



# Poultry Press

*Promoting the compassionate and respectful treatment of domestic fowl*

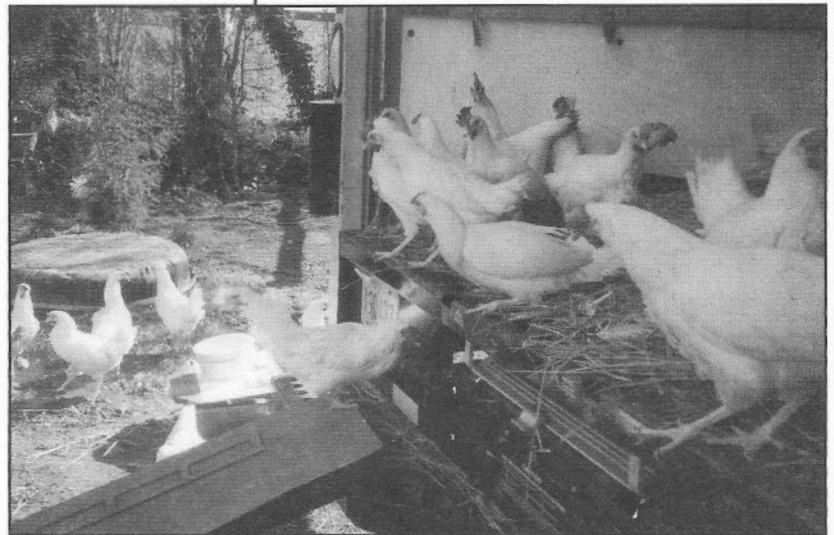
## Great News! Pasco County Hens Find Sanctuary at United Poultry Concerns

A yellow truck with more than 200 white young hens bedded in straw drove into United Poultry Concerns from Pasco County, Florida on March 21, after being rescued from Cypress Foods, an egg company that declared bankruptcy in January. Thirty thousand caged hens out of 200,000 died of starvation within 12 days because nobody fed them.

While most of the surviving hens were gassed to death in this horrible episode, more than 300 hens were successfully rescued to live out their lives happily at United Poultry Concerns, the Eastern Shore Chicken Sanctuary, Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary, and Oohmahnee Farm. In addition, people in Florida and North Carolina adopted some of the lucky hens.

Those who arrived at United Poultry Concerns from Florida poured out of the truck onto the ground. They dove under bushes and shrubs, perched in trees, and sat on our six-foot fence. The next day we gathered up one hundred hens to continue their journey north to their new homes.

"It's beautiful to see these hens testing out their new world, the green world where they belong. Let nobody say these hens are 'bred for the cage.' They are full of vibrant energy—energy you feel just holding them in your arms," said United Poultry Concerns President **Karen Davis** in our news release following the hens' arrival.



*Photo by Karen Davis*

Meanwhile, investigators took photographs and rescued at least 60 of the starving hens at the Cypress Foods complexes in Georgia, where more than one million birds were abandoned. Activist **Kristina Meade** and her team rescued 60 birds and took photographs of legs, wings, and other body parts clinging to the bars as the birds were ripped from the

### United Poultry Concerns

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cages to have their necks savagely broken—which doesn't kill them—and thrown onto dead piles while alive.

Florida rescuer **P.J. McKosky** of the Fund for Animals, who with two fellow rescuers drove the hens to United Poultry Concerns and supervised the Florida rescue after receiving an emergency call from UPC, tried pulling out hens from the manure pits, but after the manure reached his waist, he couldn't proceed without being sucked down into the thick slime.

"The egg industry exhibits everything horrible you can do to a living creature," McKosky told UPC. "That's why every rescue must be part of our larger goal of getting the hens out of these hellholes for good and back into the sunlight, like these amazing hens we're looking at now."

