

RPA Goes to Washington

This July 8-12, RPA took part in AR2004, the national animal rights conference in Washington, D.C. RPA Board of Directors members Lynn Cummings and Doug Percival joined Executive Director David Cantor to table at RPA's **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign exhibit.

Many of the approximately 700 AR2004 attendees stopped by RPA's table and learned about the land-grant universities' (LGUs) misguided and inhumane teaching of animal agribusiness. Some were especially shocked to learn that most LGUs slaughter chickens, pigs, cattle, and other animals on campus and teach students how to kill the animals.

Visitors picked up lots of RPA's **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign literature. Some decided to become RPA members on the spot.

A few visitors told us they attend or used to attend an LGU but knew little of the animal-agribusiness problem at their schools. Some realized flesh from the school slaughterhouse was served at the cafeterias but hadn't considered that their years of higher education omitted the huge body of research showing animal products' links to heart disease, stroke, and other "diseases of affluence" and the fact that *Homo sapiens* is naturally an herbivorous species, with none of the anatomical or physiological traits of omnivores or carnivores related to obtaining, eating, or digesting food.

Hometown Coverage

After AR2004, *Abington News and Views*, an excellent local-access cable program received by more than 40,000 households in several Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, townships, reported on RPA's participation. So did *Chamber Chat*, the newsletter of the Greater Glenside Chamber of Commerce, of which RPA is pleased to be a member. Both mentioned RPA's **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign. ★

On the Road Again

RPA appreciates and thanks the animal advocates who have invited the organization's director to speak to new audiences in recent months.

- On August 25th, RPA Executive Director David Cantor gave a presentation to a large group of wildlife advocates at the public library of Millburn, New Jersey. He spoke about inaccurate uses of language that maintain prejudice against nonhuman animals and perpetuate slaughters of white-tailed deer, Canada geese, and black bears — animals those who attended are working to protect.

He also explained RPA's **This Land Is Their Land** campaign to protect wildlife by reversing suburban sprawl and related practices that destroy countless free-living animals.

Cantor prepared a detailed paper to distribute at the Millburn event: **"Words: Building Blocks of Thought, Action, Wildlife Destruction, and Wildlife Protection."** Copies of the paper are available from RPA upon request.

The gathering, which also included other speakers, was organized by Janet Pizar, a Millburn resident, board member of the Coalition for Animals, and dedicated animal advocate.

- On October 25th, Cantor spoke in the Nazareth Center of Marywood University, Scranton, Pennsylvania. His presentation was titled **All in the Same Boat: How To Protect People by Protecting Animals.** It examined several of the large societal problems discussed throughout the 2004 United States electoral campaigns — soaring medical-care costs, the obesity epidemic, terrorism & war, and our society's reliance on fossil fuels — and explained how ending animal abuse, enslavement, and exploitation could solve those problems far more effectively than approaches already tried or those recommended by the major political parties or their candidates.

Marywood Students for Education on Animal Liberation (SEAL) did a great job of organizing and publicizing the event. ★

Thank you for supporting Responsible Policies for Animals and for all you do to reduce the impact of human practices on nonhuman animals! Consider giving an RPA membership as a gift. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Educating leaders for a humane future.

Responsible Policies for Animals, Inc.
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Thin Ice*

The Newsletter of Responsible Policies for Animals, Inc.

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Vol. 2, No.2 ★ Fall 2004

10,000 Years Is Enough Campaign Advances as Organizations Lend Support

In the Spring 2004 issue of *Thin Ice*, we reported on Responsible Policies for Animals' (RPA's) mailing of Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson's excellent book *The Pig Who Sang to the Moon: The Emotional World of Farm Animals* to the presidents of the 50 states' main land-grant universities (LGUs) with a statement from the author (see box, page 2).

