

Thin Ice*

★ Inside: RPA in magazines, plus unique talks!

The Newsletter of Responsible Policies for Animals, Inc.

Vol. 7, No. 2 ★ Fall 2009

RPA's Special University Fliers Inform Boosters, Advance 10,000 Years Is Enough Campaign

RPA fliers free upon request! RPA shows concerned citizens what to look for!

From Florida to Hawai'i to New York, Responsible Policies for Animals (RPA) members and other dedicated citizens are using **special RPA fliers** to urge land-grant university (LGU) boosters to help get those massive public institutions of higher deception out of the meat industry! – including dairy, fish, eggs, and feed. RPA's fliers are the most popular new phase of RPA's **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign to get our LGUs out of the meat industry.

LGU boosters include alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff, sports fans, and others with LGU decals, magnets, license-plate frames, and other promotions on their cars.

Anyone can receive a supply of RPA's special LGU fliers – ask RPA anytime! RPA sends colorful & convenient fliers tailored to each requester's state – e.g., **"Get Cornell University on the Good Food Track!"** for New York State.

The fliers explain the insidious LGU meat problem and give names and addresses so LGU boosters can help solve it. Those unwilling to help at least get a much-needed glimpse of big problems linked to their LGU.

How It Works

Flier requesters who are online receive an e-mail from RPA linking to the Webpage displaying their state's LGU car items – so they can "hit the ground running" when fliers arrive.

LGU booster cars are everywhere, their windshields crying out for RPA's special fliers! Some flier distributors also politely approach people wearing LGU garb and thank them for accepting a flier.

Request more fliers anytime! Share them with friends to help spread the word. And have friends request their own supplies. Many people are glad to help once they understand *our LGU meat-industry programs, misleadingly called "animal science," are the single biggest problem for nonhuman animals, humans, and ecosystems.*

Tackling the LGU Meat Problem

LGUs are established under federal laws giving states land to use for colleges of agriculture. But *meat is not agriculture.* In addition to creating and promoting extremely inhumane methods known as factory farming,

LGUs keep meat extremely cheap; teach carnism* – meat ideology; and suppress knowledge that humans evolved as herbivores, all animal use is inhumane, meat is linked to widespread chronic and lethal diseases, most global-warming gases are linked to meat**, and other crucial facts.

Institutions – not facts about animal abuse, human health, and ecosystem disruption – are the most powerful factor in whether people eat from animals. And our LGUs are the most powerful institutions reinforcing the extremely inhumane, health-destroying, ecologically devastating standard American diet – known to experts as SAD.

As RPA founder & director David Cantor puts it, "There can be little or no progress on inhumane treatment of nonhuman animals or the other big human problems – war, poverty, sexism, racism, other human prejudice, disease, global warming, pollution, forest destruction, soaring medical & insurance costs – as long as our LGUs serve the meat industry rather than the public interest. Inhumane treatment of animals – animal use and ecosystem disruption – is the root cause all of those problems share in common. So *distributing RPA fliers is a tremendous public service.*"

It's Easy To Help!

It's easy, rewarding, and inexpensive to distribute **RPA LGU fliers!** Request fliers from RPA today!

Additional ways to take part in RPA's groundbreaking **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign to get our LGUs out of the meat industry:

- **Understand the campaign and how it "strikes at the root" rather than "hacking at branches."** See www.RPAforAll.org and www.ExpertsOfConscience.org or ask RPA.
- **Write to the main land-grant universities of all 50 states and the governors of all 50 states** – lists at **Campaigns** page of www.RPAforAll.org or by request.
- **Write to your representative and senator in your state legislature and your U.S. representative and senator.** RPA welcomes requests for assistance.
- **Support RPA.** RPA members keep the (cont. →)

* Responsible Policies for Animals' newsletter, *Thin Ice*, gets its name from the ethical and political "thin ice" animal use and ecosystem disruption are based on and the actual thin ice threatening polar bears and other beings due to those practices.