*We are extremely grateful to the National Anti-Vivisection Society for providing an emergency Sanctuary Fund grant to assist with our rescue, transportation, and adoption of the Cypress hens. We also wish to thank everyone who responded to our internet call for help. Your continuing donations are greatly appreciated!*

## Cypress Egg Farms Disaster: The Big and Bigger Picture

*"[Chickens] have been driven from our lives and even from our consciousness by the terrible and apparently irresistible logic of technology. . . . The chicken can thus be taken as a symbol of our heedless manipulation and exploitation of the universe we live in and, particularly, of the planet we live on."* —Page Smith & Charles Daniel, *The Chicken Book*

In an essay on the Cypress Egg Farms Disaster published by The Humane Society of the United States, **Susanne Abromaitis** writes that the horrible scene she witnessed in Pasco County, Florida is "more than just a harrowing picture of a failed agribusiness. It's also a case study of a huge issue involving factory farms: When disaster

strikes, who is responsible for the animals?

"By the time concerned citizens contacted the Florida Department of Agriculture, the birds had already been without food for 10 days in the Florida facility and for more than 20 days at another Cypress Foods plant in Georgia. A judge had initially refused to release company assets to feed and care for the birds until Georgia's State Agriculture Commissioner interceded, explaining what should have been obvious—

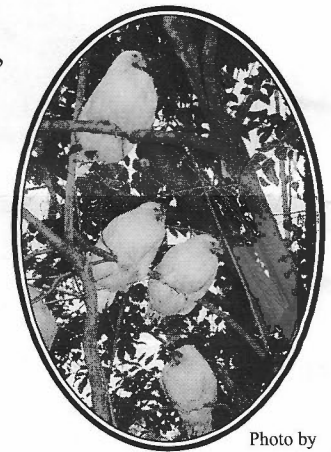


Photo by  
Susan Rayfield

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that withholding food constitutes willful neglect and cruelty to animals. Food was donated by industry after the Georgia Department of Agriculture assumed responsibility for dealing with the disaster.

"In Florida, 30,000 hens are said to have died of starvation, and the remaining 170,000 were gassed and buried

[except for the 300 hens who were rescued]. Of the 1.2 million birds in Georgia, approximately 426,000 were deemed 'unsalvageable' and were killed by cervical dislocation and rendered; 705,000 were sent to other poultry companies; and the remaining 40,000 birds were shipped to slaughter. Inmates from a local prison were brought in to remove the dead chickens from the sheds in Florida. . . .

"Similar fates befell hens at the Buckeye Egg Farm in Ohio in September 2000 when a tornado struck the facility and hens were trapped in their cages, suffering from hunger and exposure. Some birds were rescued, and euthanasia attempts were made on others. But ultimately most of the birds who survived the tornado died when workers bulldozed the disaster site. . . . [That is, the hens were buried alive, which is how the U.S. egg industry disposes of millions of "spent" hens—UPC Editor].

"These disasters . . . are horrible for animals who are often valued at less than the

## Gallocide

In southern California, in 1972, over 9 million hens with Newcastle disease were destroyed to stop the spread of the virus among the vast numbers of caged hens. "The killing and disposal of nine million hens is *gallocide* on a scale too vast for the average imagination," write Page Smith and Charles Daniel in *The Chicken Book* (1975; rpt. 2000). "[P]erhaps the destruction in our age of millions of human beings who were thought to carry a kind of racial virus in their genes has inured us to the horror of killing so many living creatures and left us equally indifferent to the strange developments which make such a solution seem inevitable if not commonplace."

amount of money it would take to rescue them. These disasters are also indictments of the factory farm system, which does not make allowances for animals' natural behaviors, such as foraging for food and water when none is provided. Because most producers do not have contingency plans for disasters, the onus falls on external entities, such as state agriculture agencies and animal protection organizations, to provide relief for the abandoned animals.

"The Sheriff's office in Pasco County Florida, is considering filing animal cruelty charges against Cypress Foods. However, a disaster much like this is still likely to occur again when the next tornado, hurricane or bankruptcy threatens the animals housed in factory farms."



