

— Third Anniversary Issue —

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you heard
it
through

The Viva Vine

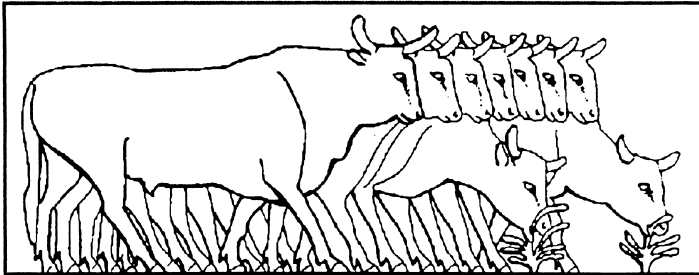
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VIVA VEGIE SOCIETY



Meat People Playing Dirty

by Pamela Teisler-Rice

WITH THE GENERAL SPRAWL OF THE U.S. POPULATION, environmentalists, along with everyone else, have set up shop in areas across the West which were previously the exclusive domain of ranching, rodeos,



and adobe. They have come with copies of the Endangered Species Act under their arms. And like the Carpetbaggers who went to the South after The Civil War, these environmentalist indeed threaten to end business as usual for ranchers as well as miners and loggers.

In all of the ongoing public debates around the global environmental crisis, a curious silence surrounds the issue of cattle, one of the most destructive environmental threats of the modern era.

— Jeremy Rifkin,
Beyond Beef

The environmentalists have a lot to bring suit about. A 1991 United Nations report declared that 85% of western rangeland in the U.S. has been degraded by overgrazing by livestock. In New Mexico, The Diamond Bar is where one battle is raging. It is an area of one the the biggest federal grazing allotments. The banks of the Main Diamond Creek are bare and crumbling. According to biologists in a

January 3rd *Wall Street Journal* article (from which many of the facts for this story were derived), “[The Main Diamond]’s current condition ... helps explain why every fish species existing in the Gila River 50 years ago is now either extinct, endangered or under consideration for federal protection.”

Cattle denude or trample nearly everything in their paths; and they pollute waters with the dung they leave behind. Their introduction into the American landscape hundreds of years ago spread Old World grasses that overtook more delicate native ones. Predator control serving commercial ranching interests also has tragically obliterated whole eco-systems of wildlife.

In general, cattle grazing has transformed much of the West’s environment into a virtual desert. In riparian zones (narrow land strips that run along side rivers, streams and ponds), ranching has eroded these delicate and lush eco-systems into barren watering holes for cows. Thus, the critical areas where the majority of all wildlife of the West develops its habitats, have now become “cow burnt.”

People from federal agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service among others have in

recent years been on the front lines, though sometimes reluctantly, enforcing laws to protect and revive these western environments. They’ve been commissioned to bring reforms to the American West to, so to speak, save these ranchers from themselves. The ranchers, who have adopted a militant government-hating stance, of course, don’t see it this way.

Ironically these ranchers are the same ones who got rich on a history of cheap grazing fees charged them by the federal government — the owners of much of the land. The ranchers are now saying, however, that the public lands are not public at all, but belong to them! Just like that. Many believe in fact that the government shouldn’t even have a right to own land at all — that the U.S. government has no right to lands where their cattle graze because the land was stolen over a century ago in war.

When it comes to complying with environmental regulations, this kind of rhetoric of course is very convenient. Complying they are not.

These ranchers and others are more than just talk, though. They’re arming themselves, literally. Today we have a total movement, no less, welling up all across counties of the West. This so called “county movement,” named after Catron County, New Mexico, which passed local laws making it illegal for the Forest Service to regulate grazing even on federally owned and protected lands, has in fact taken up

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Ed. Note: Despite all, vegetarians continue to be considered a fringe group without viability. We vegetarians lose all and gain nothing from animal industries. We lose species, we lose our environment, and we lose our topsoil. We pay for subsidies to, buyouts for, lawsuits against, and violence from animal industries. And our children and our children’s children will pay even more dearly than we. — ptr

The following is an open letter from Henry Spira, whose Animal Rights International bought the space for the March 15, 1994 "face branding" ad published in the New York Times, (reproduced here in the VivaVine on page 7).