10,000 Years Is Enough campaign going. *Only RPA campaigns for the rights of all animals, including humans, by addressing the massive LGU meat problem.* ★

* "Carnism" was coined by Melanie Joy, Ph.D., Ed.M., professor of psychology and sociology at University of Massachusetts-Boston and author of *Why We Love Dogs, Eat Pigs, and Wear Cows: An Introduction to Carnism*. The term helps people understand meat as an ideology promoted by institutions and industries rather than a freely made choice as is widely believed.

** *World-Watch*, November-December 2009.

★ ★ ★

RPA Yukon Member a Leading Humane Educator Publishes letters promoting RPA, sets Green Party Straight!

A devastating effect of our land-grant universities' (LGUs') meat-industry programs, misleadingly called "animal science" – and a key reason for so little progress toward humane treatment of animals (including humans) – is that LGUs use their educational and scientific image to spread or promote meat – including dairy, fish, eggs, and feed – throughout the world.

Canada has universities with colleges of agriculture just like U.S. LGUs. Unlike so much of North America, the vast Canadian territory of Yukon has been fortunate enough to avoid the extremely inhumane, unhealthful, polluting animal factories our LGUs help perpetrate, which are rapidly spreading to China and other large countries.

Educating To Halt Dairy

Longtime RPA member Mike Grieco, a resident of Yukon's capital Whitehorse (see *Thin Ice*, Fall 2007, for photo of Mike's bicycle sporting RPA's bumper sticker), has published many excellent letters criticizing hunting and other inhumane practices.

A while back, Mike heard of a dairy-industry assessment, furtively backed by a Canadian college of agriculture, of whether to bring the dairy industry to Yukon. Consulting with RPA and using RPA literature to help inform Yukoners of the dairy problem and agriculture-college link, Mike contacted his elected representative and got busy with his pen. Reasons are difficult to prove, but a possible Yukon dairy industry has not reared its head for a long time!

Educating Color-Blind Greens

A maxim, even among many conservative conservationists, goes, "You can't eat meat and be an environmentalist." Mike discovered Yukon's Green Party promoting a notion of "sustainable" meat production – an oxymoron, as detailed in RPA founder & director David Cantor's 2005 letter in *World-Watch* magazine.

In addition to its kind & generous members, RPA is ...

Staff

David Cantor, Executive Director

Board of Directors

David Cantor, President

Lynn Cummings, Vice President

Rob Teti, Treasurer

David Sauder, Secretary

Suzanne McAllister Avery, Ph.D.

★

Responsible Policies for Animals, Inc. (RPA), promotes responsible policies for nonhuman animals that are also responsible policies for people and ecosystems: basic constitutional & legal rights of nonhuman animals not to be used or have their ecosystems disrupted by humans.

RPA is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit organization. Monetary and in-kind donations to RPA are tax exempt as allowed by law.

Anyone may become an RPA member by donating \$15.00 or more. RPA considers ill, impoverished, incarcerated, and animal-dedicated people for donation-free honorary memberships on an individual basis.

RPA members receive *Thin Ice* and other updates on RPA's work. New members receive RPA's bumper sticker (see www.RPAforAll.org).

★

Donate to RPA at www.RPAforAll.org or by mail.

★

RPA's comprehensive statement opposing violence in the name of animal rights is available at www.RPAforAll.org or by mail.

★

Responsible Policies for Animals, Inc.

RPA4all@aol.com

P.O. Box 891, Glenside, PA 19038, USA

www.RPAforAll.org

www.ExpertsOfConscience.org

www.EatForSports.org

215-886-RPA1 (-7721)

Again, Mike took action. He published his letter in the Whitehorse *Star* in October, then the territory-wide *Yukon News*, headed "Animal Use Unjust, and Certainly Not Green" (November 30, 2009). Notice Mike quotes RPA's bumper sticker!

Re No beef with the Greens: (News, Oct 2)

All animal-use industries are inherently inhumane, and there is no such thing as "sustainable" or healthful meat production, as John Streicker, the Green Party candidate for the Yukon, would like the public to believe. Streicker said these things in a reply to an open letter from me to Elizabeth May, the leader of the Green (cont. →)

Party.