## What Can I Do?

Florida law explicitly requires that an animal's "owner" (which can include a corporation) must provide food and water for the animals. Says the *Tampa Tribune* of the Cypress hens tragedy, "Florida has strict laws against inflicting cruelty on animals, either purposely or through neglect. It does not matter whether animals are pets or used to produce food. Under the law, all must be protected from such cruel treatment. Clearly, this is a case of miserable failure and neglect that requires the prosecution of those deemed responsible."

Please write to **Sheriff Bob White** and insist that cruelty charges be filed against Cypress Foods. Remind him that both Florida law and common decency demand that this cruelty be prosecuted. **Contact:**

**Sheriff Bob White**  
**Pasco County Sheriff's Office**  
**8700 Citizen Drive**  
**New Port Richey, FL 34654**  
**Fax: 727-844-7742**

Tell United Egg Producers To Practice What They Preach:

# Stop Starving Hens! Stop Forced Molting!

In response to the Cypress Egg Farms crisis in March, **United Egg Producers (UEP)**, the U.S. egg industry's national trade association, faxed a news release to United Poultry Concerns stating that "United Egg Producers is saddened and greatly concerned about those birds owned by Cypress Foods in Georgia and Florida and that they are not receiving feed. This is unacceptable."

UEP continued, "While the egg industry has suffered through 3 years of financial losses, still there is no excuse for any Producer not providing feed for their animals. These birds must not suffer any further."

Despite this rousing declaration, United Egg Producers continues to stall on eliminating the U.S. egg industry's practice of starving hens for 4 to 21 days for profit. White leghorn hens are typically starved for 10 to 14 days while brown hens may be

*"[T]here is  
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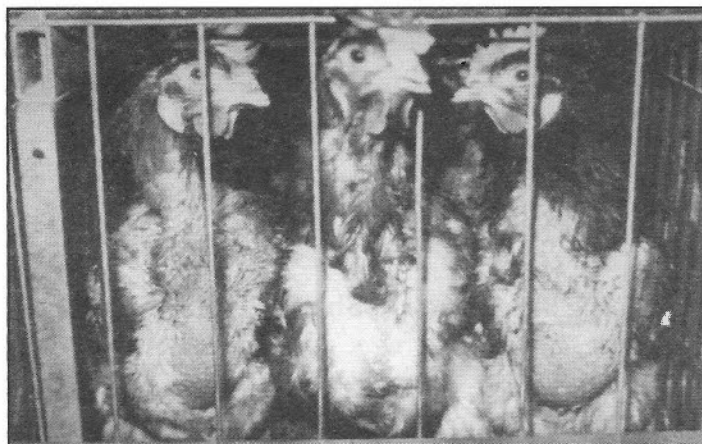
—United Egg  
Producers

"research into the molting process without feed withdrawal needs more time." (No, Gene, it doesn't. This research has been going on for years.)

Before the meeting, UEP met with two other major trade associations, **Food Marketing Institute** and the **National Council of Chain Restaurants**, to discuss the increasing "pressure from the animal welfare activists" to stop forced molting and other cruel egg industry practices. According to *Egg Industry* magazine (Dec. 2001), UEP complained that "its budget is being strained as more animal welfare advocates are becoming involved in laying hen issues."



## What Can I Do?



UPC Photo

starved for up to 3 full weeks in order to force the birds temporarily out of egg production and then use the survivors for another egg laying cycle—an inhumane practice that is illegal in Europe. At its January meeting (reported in *Egg Industry*, February 2002), UEP Senior Vice President **Gene Gregory** said,

United Egg Producers (UEP) is now on record as officially holding that "there is no excuse for any Producer not providing food for their animals." Please contact UEP and demand that they therefore stop forced molting, the cruel starvation practice that causes liver, intestinal, muscle, and bone damage in hens, impairs the hens' immune systems making them more susceptible to *Salmonella enteritidis* infections, doubles the hens' mortality each week of the forced molt, and causes many hens to choke to death when they try to eat after days of total food deprivation.