“ Dear Friend:

We have every reason to believe that the rule to eliminate face branding of Mexican cattle will be signed and published in the Federal Register soon. After two waves of ads exposing face branding many outraged readers protested to the USDA; so many that the agriculture agency scrapped its planned expansion of the program, instead offering a proposal to end it altogether.

Many of you also voiced strong concern about the well-being of other farm animals. Now, in a precedent setting initiative, the USDA is committing itself to reexamining practices pertaining to the well-being of all farm animals. We at Animal Rights International plan to encourage the USDA to develop an institutional culture which will never again tolerate abuses like face branding.

All the best, Henry Spira ”

The following quotes Henry Spira as published in the February, 1995 issue of Vegetarian Times in response to a featured debate about how the animal rights movement should direct and portray itself:

“[Reform] is basically about strategies; [abolition] is the ultimate goal. The two aren't mutually contradictory, however. If you push for all or nothing, what you get is nothing.”

This is surely Mr. Spira's secret to his many successes on behalf of animals.

Similarly, this is why tireless champion of chickens and all fowl Karen Davis can work on behalf of a humane slaughter act for chickens and at the same time advocate for veganism and against factory farming. This is why Ms. Davis will work on any front to make any change for any improvement on behalf of the lives of our winged friends some people call food.

In the following "Dear Abby" letter published in November Ms. Davis illustrated to millions of people that roosters are glorious creatures completely worthy of our awe and respect:

“ Dear Abby:

I agree with the Portland, Ore. farmer who asked, "Why all the commotion about how to stop a rooster from crowing?" May I add a few words to the farmer's knowledgeable comments:

Chickens are originally from the jungle. Their wild relatives have lived in tropical forests for tens of thousands of years. Perched in the trees and sensitive to infrared light, roosters see the morning light at least 45 minutes before we humans do. They also have very keen ears — a distinct advantage when living amid dense foliage. It can be difficult to see a predator and keep track of one's flock.

Why do roosters crow? Through their crowing, every rooster knows where every other rooster is at all times. Each rooster can recognize the crow of at least 30 other roosters — probably more.

grape- vine letters

As the protector of the flock, roosters are always on the lookout for possible enemies that could threaten their well-being.

In his own fascinating world of chickendom, the rooster is a lover, a father, a brother, a food-finder, a guardian and a sentinel. He is nothing to abuse, scoff at or degrade.

—Karen Davis, PhD, president
United Poultry Concerns Inc.”

Abby answered Karen that she would never be able to enjoy another chicken dinner again. This is not to say, perhaps, that she will never again be able to eat one.

[Become a member of United Poultry Concerns. Send \$15 to UPC, P.O. Box 59367, Potomac, MD 20859. Call 301/948-2406.]

One of the accomplishments of The VivaVeggie Society in 1994 was the building of a veal crate to spec and displaying it on various outings around New York City. Part of the display was to have a person sit in the crate for extra effect.

Passers-by were beckoned to sign a petition calling for the end of the veal crate.

At the top of each petition page read the following: We, the undersigned, believe that the "veal crate" as it is used in the U.S. to raise so-called "milk fed" veal today is a barbaric assault upon hundreds of thousands of sentient creatures every year and reflects one of the lowest levels of human

moral decay ever known. The U.S. must today immediately take steps to follow Great Britain in making the veal crate illegal. We demand that the USDA immediately usher in a phase-out policy of the veal crate, in earnest, and on a strict time-table.

The VivaVeggie Society sent the signed petitions (24 pages), or copies of them, to then USDA head Michael Espy, President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Senator Alfonse D'Amato (NY), Senator Patrick D. Moynahan (NY) and US Representative Jerrold Nadler (NY). Initially only President Clinton's office responded. That letter follows.