Doesn't the Green (Icon) Party realize that even some pretty conservative environmentalists know that "you can't eat meat and be an environmentalist"? Industries (and now politicians) have been misleading the public by supporting and promoting the commercial production and consumption of animals.

The "Green" Party and the Yukon Party appear to be behind on the science that shows the human anatomy does not need meat, milk and eggs, and that these "products" have been linked to many diseases in human beings. Influenza, anthrax and even the common cold virus have adapted to human beings through steady exposure to domesticated animals.

The public continues to be misled about this. The Green Party is in a good position to take a stand on these issues, but they have decided to go the "mainstream" route instead.

All animal use is unjust, and this injustice is the leading cause of ecosystem destruction.

Please see the first section of www.RPAforAll.org Animal Rights page - up to the part about the 500-million year plan.

"They're sentient beings, not food choices!" - Responsible Polices for Animals, Inc.

Great job, Mike! And thank you for raising awareness of Responsible Policies for Animals and for your longtime support of RPA! ★

★ ★ ★

RPA Founder Speaks at Conference, Colleges

Unique talks defy animal-rights stereotypes, make political argument for animal rights!

Since the last issue of *Thin Ice*, Responsible Policies for Animals (RPA) founder & director David Cantor has given **eight new and original RPA presentations**. All of RPA's presentations promote *the political argument for animal rights*. Exactly what does that mean? *Read on!*

The first four RPA presentations listed below took place at Vegetarian Summerfest 2009, organized by the North American Vegetarian Society at University of Pittsburgh's Johnstown campus, July 8-12; the others as specified. **Text of some RPA presentations are available upon request.**

➤ **News, Media, Vegetarianism, and Animals.** The news industry tends to serve interests that are not altogether constructive or humane. What their true nature means for vegetarian education and animal advocacy.

➤ **A Rose By Any Other Name.** Shakespeare's Juliet was wrong. Words generate wrong thoughts, enabling meat

to continue polluting, sickening people, warming the climate, and devastating human and nonhuman lives. How to turn the tables by using words accurately and truthfully.

➤ **Political Vegetarianism.** We all support the meat, fish, dairy, egg, and feed-crop industries through taxes and publicly supported institutions, despite the industries' destructive nature. Why that is, what kinds of political solutions we can create, and how to create them.

➤ **What Health Is and Why It Matters.** How to advance vegetarian education and animal advocacy by understanding the full meaning of health.

➤ **Eat Like Life Matters.** **Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, November 2nd.** Everyone wants to feel good and live long, wants the environment to be healthy and clean, and wants animals to be treated humanely, but most people eat as if they don't. How it got this way, and where we're going.

➤ **Toward Free and Informed Food Choices.** **Penn State University, State College, Pennsylvania, November 3rd.** People do not freely choose the standard American diet (SAD) - they are taught and conditioned to accept it almost from birth. Science and ethics have long since shown it is an unhealthy, eco-disruptive, inhumane diet. Suffering the most are nonhuman animals, but humans are also victims of SAD. A historical and cultural perspective helps debunk SAD.

➤ **Earth's Best Hope: Rights of All Animals - part of the symposium Rights and the Environment.** **Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa, November 12th.** The environmental movement has failed; promoting only human interests is a major reason; equal basic rights of all individual animals not to be used by humans or have their ecosystems disrupted by humans is the only likely means to meaningful ecosystem protection.

➤ **Land of the Free - and of the Enslaved.** **North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina, November 18th.** We have choices, but are locked into practices and policies that undermine our wellbeing. Solving our country's big health, environment, and social problems without rights of all animals is like pedaling a bicycle without a chain. Hear a thoroughly researched view. Share your insight, experience, and questions.

Talks Bring Additional Opportunities!

At Grinnell College, Cantor's alma mater, Cantor also spoke to the political science class Rights, Natural, Political, Human, Animal, and met with the professor and about ten particularly interested students for lunch. Dinners provided an opportunity to exchange ideas with other symposium speakers, professors, and students.

Cantor received superlative comments about his talks from professors as well as students and local community residents.