That important step in RPA's **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign — showing our LGUs the true natures of animals unjustly abused, killed, and denied all of their rights by the animal flesh, milk, and egg industries — brought responses from some LGUs that did not answer RPA's first two campaign mailings — and also from some that did (see box, page 2). Twenty of the universities have now replied.

"As a long-time educator, I find it appalling for a university to evade a fundamental fact-based challenge to any of its programs," says RPA Executive Director David Cantor, "especially a well-researched challenge showing 'animal science' programs are unjust, training students for cruel industries, teaching false notions of 'animal welfare,' and misusing taxpayer and tuition-payer dollars to do these things."

Organizations Sign On

Giving the **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign a boost, seven important organizations signed statements this fall supporting the campaign's goal: an end to the teaching of animal agribusiness — factory farming and the practices that support it. Those organizations' memberships total **well over 1 million people**, and RPA has barely begun to request other organizations' support!

RPA is grateful to these organizations for their support of this crucial effort: **Farm Animal Reform Movement** (Bethesda, Maryland), **In Defense of Animals** (Mill Valley, California), **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals** (Norfolk, Virginia), **Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine** (Washington, D.C.), **Showing Animals Respect and Kindness** (Geneva, Illinois), the **Society & Animals Forum** (Washington Grove, Maryland), and **United Poultry Concerns** (Machipongo, Virginia). ★

Many thanks to activists Fran Bojarski, Helen Harvey, and Dot McDonald for their time and diligence in helping RPA package and address those 50 books, letters, and author's statements to land-grant university presidents!

Q: *How can we have humane and ecologically sound food production when universities teach cruel, polluting, resource-wasting methods?*

A: *We can't.*

Help end the teaching of cruel, destructive factory farming — support Responsible Policies for Animals' 10,000 Years Is Enough campaign!

*RPA's newsletter, *Thin Ice*, gets its name from the ethical "thin ice" on which practices that harm nonhuman animals stand and the literal thin ice preventing some polar bears from obtaining food due to human practices. Polar bears feed by positioning themselves at holes in the ice and reaching into the water to seize prey. Our species' warming of the Earth's climate has thinned the ice: It won't support enough weight at some feeding sites, so some bears are going hungry.

RPA on the Air

Many thanks to Janice Blue, host of the *Go Vegan Texas!* radio show, for her June 6, 2004, hour-long **10,000 Years Is Enough** broadcast. Blue interviewed RPA Executive Director David Cantor for most of the program. They discussed the problem of our land-grant universities' (LGUs) serving the flesh, milk, and egg industries with teaching and research.

It turned out Blue had done some of her own investigating: She informed listeners that a receptionist at Texas A&M University — her state's LGU — confirmed TAMU students slaughter animals as part of their "education." TAMU is ranked number 1 in serving the meat industry by *Meat & Poultry* magazine.

Howard "Mad Cowboy" Lyman was kind enough to join in the discussion. He told a hair-raising tale about the Better Living Through Chemistry agribusiness program in which he studied at the University of Montana before returning to run his family's farm and discovering he'd learned highly destructive food-production methods.

He told how the chemicals he applied to make the farm "more productive" killed the birds and vegetation in the area, and he made clear that LGU "animal science" programs are among the huge subsidies to the flesh, milk, and egg industries without which the industries could not make a profit due to their inherently high costs. He affirmed the need for people who care about animals, people, and ecosystems to help get our LGUs out of the animal industries.

The *Go Vegan Texas! 10,000 Years Is Enough* broadcast is available at **KPFTarchive.org**. Hear *Go Vegan Texas!* live at GoVeganTexas.org and KPFT 90.1 FM Houston and 88.5 Galveston.

Author Masson on the University Problem

Here's what best-selling author Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson told land-grant university presidents about the need to stop teaching factory farming. His statement accompanied RPA's mailing of his book to the administrators.

To Whom It May Concern:

Researching and writing *The Pig Who Sang to the Moon: The Emotional World of Farm Animals* convinced me universities should not teach students to take part in the egg, dairy, and meat industries and should not conduct research for those industries.