Dear Ms. Teisler: Thank you so much for your letter. President Clinton greatly appreciates the trust and confidence you have

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grapevine: *continued from page 2*

shown in him by writing.

To ensure that your concerns are addressed, I am forwarding your letter to the Department of Agriculture for review and any appropriate action.

— Sincerely, James A. Dorskind, Special Assistant to the President, Director of Correspondence and Presidential Messages

Only after being prompted by the President's office was a letter from the USDA received. The response follows:

Dear Ms. Teisler and Other Concerned Citizens:

Thank you for your letter of September 5, 1994 to President Clinton enclosing a petition to Secretary Espy supporting the banning of crates used to raise veal calves.

We certainly understand your desire for these animals to be treated humanely. Under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), our Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is responsible for ensuring that certain animals used in research or exhibition, sold as pets at the wholesale level, or transported in commerce are provided with care that meets or exceeds certain established standards. While we are aware that there is a growing public concern about certain methods of animal agriculture, the AWA, as passed by Congress, excludes from coverage animals used for food or fiber.

— Sincerely, Lonnie J. King, Acting Administrator
United States Department of Agriculture

Dear Ms. Teisler: Please send me a copy of your "101 Reasons Why I'm a Vegetarian." I'll appreciate it greatly. Thank you.

— Sincerely, M. Kupinski, Vienna, Austria

Dear Sir/Madam: Please send me a copy of 101 Reasons Why I'm a Vegetarian. I live and work in Okinawa, Japan and it is extremely difficult to find this type of literature. — K. Loukopoulos

Dear Vegetarian: Please send me the pamphlet containing the 101 reasons to become a vegetarian. I read the article in Vegetarian Times and was interested. I always get asked, "Why are you a Vegetarian?" meanwhile I'm looked at as if I was from outer space. And I am getting tired of having to explain the reasons when I feel they are so apparent and everyone should already be aware of them. Thanks, — Missy, Myrtle Beach, SC

[Ed. Note: Thank you, Hubert Davis and Duane Cornella for your generous contributions to The Viva Vegie Society, I believe that with these donations we have finally paid for the building of our veal crate. Again, thank you to everyone who helped to make the veal crate campaign a success for The Viva Vegie Society.]



All we are saying, is give peas a chance

Viewpoint: Getting a Vegetarian "Handle" on Deadly Bacteria — by Pamela Teisler

Recently, my husband was driving into New York from Philadelphia. Listening to the radio, he heard one of those quick little stories on the news. It told of a research team that, upon examining typical households, found higher fecal coliform counts on the refrigerator handle and other kitchen surfaces than in the bathroom.

L&F Products of New Jersey, the people who make Lysol, hired the researchers to study real-world environments in anticipation of marketing its new Antibacterial Kitchen Cleaner.

A Lysol brochure I subsequently obtained notes that according

A research team, upon examining typical households, found higher fecal coliform counts on the refrigerator handle and other kitchen surfaces than in the bathroom.

to the USDA anywhere from 6.5 up to 81 million Americans suffer from the symptoms of food poisoning each year with bacteria such as Salmonella, Staphylococcus and the deadly E.coli being the culprits. Eating spoiled or undercooked meat and poultry, the brochure noted, is the primary way of getting

food poisoning. But, there are other avenues, it said — namely cross contamination, that is when bacteria from one food source, such as raw chicken, is transferred to another, such as a salad.

It's always good to publicize the dangers of foodborne bacteria, we know; but vegetarians have a different point of view.

Why any bacteria in a kitchen at all ?!

There has been quite a bit of publicity lately surrounding new government rules that require handling instructions on meat and poultry packages. Also, other government rules are now requiring stricter inspection procedures.

The facts remain, however. The chicken business (primarily) has in just the last 30 years become an awesomely huge, well-oiled machine. There exist plants today where a million chickens are housed. Antibiotics are routinely fed to the animals, and today's "factories" (not farms anymore) even "recycle" those chickens that die at the plant, feeding them back to the flock, a sure way for Salmonella to get a foothold. Then, at the processing plant, we have degutting machines and the infamous "fecal soup" where additional Salmonella spreads.

