

Public Hears Animal-Rights Message RPA-Style

Vegetarian Summerfest is an extremely well-run annual event of the North American Vegetarian Society, spanning five days in July and bringing together experts, advocates, and others interested in matters related to vegetarian diets.

At the 32nd Summerfest this past July, RPA Executive Director David Cantor gave five presentations: Time To Stop Teaching for the Flesh, Milk & Egg Industries; Vegetarianism and Animal Rights: Natural Partners for Creating a Humane Future; Health, Conservation, Peace and a Humane Future; Justice as a Component of Health; and How To Promote Animal Rights. These topics enabled him to explain key activities in which RPA is doing original and effective work.

He explained ...

☞ RPA's 10,000 Years Enough campaign to end our land-grant universities' service to the flesh, milk & egg industries;

☞ why animal rights will spread vegetarian eating to all people, but choosing and promoting a vegetarian diet, though inherently good to do, will neither spread vegetarianism to all people nor lead to animal rights;

☞ big benefits of animal rights for people, much of whose suffering comes from violating nonhuman animals' natural boundaries that need to be recognized in law;

☞ and why animal rights must be promoted explicitly for exactly what it is – *the route to, not the result of*, helping animals, saving animals, liberating animals, ending suffering, veganism, abolitionism, and ecosystem protection.

RPA's table at Summerfest gave out hundreds of pieces of free literature and sold out its supply of RPA's "**They're sentient beings, not food choices!**" bumper stickers. **Business Fair at University**

RPA has long been a member of its local chamber of commerce, the Greater Glenside Chamber of Commerce – a good way for RPA to contribute to community affairs and support locally owned businesses over inhumane suburban sprawl, and a good way for businesspersons, often influential people in the community, to get to know us and to become less uncomfortable with the concept of animal rights than most Americans are.

For the second consecutive year, on August 31st RPA took part in the Arcadia University Business fair at Arcadia's campus in Glenside - a Glenside Chamber event. RPA gave out free literature to many interested students, listened to students' accounts of their personal experiences with animals, signed up many students to receive e-mail postings from RPA, and spoke with other participating Glenside businesspersons. **Local Community Fair**

Also for the second consecutive year, RPA set up its table exhibit at the Upper Merion Community Fair in Merion,

Pennsylvania, on September 9th. The organization distributed free literature, explained animal rights to people who visited the exhibit, met some officials representing the district where the fair took place, their aides, their challengers in the upcoming elections, and people representing a variety of local businesses and organizations.

Adventure in Upstate New York

If you ever visit the Rochester area, be sure to check www.ARAUNY.org to see if **Animal Rights Advocates of Upstate New York** is holding one of its excellent events, and plan to take part!

ARAUNY President Lois Baum and Vice-President Gregory Baum brought many people together for a wonderful vegan dinner followed by a talk by Cantor titled *Animal Advocacy: New Insights for a New Direction* at the Brighton Town Hall on October 5, 2006. Cantor explained RPA's **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign and how to advance animal rights as *the route to, not the result of*, abolishing animal exploitation.

In addition to bringing out an impressively large and informed audience on a weeknight, ARAUNY set up an elaborate exhibit along an entire wall of the auditorium illustrating the group's several abolitionist campaigns for animals.

Long-time activist Joel Freedman, whose success with an ordinance restricting dog chaining was mentioned in an earlier issue of *Thin Ice*, is a member of ARAUNY's Board of Directors.

Humane Eatin' in Scranton

When your travels take you to northeastern Pennsylvania, check www.TheVegetarianWay.org to see if you're in time for one of The Vegetarian Way's fabulous education & vegetarian dining events! At the October 14th event, Cantor gave the talk **Plants-Only Diet: Political Imperative**, explaining government influence on food choices and nutrition, changes that would benefit animals and people, and the need to end universities' service to the flesh, milk, egg & feed-crop industries.

