



TL 4-30-03

Any way you slice it, circuses are inhumane, unnatural for animals

I am disappointed to see that the Irem Shrine Temple promoted yet another circus involving animals this year. Animal circuses create much suffering.

Keeping elephants, tigers, bears, horses and other animals in train cars or trucks and transporting them all over the country creates physical frustration and causes mental and emotional problems in the animals.

They are deprived of their natural social groups and cannot run, play, hunt, or graze.

All these animals have strong natural drives which must be frustrated and suppressed for the circus to operate (for

example, elephants in the wild generally roam a good 25 miles per day).

Animals also suffer by being trained to do unnatural acts. Such training all too often involves beatings, gouging with hooks, and other painful methods. Some even die as the result of the "training."

Circus promoters tell us the animals are given food and medical care. They seem to feel this makes everything okay. But food and medical care do not, by themselves, make for a good life or even an acceptable one. People in prison are given food and medical care.

The Golden Rule tells us to treat oth-

ers as we would want them to treat us. Which of us would want to be stolen from our mothers at birth? Beaten until we performed unnatural acts for the pleasure of others? Kept in small, confined spaces and only let out to perform those acts?

Only individuals who can answer honestly in the affirmative to the above questions should patronize circuses that use animals.

The rest of us should be doing everything we can to close them down.

Linda M. Paul, Ph.D.
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FREDERICK POST

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THURSDAY 44,025
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Hogs hurting

A former resident of the Frederick area, I have been following with concern the debate regarding the possibility of allowing intensive hog farms there. As a professional philosopher specializing in ethical questions, I submit that there is one issue that requires more serious consideration than it has yet received — the experience of the

hogs in intensive farms.

Hogs are intelligent animals. Scientific studies show that in many ways hogs are at least as intelligent as dogs, if not more so. Would we permit huge facilities to be built and to operate with the intention of keeping dogs in stalls just barely big enough to hold them?

Imagine thousands of dogs never allowed outdoors, never to walk or run, never to chase squirrels, never to sniff at interesting smells or to socialize with other dogs and humans. Imagine thousands of dogs never allowed to pursue even the most basic pleasures that dogs naturally prefer.

Most people would consider this cruel and would struggle to have such practices banned. They would say that it is wrong to treat dogs in this way. And they would be right.

All the data supports the idea that hogs suffer just as much in these conditions as dogs do. Hogs have strong natural drives that are frustrated in such farms.

Furthermore, the hogs, who do not even have room to turn around, are frequently crippled by the concrete floors that they stand on.

For those of us who believe that forcing dogs to live in such conditions would be horrible, there is no way to escape the conclusion that forcing hogs to do the same is also horrible.

There are other ways to raise hogs. We do not, actually, need to raise hogs at all. The best scientific data as well as the experience of vegetarians throughout history show clearly that we do not need to eat meat and, in fact, we are healthier without it.

This means it is not necessary in any sense that we allow hogs to be raised in such conditions. Because it is not necessary and because it causes so much suffering, it is wrong of us to do so.

Let us take a stand against such practices. Hundreds of thousands of intelligent, sensitive animals will have reason to be grateful.

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Circus animals suffer

Editor: Editor: I am disappointed to hear that Ringling Brothers Circus is returning to Wilkes-Barre. Given the events of the past year it is worth reflecting on the terror, oppression and suffering that are part of animal circuses. As Richard Pryor has pointed out, "But for the use of physical punishment by, and fear of, their oppressors, animals would never be a part of a circus."

The circus owners would have us believe that this is not so, that the animals love to travel around the country and perform. Ringling Brothers keeps huge animals such as elephants in train cars or trucks. When not performing, the elephants are restrained in these vehicles or in a tent.

The stress caused by the confinement alone causes mental and emotional problems in the elephants. They stand, rocking back and forth. It is fundamentally the same for the other animals involved: lions, tigers, bears, horses, and such.

The circus promoters tell us the animals are given food and medical care. They seem to feel this makes everything OK. But people in prison are given food and medical care. Food and medical care do not, by themselves, make for a good life or even an acceptable one.

Animals suffer by being trained to do unnatural acts. The training all too often involves painful methods.

The Golden Rule tells us to treat others as we would want them to treat us. Which of us would want to be stolen from our mothers at birth and beaten until we performed unnatural acts for the pleasure of others? Only individuals who can an-

swer honestly in the affirmative to the above questions should patronize circuses that use animals. The rest of us should be doing everything we can to end such things.

Linda M. Paul, Ph.D.

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Perspectives from afar can provide insights, solutions to local problems

Editor:

In response to the question of whether The Times Leader should print letters from people who live out of town or even out of state, my answer is an unequivocal, "Yes, absolutely!"