Botany, zoology, ecology, conservation, nutrition, the cultivation of fruits, nuts, grains, vegetables and legumes, respect for all living beings — these are great academic traditions. Treating animals as industrial objects, however, denies that animals are our fellow sentient beings, undermines ecology, conservation and sound nutrition, and subverts the purpose of truth-seeking institutions.

I hope university leaders will read *The Pig Who Sang to the Moon* and will heed its central message: Animals exist to live their own lives. Let us fill the human mind and spirit with animals' beauty, variety and mystery, and let us stop filling human stomachs with their eggs, milk and flesh.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, Ph.D.
March 2004

In addition to its kind and generous members, RPA is ...
Staff

David Cantor, Executive Director

Board of Directors

David Cantor, President

Lynn Cummings, Esquire, Vice President

Doug Percival, Secretary

Rob Teti, D.V.M., Treasurer

★

Eric Hauser is RPA's webmaster.

Thin Ice is designed by Kristen K. Schada,
Kirkland Printing, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.

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Responsible Policies for Animals, Inc. (RPA), shows influential people how to establish responsible policies for animals that are also responsible policies for people and ecosystems. RPA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Anyone can become a member of RPA by donating \$15.00, and RPA appreciates and makes effective use of donations of any amount.

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Universities Respond

Here are a few of the land-grant university presidents' many responses to RPA's *The Pig Who Sang to the Moon: The Emotional World of Farm Animals* mailing.

"Thank you for your recent letter and the enclosed copy of Dr. Jeffrey Masson's book I have perused it with interest and look forward to the chance to read it. I have read a number of books about dog behavior and, specifically, about how dogs and their human families are emotionally and intellectually in synch. As an animal lover, I know it is true...."

— Karen A. Holbrook, President, The Ohio State University

"Thank you for providing a copy of *The Pig Who Sang to the Moon*. I am in the process of reading it and find it to be well-written and interesting."

— Frank O. Perkins, Assistant Vice President for Research and Graduate Education, University of Hawaii-Manoa

"Thank you for letting me know your views concerning the teaching of animal agriculture and for sending me a copy of Mr. Masson's new book, which I look forward to reading in my spare time. ..."

"I appreciate your taking the time to express your concerns about the use of animals in agriculture."

— Jeffrey S. Lehman, President, Cornell University

"I wanted to send a note to thank you for sending a copy of *The Pig Who Sang to the Moon* by Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson to the University of Missouri-Columbia. I look forward to the opportunity to review it."

"I appreciate your interest in the success of our programs."

— Brady J. Deaton, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Missouri-Columbia

Books Show Need for 10,000 Years Is Enough Campaign

The fine new book *Speciesism* by Joan Dunayer says, under the heading "Advocating for Rights,"

When, and only when, someone becomes a supporter of nonhuman rights, they reject *all* forms of speciesist abuse. To build public opposition to nonhuman enslavement, activists must wage anti-slavery campaigns.

A campaign by Responsible Policies for Animals (RPA) exemplifies animal rights advocacy. In 2003, RPA executive director David Cantor wrote to the head of each U.S. state's primary land-grant university, asking them to start dismantling their school's "animal agriculture" program. Among other things, Cantor objected to the killing of nonhumans (that is, depriving them of their right to life). He told a *PRWeek* reporter, "We're an abolitionist organization. We want an end to the animal industry [sic], and we want an end to the teaching of that industry." No "welfarist" bargaining away of nonhuman rights. No reluctance to state the true goal ("an end to the animal industry"). An unequivocally anti-slavery stance. Cantor's efforts generated discussion that got people to question nonhuman exploitation itself.

That is the first mention of RPA we know of in a published book! Fortunately, it is an excellent book, like Dunayer's previous one, *Animal Equality: Language and Liberation*. In *Speciesism*, Dunayer makes a case, only deniable based on prejudice, that all sentient beings have moral rights that should be established in human laws; that nonhuman animals should receive basic legal protections against enslavement, torture, killing, and loss of habitat.

