

Medicine by John Grauerholz, M.D.

The animal rights cultists

They are attacking both biomedical research and the nation's food supply—on a basis provided by Jeremy Bentham.

Animal research forms the basis for the development of much of modern medical treatment, from drug evaluation to newer surgical techniques. Consumption of animal protein is characteristic of societies with higher standards of living and longer average life spans. Recently, a number of militant "animal rights" groups have launched increasingly virulent attacks on both the medical research and agricultural fronts.

In May of this year, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) destroyed 10 years worth of research at a head-injury research laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania. More recently the same group stole 13 animals from a laboratory studying sleep disorders at Penn's veterinary hospital. The group has been active primarily on the East and West coasts and has been involved in acts of vandalism at UCLA-Harbor Medical Center in Los Angeles, Howard University in Washington, D.C., and several Miami fur stores.

The ALF raid was the subject of a feature in the Aug. 28, 1984 *Philadelphia Inquirer*, which interviewed an ALF member and the researcher whose laboratory was vandalized in the usual "balanced coverage" format. What emerges from the interview with the ALF member is the profile of a Young Urban Professional seeking fulfillment and thrills in some nonproductive cause, and who considers animals more important than children. The researcher, on the other hand, while conceding points she needn't have, at least recognizes that people are of

higher value than animals.

These animal rights groups have political impact, as witnessed by the House Agriculture Subcommittee hearings sponsored by Rep. George E. Brown, Jr. (D-Calif.), who, if he's not on the KGB payroll, is getting jipped. Brown is chairman of the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Research, and Foreign Agriculture and chief sponsor of H.R. 5725 to improve protection standards for laboratory animals. Brown's other contributions to improving U.S. research include co-sponsorship of the Brown-Coughlin resolution banning testing of anti-satellite weapon systems and active involvement in every piece of legislation to oppose or hamper development of directed energy weapon systems.

On the food side, a number of groups, such as the Farm Animal Reform Movement (FARM) and the International Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture (IASA) are pushing elimination of food animal production and the substitution of labor intensive agriculture. FARM describes itself as "a national, non-profit, educational organization dedicated to alleviating and eliminating animal abuse and other adverse effects of animal agriculture." The *Farm Report* contains a melange of environmentalist, vegetarian, and meat-industry muckraking. One of the more interesting of these reports is a study, funded by the anti-animal-protein "nutritionist" Nathan Pritikin, which forecasts a total depletion of soil and groundwater by the year 2030 because of animal agriculture. Another

target of FARM is the use of antibiotics in animal agriculture.

IASA is based out of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, home of the Cargill Grain Company and the Hubert Humphrey Institute, the food shortage scenarists running the Mondale campaign. The primary sponsor is the Third World Institute of the Newman Center of the University of Minnesota.

The common genesis of these movements is philosopher Peter Singer, an admirer of the British East India Company's Jeremy Bentham. Singer's 1973 book, *Animal Liberation*, is the Bible of the anti-vivisectionists and the radical vegetarians. Singer was awarded the "Vegetarian Ethic Award" at a 1983 "Action for Life" conference and brainwashing session in Montclair, New Jersey, which also focused on a campaign to provide meatless alternatives at fast food restaurants.

Bentham's philosophy posited that man is ruled by pleasure and pain, just as an animal, and hence "The question is not, Can they reason?, nor can they talk? but, Can they suffer?" "A full grown horse or dog is beyond comparison a more rational as well as a more conversable animal than an infant of a day or a week or even a month old."

As a lawful consequence of this preference for animals over children, Bentham was an overt and vigorous advocate of pederasty and conducted a vicious campaign against William Jenner for developing smallpox vaccination, because it interfered with the natural order of things. Bentham argued against provision of minimal hygiene for the lower classes of England and for slave-labor in the "poor houses." It is this bestial philosophy which is in fact the basis of the animal-rights cults' attacks on medical research and the food supply.