As an educator, I find that everything in my professional and personal experience supports the view that problems and issues — particularly controversial ones — need to be addressed from an abundance of varying perspectives.

Individuals who have particular areas of expertise or experience relevant to

the problems at hand are worth listening to regardless of where they happen to live. There are many people "out there" who have ideas worth considering. We may ultimately decide not to adopt their suggestions, but to ignore their input is shortsighted at best.

Why should we think that local opinion and experience can give us all the information we need to reach the best resolutions to the difficult problems and conflicts that we face?

While I will be the first to acknowledge the presence of many individuals

here in the valley with valuable expertise, experience and ideas, we have no grounds for assuming that all the know-how we will ever need is located here. To make that assumption and to limit the paper to publishing only local letters is a strategy worth adopting only if our goal is to keep our problems, rather than to solve them in the most rational manner.

Linda Paul

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T.L. 4-9-99

Animal-rights activism first step in raising compassionate human beings

Editor:

Heidi Herriott of the circus industry admonished individuals to investigate carefully any information which animal activists present them and to take care in examining the activists' motives (April 6). She advises being especially attentive when informants have something personally to gain from acceptance of the claims being proposed. While Herriott applies this only to animal activist groups, it is good advice in general. Those listening to Herriott's own group, the circus industry, would do well to take heed.

With that said, it should be noted that those of us who protested the circus have no personal stake in the outcome. We did not solicit memberships or contributions for any group or for ourselves. Our jobs are not dependent on the outcome of this dispute and none of us will personally benefit from ridding circuses of animal acts. Instead, we are individuals with busy lives who took time to speak for those unable to speak for themselves, the animals injured at the hands of circus employees.

Consider, from a viewpoint less personally involved than Herriott's, her statement that the circus is an advocate

for animal welfare. In reality, animals like bears, elephants and tigers have strong natural instincts and drives which are frustrated by circus life. They are forced to travel constantly, to spend most of their lives in cages or chains, to perform acts that are unnatural and unappealing to them, and to suffer punishment when they refuse to do so. Herriott claims these animals are well cared for and loved. If this is love, I hope no one ever loves me.

As for the claim of Herriott and others that 8-year-olds should be left out of such disputes, we need to ask: When should children learn to advocate com-

passion and to struggle against unfairness and injustice in all their forms?

I suggest that unless we teach children from their earliest years to empathize with others and to stand up for those who are oppressed, we are all in trouble. Children taught to turn their heads the other way in the face of suffering and injustice, those taught to go along with the prevailing mores and not to rock the boat, grow up to be individuals who watch, without acting, while people are transported to death camps.

Linda Paul

Associate Professor of Philosophy
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T.L. 5-8-99



WILKES UNIVERSITY STUDENT ORGANIZATION DONATES FOOD TO COMMUNITY — C-A-R-V-E, a Wilkes University student organization, recently donated vegetarian food for hungry persons in the community. C-A-R-V-E, which stands for Club for Animal Rights, Vegetarianism and the Environment, donated both cash and canned vegetables to the local organization REACH, whose headquarters are located in the parish building of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkes-Barre. The student group held a concert on campus to raise the money to purchase the food. The group also co-sponsors public forums on animal rights, vegetarianism and the environment. Their next scheduled forum will be conducted by nationally recognized philosopher and animal rights activist Tom Reagan at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 23 in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts, South and River Streets. Pictured, from left, are C-A-R-V-E members donating food to REACH: Dr. Henry Jacoby, assistant professor of philosophy at Wilkes; James Harrington, assistant chairperson of the Wilkes department of music, theatre and dance; Lance Demeo, student; Linda Paul, assistant professor and chairperson of philosophy and C-A-R-V-E faculty advisor; Phillip Price, student; Christopher Sleboda, student and president of C-A-R-V-E; Stan Hamilton, executive director of REACH; Dr. Holiday Adair, assistant professor of psychology; and Margie Greskewicz, student. C-A-R-V-E members absent from photo: Patrick Keane, Doreen Klimek, Heather May and Leila Hadji-Chikh.

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Schools & Colleges



Wilkes student group donates food to community

CARVE, A Wilkes University student organization, recently donated vegetarian food for hungry persons in the community.

CARVE stands for "Club for Animal Rights, Vegetarianism and the Environment."

Both cash and canned vegetables were donated to REACH, whose headquarters are in the parish building of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkes-Barre.

The student group held a concert on campus to raise the money to purchase the food. In addition to community services, the club is also involved in activities on the campus level, including working with the Wilkes' contracted food services in creating meals that are vegetarian and held healthy.