Alaine Chang created The Vegetarian Way, which has grown rapidly in the short time it has existed. In addition to educational speakers at special meals, participants receive excellent literature on benefits of vegetarian eating and facts about nutrition our TV health experts always miss.

RPA on VEGCAST

Author & journalist Vance Lehmkuhl of Philadelphia founded **VEGCAST: The Vegetarian Podcast**. **On October 29th, he interviewed Cantor about RPA's 10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign and animal rights. At the VEGCAST website, www.vegcast.com, Cantor's interview is #17.

The following month, introducing interview #18, VEGCAST debuted Cantor's recording of the animal-rights song he wrote, "When I Was Young." The song is also on Cantor's first music CD, *Songs of Now and Then*, just out this December.

At your first opportunity, check out VEGCAST! ★

Thin Ice*

The Newsletter of Responsible Policies for Animals, Inc.

★ Fall 2006

Ad Adds Spark to 10,000 Years Is Enough Campaign

Well over 100 in the academy learn details of first-ever effort to end university support of the flesh, milk, egg & feed-crop industries!

The November 10, 2006, issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, the premier news publication for university

instructors, administrators and fundraisers, included this advertisement:

Run by RPA, the cost of printing it 4" x 3" was donated by an RPA member and dedicated long-time animal activist wishing to make RPA's **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign better known.

RPA created a special web page at the URL given in the ad – specially designed to explain ethical problems with our land-grant universities' (LGUs') service to the flesh, milk, egg & feed-crop industries. The web page outlines the "animal science" problem based on irrefutable up-to-date sources.

The 138 university professionals who visited the site in November got a clear message about the need for them to help eliminate "animal science" – for humane treatment of animals and to protect people and ecosystems! Says RPA Executive Director David Cantor, "The advertisement/URL combination will make a lasting impression on people whose work and institutions are all about learning. I expect results to be far-reaching and substantial for advancing animal rights. We're thinking of running the ad again."

RPA's **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign seeks to protect animals, people, and ecosystems for the long term by ending our LGUs' putting the flesh, milk, egg & feed-crop industries ahead of humane treatment of animals, the public interest, and the future of all life on Earth.

More than three out of four people in China – *several times the number of people living in the U.S.* – ate at a KFC last year! Americans' way of life is the model poor people throughout the world aspire to emulate. Our LGUs and the industries they support gladly take advantage of the fact that nonhuman animals lack legal rights to spread animal factories to China and other large countries.

As long as our LGUs – enormous universities with many of the largest student bodies and alumni associations – teach that nonhuman animals cannot have legal rights, it will be no wonder if progress toward animal rights continues to stagnate as it has for so long.

All who care about animals' wellbeing can see we must change our institutions to establish basic legal rights for all sentient beings: Appealing to compassion and fighting

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It isn't just academic!

Some university training causes real-world problems.

Are you an expert in...

Education? Nutrition? Ecology? Food Production? Animals? Take a minute to see how you can be a part of the solution:

www.ExpertsOfConscience.org

The Message Heard Round the World!

Shots like those "heard round the world" announcing the struggle for human rights will not advance animal rights: Human supremacy is not maintained by as visible an enemy as one country and its military or even the totality of inhumane industries but informs every aspect of human society. The pen, "mightier than the sword," is probably the answer for nonhuman animals. It was crucial for mobilizing the Continental Army, and technology has increased its power dramatically since then.

One small example, just 3-by-11 inches, is RPA's "**They're sentient beings, not food choices!**" bumper sticker – see www.RPAforAll.org.

You might remember from a previous issue of *Thin Ice* that Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, whose book *The Pig Who Sang to the Moon: The Emotional World of Farm Animals* RPA sent to 50 land-grant university (LGU) presidents and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges in the **10,000 Years Is Enough**

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It isn't news that your support of Responsible Policies for Animals is greatly appreciated!

Thank you for making so successful the fourth full year of RPA's work toward responsible policies for animals that are also responsible policies for people and ecosystems – basic legal rights for all sentient beings!