Government recommendations to avoid food poisoning always put the onus on the consumer. Take care to handle meat carefully, they say. The truth of the matter is, Salmonella exists in our kitchens because of today's industry assembly line practices. Why, therefore, is the government too "chicken" to really regulate or, better yet, outlaw factory farming altogether. And why does the government never even mention, let alone suggest, abstinence, i.e.: vegetarianism, as an option?

Big Apple Vegetarians: The Apple Awards for 1994

by Pamela Teisler-Rice

It's kind of funny, but the first moment, just about, that New York City gets itself a really viable, and regularly active vegetarian group, it has to have an awards ceremony. . . Welcome to New York.

I'm talking about Big Apple Vegetarians, of course.

Here in New York City (The Big Apple, remember?), we don't have a national vegetarian organization on the caliber of a North American Vegetarian Society. We don't even have a storefront vegetarian community center. But, here, we do have awards. As they say in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, "Go figure."

The event was not 100% serious business though; it was only about 50% so. Many of the awards categories it happens were just a little bit goofy. Still, those truly hard working and dedicated people working for the vegetarian cause (albeit, there are quite a few) did get their well deserved 15 seconds of fame.

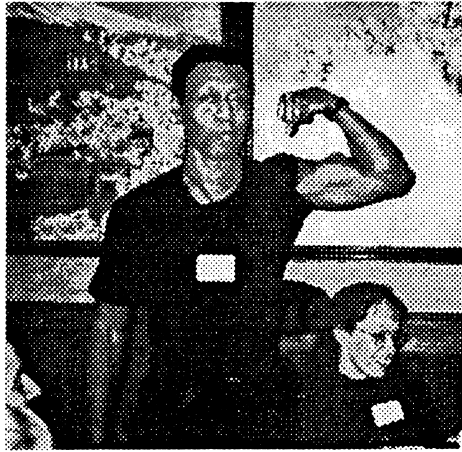
And a fun time indeed was had by all.

The Apple Awards ceremony took place this past December 17 at Vegetarian Heaven restaurant at Columbus Circle in Manhattan. Some 70 people attended the Chinese vegan sitdown meal. Manny Goldman entertained us on his electric piano, and I was the emcee. Big Apple founder Jean Thaler organized the event and the judges were Mia MacDonald, Rynn Berry and Davy Davidson.

As for the awards, nominations were taken right from the floor and after nominations were closed, the judges made their decisions right on the spot. It was required that nominations had to be for people in the New York City area. However, a nominee did not have to be present at the time. Brief biographies on especially noteworthy people were peppered into the program.

The awards were as follows (winner is underlined):

- **Vegetarian Gourmand:** Carol Lipton, Arthur Brown
- **Biggest vegan biceps in the tri-state area** Hubert Davis, Rita Mattioli (co-winners)
- **Most ubiquitous veg-evangelist:** Pamela Teisler-Rice
- **Activist who would rather go naked than wear fur:** Cat Kubic, Adela Pisarevsky, Manny Goldman, Andrea Lieberman