Just 161 pages, the text of *Speciesism* is followed by 17 pages of endnotes documenting key assertions and passages with scientific, journalistic, philosophical, and other sources and select bibliographies on animal rights theory and animal consciousness. It is available from Lantern Books (www.lanternbooks.com or 800-856-8664) and other booksellers.

New Volume by Vegan Author

Meat Market: Animals, Ethics, and Money is the new book by Erik Marcus, whose 1997 *Vegan: The New Ethics of Eating* gave thousands of readers a lucid, thorough explanation of ethical reasons for living on a humane, ecologically sound, healthful, delicious, varied diet of fruits, grains, vegetables, nuts, and legumes.

Meat Market scathingly criticizes the land-grant universities' (LGUs') animal-agribusiness programs. Responsible Policies for Animals' 10,000 Years Is Enough campaign aims to eliminate. Marcus understands a key reason hundreds of millions of people treat nonhuman animals' flesh, milk, and eggs as staple foods when only the wealthy used to eat "meat" regularly is animal products' artificially low prices. In the 1950s, he writes,

At agriculture colleges across the country, animal scientists were developing ways to raise more animals in less space than ever before. Battery cages were introduced for layer hens, while farrowing crates made their way into the pig industry. Automatic feeding and watering systems were invented. These and other advances made the concept of individualized care obsolete.

He gives a few examples of LGU "animal scientists'" "accomplishments." From 1950 to 2002, the average cow exploited for milk went from producing 665 gallons per year to producing 2,320 gallons. The average pig raised to be eaten a few decades ago grew from two pounds at birth to a little over 200 pounds in just under six months; now such a pig reaches 260 pounds in the same amount of time. In 1950, chickens took 70 days to reach a "slaughter weight" of three pounds. Since 2000, they've reached a "slaughter weight" of five pounds in just 47 days!

"While there's no doubt that breeding programs have helped America's food dollar go further, the animals pay a terrible price for these advances," Marcus explains.

Glad to see him inform readers of harm the LGUs have been doing to animals through the years, RPA sent Marcus a 10,000 Years Is Enough campaign information pack and thanked him for his book, which is excellent on other aspects of the flesh industry as well. Marcus replied that he will help promote the 10,000 Years Is Enough campaign and values the material available at RPAforAll.org.

Meat Market is available at vegan.com.

Sierra Club Campaigner Zeros In

Many people lament how long some conservationists and environmentalists have been taking to recognize the rights of nonhuman animals and the potential to protect ecosystems by teaching respect for all animals — not only by preventing species extinctions.

Sierra Club Clean Water Campaign Director Ken Midkiff's book *The Meat You Eat: How Corporate Farming Has Endangered America's Food Supply*, also just out this year, emphasizes the need to avoid eating animal-factory products as opposed to what he (wrongly, in RPA's view) calls "sustainably produced" animal products. But Midkiff does accurately point a finger at the LGUs for making flesh, milk, and egg production much more inhumane, ecologically unsound, and unhealthy than on traditional small farms:

Colleges of agriculture at these land-grant universities established departments to assist in developing new agriculture techniques. By the end of World War II, nearly all of these departments became focused on agribusiness industries and began to view, and still view, farming as a business. Most managed to conceal this bias; others didn't bother. At institutions as diverse as North Carolina State, the University of Florida, Texas Agriculture and Mining University, and the University of Missouri the colleges formed overtly commercial agriculture departments. And faculties within these departments make no pretense about their goals. They are involved in research and development for industrial agribusiness.

Meat Market and *The Meat You Eat* offer crucial information. They provide a much-needed public service, for the mass media constantly ignore the most important facts about food production even though informed food choices cannot be made without such facts. These books also show how important it is for animals, people, and ecosystems that Americans work together to get our LGUs out of the flesh, milk, and egg industries. ★