* 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 threatening polar bears' and other animals' survival.

Why Democratic Party, Like GOP, Will Not Advance Animal Rights

By RPA Executive Director David Cantor

Some animal advocates who would like nonhuman animals to have the meaningful protection basic legal rights and only basic legal rights can offer expressed enthusiasm for Democratic Party victories on Election Day 2006. Democrats might prove less eager than Republicans to violate activists' rights or to protect big business at all costs, but neither Democrats nor Republicans have any potential to advance animal rights until the public applies the kind of pressure needed for fundamental change.

That is far from happening, so it is important that we not confuse animal-welfare legislation with progress toward animal rights.

The illusory nature of "protection" provided under the animal-welfare system makes animal welfare essentially a public-relations arm of animal exploitation. Believing animal-welfare laws and calls for compassion afford protection, the public does not consider whether animal ownership, exploitation, and destruction should be challenged altogether. *That is why the concept of animal rights arose in the first place.*

Naturally, animal-welfare advocates urge officials to support legislation within the existing animal-welfare/animal-exploitation system to ban one or another form of cruelty or require slightly better treatment of some imprisoned, abused and exploited animals. And naturally, Republicans and Democrats alike support countless animal-welfare measures. Doing so enhances one's reputation for compassion or buffers one's reputation as uncaring but has no relation to the humaneness or inhumaneness of anything else an official does.

I would challenge anyone to prove even one instance of an elected official or candidate of either major party publicly speaking or acting in favor of the primary goal of the animal-rights movement:- basic legal rights, including an end to animals' property status.

Surely we do not think what could be the most far-reaching change for the better since civilization began is going to occur without being publicly and explicitly promoted and explained? Surely we do not think pursuing other things that already occur within the status quo will achieve our goal?

In 1992, a co-worker and I met with Republican U.S. Representative Benjamin Gilman, whose district included Sullivan County, New York, where most ducks in the U.S. foie gras industry are force-fed for weeks on end and slaughtered just before their diseased livers kill them. An undercover investigator had shown that many stomachs burst during force-feeding and many other horrors. Rep. Gilman mainly wanted to assess whether stopping force-feeding would rile the New York Farm Bureau and other

In addition to its generous members,
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Responsible Policies for Animals, Inc. (RPA), promotes responsible policies for animals that are also responsible policies for people and ecosystems: basic legal rights for nonhuman animals. RPA is a 501(c)(3) educational non-profit organization. All donations to RPA are tax deductible as allowed by law. Anyone can become an RPA member by donating \$15.00 or more, and RPA appreciates and makes effective use of donations in any amount. RPA members receive *Thin Ice* by mail and other updates and information by e-mail and mail.

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Donations to RPA may be made online or by mail.

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RPA's statement opposing the use of violence and other antisocial behavior in animal advocacy is available at www.RPAforAll.org or by mail.

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powerful special interests and cost him votes and financial support.

Soon afterwards, I met Democratic U.S. Senator Charles Robb of Virginia, who agreed making foie gras "sounds horrible" and told me to send him information. He refused to reply when I followed up after sending him information.

Those are just two examples of legislators - one Republican and one Democrat - asked to help end one of the cruelest industries selling flesh as food for humans. Fourteen years later, the largest foie gras company, charged with cruelty to animals in 1992 based on three veterinarians' detailed affidavits, hours of undercover video footage, and the first-ever state police raid on a U.S. factory farm, is still selling bloated, diseased duck livers. Nor has any member of the House or Senate ever introduced a nationwide ban on non-medical force-feeding - despite pleas from thousands of concerned people and expert consensus that making foie gras is inherently cruel.

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Cruelty cannot help the vast majority for the long term because cruelty is not the basis of animal exploitation and compassion is not the basis of rights.

Take Your Support of RPA Further!