Hubert Davis flexing his award winning vegan biceps at the Apple Awards

- **Activist who will not go naked (but won't wear fur either):** Batya Bauman, Joan Zacharias
- **Vegan policeman/woman:** Jed Civic, Arlen Baden
- **Most Spiritual vegetarian:** Rynn Berry, Buddha (though not from the New York City area, it was pointed out that in the case of Buddha, he really was everywhere at once), Noach Valley (the veggie-rebbe)
- **Animal activist of the year** (takes in more than just vegetarian activism): Martin Rowe, Solveg, Adela Pisarevsky, A. J. Elterman, Connie Salamone, Phil Goff, Henry Spira, Gary Francione, Anne Earle, Anna Charlton.
(It was declared that to be nominated was an honor.)
- **Most visionary business oriented to vegetarianism:** Conscious Singles Connection, Jed and Susan Civic for Environmental Travel, Terra Verde, Herban Kitchen
- **Most published (or best quality) letters to the editor or downloads to the Internet:** Richard Schwartz, Henry Spira
- **Most non-leather shoes:** Mia MacDonald (declined), Davy Davidson, Kim Rosenthal
- **Matchmaker:** Joan Goldstein for Conscious Singles Connection
- **Author of the Year:** Rynn Berry, Lorna Sass for Vegetarian Cooking Under Pressure, Martin Rowe
- **All the news that's fit to print award** (an award going to the vegetarian publication of the year): Martin Rowe for Satya, Craig Gordon, Pam Teisler for *The VivaVine*, Batya Bauman for *Feminists for Animal Rights newsletter*.
- **Mother of All Potlucks award:** Tony White for Break Bread for a Change, Hubert Davis for Vegan Society of Queens potluck, Jean Thaler for Big Apple Vegetarian events
- **Best friend of farm animals:** Dawn Hernandez of Farm Sanctuary
- **Vegetarian of the Year:** Hubert Davis, Patrick Donnelley and Richard Pierce of Whole Foods Project, Jean Thaler (who tried to decline)
- **Longest time vegetarian:** No one could out-longevity Manny Goldman, a vegetarian since 1964

In my less-than-objective opinion, birds demonstrate an extraordinary capacity for thinking and feeling to anyone willing to take notice. The beauty and soul of my cockatiel fill my life with the wonder of G-d's creation, and consequently, I carry an unrelenting pity for the conscious suffering of those birds confined to cages or coops.

— Jean Thaler

Life with Bobby

by Jean Thaler

BOBBY MUST incessantly preen his eight inches of gray feathers... even though I tell him it's his personality I love. Bobby does have boyish charm, with Raggedy Andy orange cheeks and round, eyelashed eyes. At happy times, he waves his crest straight up, longer than his entire head.



Several years ago it seems I was replaced by a placemat as the primary object of Bobby's affections. Wherever the brown cloth placemat goes, Bobby follows. If Bobby doesn't know where it is, he screams. Near the cage, he pulls the placemat up and down with his beak, exclaiming at the same time.

Bobby still has use for me since I feed him. While he eats, he purrs contentedly with soft, gentle chirps. I always marvel at his ability to chirp with his mouth full, much like his grandmother, who I knew. But BEWARE of putting a hand in the cage while he's still inside eating there; he snaps!

My Bobby is allowed out of his cage at all times when I am at home and often Bobby plays fetch with me. Bobby heaves a heavy keychain off the table with his beak. CRASH! goes the keychain. Then Bobby toots three times. I pick up the keychain or his toy shoe and Bobby scores unless I catch the object in midair.

Bobby might kiss me, after I ask two or three (or four) times. My family understands. I'm still single. I did take to

heart their advice to play hard to get. If I ignore Bobby for a while, he flies to my shoulder or perches on my knee. I stroke his feathers after he rubs his head on my hand.

Sometimes Bobby hollers for me, not knowing where I went. Then I call out, "Hi Bobby!" Of course, Bobby never answers when I call him. Most unfair of all, he won't speak a word of English. Nevertheless, he does chirp when he hears his name or the word "bird" on my end of a phone conversation.

I like to think Bobby misses me a little when I go away; in fact I feel terribly guilty to leave him. One night, after I had boarded him for a week at the vet, I woke to the sound of Bobby screaming and thrashing against his cage. He quieted as soon as I wakened him from what must have been a terrifying nightmare.

At the vet, Bobby possibly experienced a small taste of what many caged parrots endure every day. Most pet stores and parrot owners clip their bird's wings or keep their pet confined in small cages. It is common also for parrot owners to lose interest in their bird. An unhappy bird may become obese and lethargic, or loud and hyper. I have seen parrots who have ripped or yanked out their own feathers until they bled.