CARVE also co-sponsors public forums on animal rights, vegetarianism and the environment. The student group's next scheduled forum will be conducted by the nationally recognized 'philosopher and animal rights activist, Tom Reagan, on Thursday, Feb. 23, at 8 p.m., in the Dorothy Dickson Dart Center for

the Performing Arts, South and River Streets, Wilkes-Barre.

CARVE members, others, from the left, in the donation of food to REACH, are Dr. Henry Jacoby, Wilkes-Barre, assistant professor of philosophy at Wilkes; James Harrington, Dunmore, assistant chairman of the Wilkes Department of Music, Theatre and Dance; Lance Demeo, Andes, N.Y., student; Linda Paul, Wilkes-Barre, assistant professor and chairperson of philosophy and CARVE faculty advisor; Phillip Price, Dallas, student; Christopher Sleboda, Pittston, student and president of CARVE; Stan Hamilton, executive director of REACH; Dr. Holiday Adair, Wilkes-Barre, assistant professor of psychology, Wilkes, and Margie Greskewicz, Swoyersville, student.

Student members of CARVE who helped raise money for the food, but missing from photo are Patrick Keane, Doreen Klimek, Heather May and Leila Hadj-Chikh.

Foxes are guarding wildlife's hen house

Editor:

I would like to respond to the pro-hunting letters of Gerard Schutz and J.C. Kasser (June 5).

It's time we looked harder for alternative solutions to wildlife problems. For too long the 85 percent of the adult population in the United States that doesn't hunt has let 15 percent of the population control wildlife policies, park policies, and tell us what "the facts" are.

I suggest that this is comparable to letting Exxon control environmental policy and tell us what "the facts" are concerning destruction from oil spills.

Mr. Schutz writes of "managing" wildlife, using terms like "yearly surplus" and "maximum sustainable yield" — terms more appropriately applied to crops like corn and soybeans than to sentient animals.

These creatures feel pain and pleasure and have needs, interests, and desires just as you and I do. Imagine referring to the "yearly surplus" of humans in New York City or any other city where humans starve every year.

Thinking in these terms leads hunters to talk of killing some animals so that others may live. Why should we assume that non-humans would rather be shot than take their chances with starvation, disease or accident? Would

you choose death by gunshot long before you were ill or starving?

Those of us so-called "zealots," who argue that all animals — of the human and non-human varieties — have rights, stand in good company. Contrary to J.C. Kasser's statement that we are responsible for the devaluation of human rights, those who have argued for animal rights throughout history also were some of the most outspoken champions of human rights.

Such individuals have included Leo Tolstoy, St. Francis of Assisi, Albert Schweitzer, Gandhi, Buddha, Abraham Lincoln, Albert Einstein, John Stuart Mill and others.

Can you imagine St. Francis supporting our current wildlife policies?

Linda Paul
Chairperson
Department of philosophy
Wilkes University
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TL
6/22/74

WILKES NAMES ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS: Wilkes University recently announced the following promotions to associate professor: Robert C. Tuttle, Kingston; Patricia B. Heaman, White Haven; Ann Marie Kolanowski, Kingston; Lawrence T. Kuhar, Old Forge; Linda M. Paul, Wilkes-Barre; Michael A. Steele, Wilkes-Barre; Terese M. Wignot, Jim Thorpe. Louise M. Berard, Conyngham, and J. Michael Case, Trucksville, received promotions to professor. All of the previous also received tenure. Douglas J. Lynch, Kingston, and Dale Bruns, Dallas, received tenure. John G. Reese, Kingston, and Roland C. Schmidt, Plains, received professor emeritus status.

TL 8/6/95

Ethics Institute slates symposium

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The Ethics Institute of Northeast Pennsylvania will sponsor a symposium on liberal arts education and ethics from 5 to 9 p.m. April 25 at College Misericordia.

The purpose of the symposium is to bring together academicians, members of the business community and students to re-examine the nature and goals of a liberal arts education in ethical terms.

The registration fee for the symposium, to be held in the college's Merrick Hall, is \$25.

The symposium will feature a keynote address by Kenneth Goodpaster, a professor and author of several publications about business ethics.

The symposium also will include a panel discussion by Gregory Bassham of King's College, Stevan Davies of College Misericordia, Sister Mary Glennon of College Misericordia, Linda Paul of Wilkes University, Vincent Sortino of Nabisco Food Group and Fred Stefon of Penn State Wilkes-Barre.

The registration fee should be sent to the Ethics Institute, College Misericordia, 301 Lake St., Dallas, PA 18612-1098.

The institute may be reached via the Internet at:

email: ethics@eplx.net