☞ Give www.ExpertsOfConscience.org a visit! E-mail the URL as a link to people you know who attend or work for universities. The special web page is one of the best windows into the **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign so far. It leaves no doubt: Leaders in many fields show "animal science" must go!

☞ Even if you wrote to the former president of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) earlier in the **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign, please write a brief, respectful letter explaining the basics to the new president and urging him to help move our LGUs in the right direction: **Dr. Peter McPherson, President, NASULGC, 1307 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005-4722.** Thank you! ★

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campaign, placed the sticker on his car in New Zealand, telling RPA, "It's the best I've ever seen."

Earlier this year, we learned that the sticker is popular with the Australia organization Queensland Group for Animal Rights. QGAR not only requested a bunch of stickers to distribute but placed its statement on the homepage of its website! Later, a dedicated animal activist in Queensland sent RPA several pictures showing her car with its Queensland license plate and RPA's bumper sticker as proof the message is being heard round the world!



It takes a few more words to make a newspaper article. A few thousand miles east of Queensland, *Ka Leo Hawai'i*, the newspaper of University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, published on July 20, 2006, the *Community Perspective* article "No More Animal Science" by RPA Executive Director David Cantor and Animal Rights Hawai'i President Cathy Goeggel.

Available from RPA or at www.kaleo.org/vnews/display.v/ART/2006/07/20/44bee68507568, the article explains how our LGUs' "animal science" programs harm animals, people, and the environment and why they are intellectually dishonest and academically unsound.

A similar opinion article, "Time To Put 'Animal Science' Out to Pasture," appeared in the *University of Minnesota Daily*, about 5,000 miles northeast of the University of Hawai'i, on June 28, 2006.

It is available from RPA or at www.mndaily.com/articles/2006/06/28/68535.

Returning to the East Coast, the New York-based magazine *Satya*, which covers vegetarianism, environmentalism, animal advocacy, and social justice, published Cantor's article "10,000 Years Is Enough" - guess the topic! - in its April 2006 issue.

In the October 2006 issue of its newsletter, the *NJActivator*, the New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance (NJARA) published Cantor's article "Tell Rutgers: 10,000 Years Is Enough." Rutgers University is New Jersey's main LGU, so RPA appreciates NJARA's telling its many hundreds of members about the need for Rutgers to drop "animal science" and about RPA's **10,000 Years Is Enough** campaign for all universities to drop it.

Finally, back in RPA's county, after the *Times-Herald* of Norristown, Pennsylvania, published a reader's negative emotional reaction to RPA member Gloria Feldscher's well-reasoned letter opposing local animal-abusing activities, the paper published one from RPA on July 13, 2006 - "Responsible Policies for Animals Director Responds to Letter" - correcting the ill-informed neighbor's fear-mongering rationalizations for animal exploitation. ★

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Nor do I believe the purported ban on foie gras production and sales in California, due to take effect in 2012, will ever actually end production or sales in that state. It is no accident that the legislature passed a bill that won the publicly expressed *gratitude* of California's foie gras company's owner. More importantly, *if that law did as it purports to do, it still would not advance animal rights.* Cockfighting has been prohibited in all but a couple of states for a very long time, but that does not mean male chickens or any other animals have any legal rights - they don't. Some "fringe" forms of cruelty are a little easier to fight than others; that doesn't grant any rights; it just limits what people can do with their animal property who have no rights.

That *lack of rights* accounts for the facts that cockfighting has not been eliminated where it is prohibited; dog-fighting continues, though it is banned; and the anticruelty laws are violated routinely and funding and incentives for enforcement are extremely deficient.

Without meaningful legal rights and enforcement, no one can be safe from injustice. Not only does the animal-welfare/-exploitation system deny nonhuman animals legal rights; *it gives humans property rights in nonhumans.* No Republican or Democrat has ever looked into a television camera beneath the Capitol dome and told the American people we must go the distance required to extricate ourselves and the other animals from that situation. The first will be more than welcome! ★