(cont. ➔)

RPA: A New Approach to Animal Advocacy

A key reason Cantor founded RPA was that his then-thirteen years (now twenty) of full-time animal advocacy, working with hundreds of groups and advocates on behalf of national organizations, convinced him progress was not being made toward animal rights – the basic obligation of humans not to use or destroy nonhuman animals or disrupt their ecosystems.

Cantor came to animal advocacy understanding humans lacking basic rights have no meaningful protection against tyrant classes, institutions, and corporations or the suffering tyranny ensures. Through the years, he took part in demonstrations, civil disobedience, and animal rescue; responded to countless cruelty-to-animals complaints and advised eyewitnesses; filed detailed formal complaints based on horrifying investigative footage and other evidence; urged officials and executives to change their institutions' and corporations' practices; helped prepare literature; published countless articles and letters.

"All those years, as for decades, even centuries before," Cantor says, "everything steadily worsened – the number of animals used and killed, the degree of suffering they endure, human suffering from inhumane treatment of other animals. All of this confirmed the belief I share with leading theorists that inhumane treatment of animals – animal use and ecosystem disruption – will always worsen and there will always be more cruelty no matter what anyone says or does, *as long as humans fail to establish and enforce equal basic rights of all individual animals, regardless of species, to be free from use and ecosystem disruption by humans.*"

Key Ingredient: Political Argument for Animal Rights

Animal-rights theorists have long explained the *ethical* argument for animal rights – they experience life and have interests in avoiding suffering and living enjoyable and fulfilling lives, therefore require rights for meaningful protection. Some have excoriated animal advocates and institutions for failing to promote animal rights. And it is true that helping animals and enforcing animal-welfare laws do not promote animal rights. But ethical arguments rarely suffice to protect *humans* against tyranny, let alone nonhuman animals, whom humans have enslaved, destroyed, and driven from their natural homes for thousands of years.

So RPA emphasizes *the political argument for animal rights* while also pushing the little-known ethical argument.

Politics includes everything related to the public interest – not just electoral and legislative matters, all that the mass media call "politics." Inhumane treatment of nonhuman animals – animal use and ecosystem disruption, as distinct from cruelty, which is done for the purpose of causing pain and suffering – is *the most pressing political matter* and at the same time the least recognized.

Inhumane treatment of nonhuman animals – manifested in their lacking basic autonomy and ecology rights – is the root cause of the big human problems: war, poverty, genocide, human prejudice, disease, soaring medical & insurance costs, global warming, other ecological problems.

There is no such thing as reducing inhumane treatment of nonhuman animals without establishing their basic rights. And establishing their basic rights is inherently linked to improving human life. So at RPA presentations, there is no talk of "animal rights violence" or "hating people."

It's Easy To Help!

➤ **Discuss with RPA how to arrange an RPA presentation in your community for 2010.** Speaking requests are welcome. Since the political argument for animal rights teaches why animal rights is the only likely solution to the big human problems, the best speaking opportunities are at events related to the environment, human health, food-production methods, peace, poverty, sexism, racism, and other big human problems. ★

Spreading the Word in Magazines, Too!

Since the last issue of *Thin Ice*, two large-circulation magazines published these letters by Responsible Policies for Animals founder & director David Cantor:

Time magazine, July 6, 2009

In addition to the good prevention steps described in your cover story, I propose that the healthiest eating is the simplest. Rather than splitting hairs over types of fish or meat and how to cook them, eliminating them altogether is the surest path to staying healthy longer.

Utne Reader, September-October 2009

As business schools teach harmful financial practices, our land-grant universities' colleges of agriculture teach harmful food practices, driving chronic disease, soaring medical and insurance costs, global warming, food & water waste, and inhumane treatment of animals. "Animal science" sounds erudite, but it's really meat, dairy, fish, egg, and animal-feed technology – not knowledge of animals, which is zoology. Given the abundant literature on conflict of interest in the academy, and given that knowledge is routinely used to promote special interests and popular interests over the public interest, maybe we should monitor our educational institutions at least as much as governmental ones.

➤ **Submit your own letters** in response to published articles. RPA can assist you. Letters are subject to cutting. The fewer words you use, the more likely readers will see exactly what you want to say. ★