By purchasing Bobby, perhaps, I have perpetuated the suffering of other pet birds simply by driving demand. Many pets fall into the wrong hands. I hope I can make amends some day by adopting another cockatiel in need of a home — and a placemat. Bobby, your bachelor days are numbered!

The VivaVine

newsletter of

THE VIVAVEGIE SOCIETY

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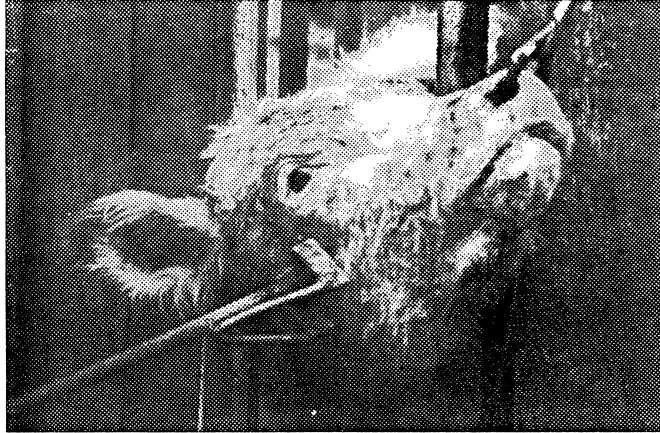
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**THIS IS WHAT
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LOOKS LIKE.**



**CAN YOU IMAGINE
WHAT IT FEELS LIKE?**

Or what it sounds like. Or smells like. Imagine a red-hot frying pan pressed against your cheek. —the searing pain, the heat and smoke of sizzling flesh. Even the melt down of your eye.

Face Branding Is Barbaric!

Hidden from the public, this organized atrocity is how the USDA currently identifies Mexican steers. Now the USDA proposes to expand this horror to all Mexican cattle in a pathetic gesture at monitoring tuberculosis.

In branding, the terrorized steer is first trapped between bars. Then his head is immobilized with steel pincers painfully clamped on to his nostrils and pulled to one side. If that's not enough the cowboy steps on the steer's face with his boot. As the red hot iron is pressed into his face, the steer bellows, his eyes bulge as he disappears into a cloud of his own burning flesh.



It's Completely Unnecessary!

There are far less painful ways of satisfying the USDA's desire to trace Mexican cattle. Experts say face-branding is not only barbaric but unnecessary. Far more humane alternatives have been suggested, including microchips, punching a distinctive symbol in the ear, notching the ear or branding near the edge of the hide on the rear.

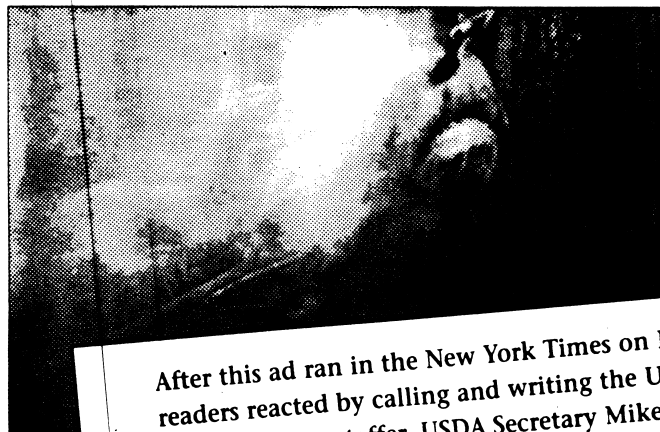
In an age of DNA fingerprinting, why is the USDA using pre-historic brutality to identify cattle? Why is the USDA attempting to expand face branding when we should be outlawing such barbarisms? Is it just bureaucratic inertia, the convenience of doing things the way they've always been done at the USDA? Is it possible that Secretary Espy is not even aware of his organization's face branding program?

Stop The Face Branding Now!

Call Mike Espy today at (202) 720-3631.
fax him at (202) 720-2166, or write him at:

USDA, Room 200-A
12th & Jefferson Dr. S.W.,
Washington, DC 20250.

