by the new Congress. From funding cuts, to the dismantling of the Federal system and leaving authority up to individual states, the majority leaders are hacking away at the dying Act from every angle.



For developers, ranchers, oil drillers, miners, water-hungry municipalities, loggers, manufacturers and farmers — who this Congress seems to really represent — the Act is a

major problem. The provisions of the Act make it difficult for these exploiters of the land to pollute, dam rivers, or tear down forests. Currently, legislators in Washington are devising creative ways to circumvent the safeguards the rest of us rely on for clean air, water, and natural beauty. Congress has already passed “non-funded mandates,” which leaves the authority for decisions and financing that affect the wilderness to the already burdened states. Rarely, of course, do ecosystems conform to state boundaries, complicating any state efforts to protect wilderness even more.

If the new proposed policies become law, listing a species as endangered in order to prevent further damage to its habitat and develop a rescue plan would be so complicated that any particularly threatened animal would be extinct



long before the paperwork is processed. Proposed as “takings,” that compensate landowners for any significant loss to the value of their property as a result of evoking the ESA, would bankrupt any government forced to make such payments. We as taxpayers would in effect be paying polluters not to pollute.

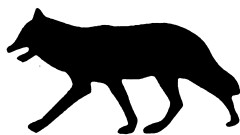
Another brainstorm by those who want to weaken the Act is to have all applications for the listing of a species as endangered be

“Animals form an inalienable fragment of nature, and if we hasten the disappearance of even one species, we diminish our world and our place in it.”

— James Michener  
(novelist, Pulitzer Prize winner)

“peer reviewed” by the community’s industry leaders. Their motivation for acting to save species and their habitats is already low, but it would be diminished even

more if cost/benefit analysis of a proposed application impacts negatively on their bottom line. How could the value of a species such as a mollusk or prairie grass fit into any balance sheet?



Plain and simple, we will start seeing species disappear at an even more alarming rate. The loss of even a few species can foster a chain reaction which leads to an even more rapid extinction of other species. Ultimately perhaps, shouldn’t the human race therefore be put on an endangered species list?

We are in a race against time. Call or write your Congressman right now! For more information, contact Gail Colinton, Goldstein, the Sierra Club Endangered Species Working Group Chair, 718/575-4165.

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## PETA on the Offensive

In the U.S., about 6-7 million chickens every year are raised in misery; then slaughtered for food. Millions die from heat exhaustion, freezing, and accidents during transportation. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has asked veggie activists groups (that's us) to join them in taking part in their Spring Chicken Offensive. The offensive is designed to target chicken fast food restaurants such as Kentucky Fried Chicken, Kenny Rogers' Roasters, and Popeyes. Among other ideas, PETA suggests organizing a car tie-up at restaurant drive-throughs. For materials from PETA, call 301-770-7444, ext 430.

# C A L E N D A R

■ On *Sat., May 6*, THE FIRST VEGETARIAN ART SHOW will have its opening (show runs for 3 weeks); Noon to 5 p.m., Sunnen Gallery, 49 Prince St., NYC. Call 212-966-2060. ■ On *Sat., May 6*, United Poultry Concerns will sponsor its FIFTH ANNUAL SPRING MOURNING VIGIL FOR CHICKENS. Targets are Boston Chicken and Chicken Out, Bethesda, MD. Call 301-948-2406. ■ On *Tues., May 9*, FRIENDS OF ANIMALS will have its NYC activists meeting, 7 p.m., Gullivers, 120 E. 41st St., 2nd Fl., NYC. ■ On *Sat., May 14*, VEG OUT (for the Gay and the Gay friendly) will celebrate Mother's Day with a potluck. The event will take place at 1-4 p.m., Central Park. Call 212-802-8655. ■ *Every third Sunday of the month*, The VEGAN SOCIETY OF QUEENS POTLUCK takes place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., 150-39 75th Ave., #2A, Flushing. Call 718-263-7160. ■ *Every fourth Thursday of the month*, BREAK BREAD FOR A CHANGE presents its potluck, from 6:30-11 p.m., Gulliver's, 120 E. 41st St., 2nd Fl. Call 718-797-4175. ■ On *Sun., June 4*, ISLAND VEGETARIANS will have its general meeting, 2:30 to 5:00 p.m., Huntington (Long Island) Public Library, 338 Main St. Call 516-8877-4374. ■ *July 26-30*, The North American Vegetarian Society will have its (fabulous) SUMMERFEEST. Conference and celebrations will take place this year at Bryant College, Smithfield, R.I. Call 518-568-7636. ■ *Aug 5-6*, Farm Sanctuary will have its COUNTRY HOE DOWNS. The event will take place at Watkins Glen, NY. A similar event will take place in Orlando, CA, May 27. Call 607-583-2225. ■ *Aug. 6-13*, THE 8TH INTERNATIONAL VEGAN FESTIVAL, sponsored by the Vegetarian Union of North America, will take place at San Diego State University. Register now for best rates. Write VUNA, P.O.B. 61273, Denver, CO 80206.

Schedule to distribute *101 Reasons Why I'm a Vegetarian* in VivaVeggie-style vegetarian street advocacy (call ahead, 212/966-2060, to confirm):

■ *Sun., May 7: IMPROMPTU PARADE*: Meet at 1p.m. at Sunnen Gallery, home of The Vegetarian Art Show. ■ *Sun., May 14 (Mother's Day): YEAL BAN DAY*: 11:00 a.m. - 4 p.m., post office in SoHo, Mercer and Prince. ■ *Sat., June 24: MERMAID PARADE*, Coney Island, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. ■ *Tues., July 4: FOURTH OF JULY NATHAN'S ANNUAL HOT DOG EATING CONTEST*: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. ■ *Sun., Aug. 20: LOCAL STREET FAIR*: Noon to 3 p.m. (The VivaVeggie Society frequently goes out on short notice. Keep in touch!)

## SO, WHAT IS THE VIVA VEGIE SOCIETY?

The VivaVeggie Society takes vegetarian advocacy to the streets. VivaVeggie advocates confront Mr. and Ms. Pedestrian to get the facts out about their healthful, ethical and environmentally conscious vegetarian diet.

Advocates assemble where there is plenty of pedestrian traffic. They come equipped with brightly colored T-shirts with vegetarian messages, and plenty of fact-filled information. Founder Pamela Teisler wears the outfit shown on the reverse side of this newsletter. Our mission? To distribute, for donation, the flyer, *101 Reasons Why I'm a Vegetarian*, written by Pamela Teisler and inspired by John Robbins' book, *Diet for a New America*.

The VivaVeggie Society has been, and will be in the future, involved with various projects such as World Vegetarian Day and mass mailings of *101 Reasons Why I'm a Vegetarian*.

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THE VIVA VEGIE SOCIETY  
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212/966-2060

To obtain a copy of  
"101 REASONS WHY  
I'M A VEGETARIAN"  
send \$1 plus SASE

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