Please do it before one more calf has his face torched!



After this ad ran in the New York Times on March 15th, 1994, thousands of outraged readers reacted by calling and writing the USDA to demand an end to face branding. According to a staffer, USDA Secretary Mike Espy received more calls on this issue than any other since taking office.

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arms against the U.S. government. Often there are reports of federal environmental regulators literally frightened away with threats of violence. [Where is Norman Schwartzkopf when we really need him?]

Catron County, in fact, passed a measure requiring all heads of households within its boundaries to own firearms to "protect citizens' rights." In just the past two years, over one hundred counties across the West have passed equally ludicrous ordinances.

The cattle industry, however, should take a hint from the perilous state of the fishing industry. Today whole fishing towns are being turned into museums of a bygone era. This is an industry

which also thought it could regulate itself. But in just 20 years or so, it's vacuumed its backyard nearly bare of fish. With the modern introduction in the 1970's of factory trawlers, modern fisherman could process fish on board ship staying at sea for months at a time, efficiently fishing some species nearly to extinction.

The beef and fish industries have in effect mortgaged the future of their prospective environments. They've kept prices low on the animal foods they've profited from like there was no tomorrow. Today the fisherman will probably get a federal buyout.

Cattle ranchers will probably hang on to the past through violence until their environment won't support them anymore.

And then they will want a buyout.

"Catron County, N.M., Leads a Nasty Revolt Over Eco-Protection," *Wall Street Journal*, Jan. 3 1995, p. 1.
Beyond Beef: The Rise and Fall of the Cattle Culture, by Jeremy Rifkin, A Dutton Book, 1992, New York.
"Hook, Line and Sunk," *The New York Times Magazine*, Dec. 11, 1994, p.75

To receive a copy of

101 Reasons Why I'm a Vegetarian, send \$1 and a self addressed stamped envelope to: The VivaVeggie Society, c/o, the address below. Additional copies may be obtained (no SASE necessary after 2 copies) for:
• 50¢ ea. (60¢ ea., foreign or retail).
• Multiple copies: • \$20 for 50 copies (\$30, foreign or retail) • \$35 for 100 copies (\$50, foreign or retail) • For \$10/yr. (\$15, foreign) receive 5 issues of *The VivaVine* (1 yr.) + membership card + complimentary copy of *101 Reasons Why I'm a Vegetarian*.
CHECKS PAYABLE TO: THE VIVA VEGGIE SOCIETY.

SO, WHAT IS THE VIVA VEGGIE 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. The 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*

• DONATIONS CAN BE SENT TO THE ADDRESS BELOW.

C a l e n d a r

• Fri., Feb. 3: NATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST AGAINST RBGH. This date is the one-year anniversary of the Food and Drug Administration's approval of genetically engineered Bovine Growth Hormone. Scheduled events begin a week before on Sat., Jan. 28. Call The Pure Food Campaign, 202/775-1132 for details. • The third Sunday of every month, barring last minute changes: VEGAN SOCIETY OF QUEENS POTLUCK. 2 p.m., Flushing, Queens; call 718/263-7160 for details.

• The fourth Tuesday of the month: BREAK BREAD... FOR A CHANGE (at a new location), 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Gulliver's Living and Learning Center, 120 W. 41st St., 2nd Fl., in Manhattan. Don't miss the March 28 presentation by former cattleman Howard Lyman. • Sat., Feb. 11, BIG APPLE VEGETARIANS. Celebrate the 50th birthday of Manny Goldman in Sunnyside, Queens, 6 p.m. Call 718-438-1523 for detail. • May 6 - 25: VEGETARIAN ART SHOW. A full week of planned events.

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

• Mon., February 20: PRESIDENT'S DAY, 11 a.m. - 2:30, Greenwich Village • Sun., Mar. 12. THE GREAT AMERICAN MEAT-OUT, 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., location to be determined. (The VivaVeggie Society frequently goes out on short notice. Keep in touch.)

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