Remind UEP that at the Cypress Egg Farm in Florida, **30,000 of 200,000 birds starved when their food was cut off for 12 days, and 170,000 hens were reported by Florida officials as being in such bad condition that they were being systematically**



*destroyed—yet 12 days of no food for hens is standard U.S. egg industry practice. It's time for U.S. egg producers to stop their deliberate starvation of millions of helpless hens each year while professing "sadness" and outrage over the starvation of the Cypress hens, simply because in that case the news media saw and reported on the effects of a procedure that is done all the time behind closed doors.*

Contact:

**Albert E. Pope**, President  
**Gene Gregory**, Senior Vice President  
 United Egg Producers  
 1303 Hightower Trail, Suite 200  
 Atlanta, GA 30350  
 Ph: 770-587-5871  
 Fax: 770-587-0041  
 Email: [info@unitedegg.org](mailto:info@unitedegg.org)  
 Website: [www.unitedegg.org](http://www.unitedegg.org)  
**Food Marketing Institute** and  
 the **National Council of Chain**

**Restaurants** represent major U.S. food corporations—supermarkets and restaurants. Like United Egg Producers, these are trade associations, which means that while they can't force their member companies to do anything, they can urge their member companies—Kroger, Safeway, Burger King, KFC, etc.—to impose basic animal welfare standards on the companies' suppliers of eggs and other animal products, and inform their member companies of the growing public demand for improved welfare standards for birds and other animals raised and slaughtered for these companies. Tell them, and United Egg Producers, that you care very much about farmed animal welfare and that you want to see immediate steps taken to eliminate:

\*Debeaking of chickens and

turkeys

\*Debilling of ducks

\*Forced molting of hens

\*Battery cages for hens

Contact: United Egg Producers (above) and also:

**Tim Hammonds**, President, CEO  
 Food Marketing Institute  
 655 15th Street, NW, Suite 700  
 Washington, DC 20005  
 Ph: 202-452-8444  
 Fax: 202-429-4519  
 Website: [www.fmi.org](http://www.fmi.org)

**Terrie Dort**, President  
 National Council of Chain Restaurants  
 325 7th Street, NW, Suite 1000  
 Washington, DC 20004  
 Ph: 202-626-8183  
 Fax: 202-626-8185  
 Website: [www.nccr.net](http://www.nccr.net)

**\*NOTE: ALWAYS REQUEST A WRITTEN REPLY\***

## Please Contact the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

The AVMA is again reviewing its position statement on forced molting. While the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association opposes forced molting by food deprivation, and the practice is banned in Europe and the UK, and McDonald's, Burger King, and Wendy's now ban forced molting in their new regulations for their egg suppliers, the AVMA continues to find the practice "acceptable."

### What Can I Do:

Please write a letter to **Bruce Little**, DVM, Executive Director, AVMA, 1931 N. Meacham Rd. Suite 100, Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360, and urge that the AVMA revise its position on forced molting from "acceptance" to opposition. Request a written reply.

## Freddaflower Memorial Fund

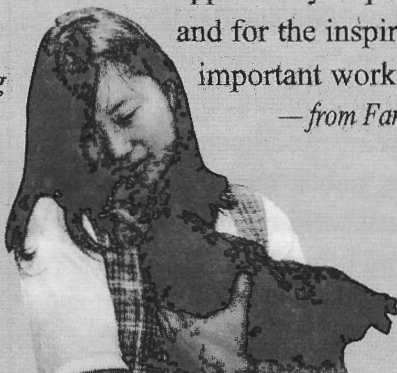
*The pain of losing them is the price we pay for the privilege of knowing them and sharing their lives. . . .*

We thank those people who have contributed to our work with recent donations *In Loving Memory of* the following beloved family members:

For Hannah and Penny, with love

—from Edna-Ann Senecal

In loving memory of my dog Blanche, who allowed our new family member Dwayne the Duck to ride around on my foot without getting (too) jealous. Blanche had one of the sweetest and gentlest natures of anyone I've ever known. Thank you for the opportunity to participate, and for the inspiring and important work you do,  
—from Farrell Winter



### UPC Chickens Happy Together!

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Photo by Karen Davis

## Wall Street Journal

April 9 2002

## Chicks With Brains

*This letter was printed in response to a WSJ article about how upscale people are buying chickens from mail order hatcheries, building fancy coops, and frequently abandoning the birds after the fad wears off, the way people bought and trashed pot-bellied pigs a few years ago.*

Regarding "The Chicken Coup," by **Pooja Bhatia**, Weekend Journal, March 26: Contrary to an opinion quoted in this article, chickens have considerable brains, but people for whom animals are mere gadgets and toys aren't interested in the cognitive complexity of their trendy pets. No wonder we have a pet overpopulation problem in this country. It isn't only dogs and cats who are bought like toys, then discarded when the amusement wears off. The message of this article is that it's cool to be morally casual and irresponsible towards creatures whose dilemma we create.

Karen Davis, President  
United Poultry Concerns, Inc.  
Machipongo, Va.

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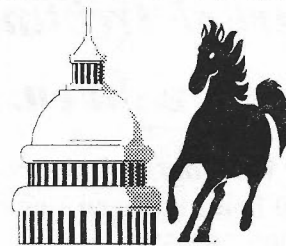
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We welcome inquiries.

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**P.O. Box 150 • Machipongo, Virginia 23405-0150**  
**(757) 678-7875**



photo by Tal Ronnen



# *Eternal Treblinka:* *Our Treatment of Animals and the Holocaust*

By Dr. Charles Patterson

\$20 from Lantern Books, 2002

1-800-758-3756 \* [www.lanternbooks.com](http://www.lanternbooks.com)

ISBN: 1-930051-99-9

Reviewed by Karen Davis, PhD

In memory of the Cypress hens in Florida and Georgia, who were caged, starved, crushed and gassed to death. "This is best for the chickens."—Leroy Coffman, Florida state veterinarian. March 10, 2002

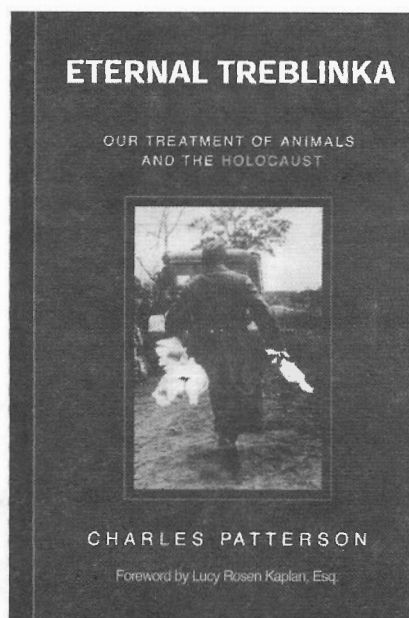
*Auschwitz begins whenever someone looks at a slaughterhouse and thinks: they're only animals.*

—Theodor Adorno

Parallels between our treatment of nonhuman animals and humans considered to be less than human is what this harrowing book is about. To view such parallels as an insult to humankind merely illustrates its thesis. In her Forward, attorney **Lucy Rosen Kaplan** says that *Eternal Treblinka* should be read by all who are not afraid to understand that the suffering that humans have so relentlessly inflicted on animals over the course of our species' history is one and the same with the suffering we so often inflict on each other. *Eternal Treblinka* should also be read by those who shy away from this thesis.

One of the values of *Eternal Treblinka* is that it places the Nazi Holocaust within a larger psychological and historical context. It isn't only modern capitalist society that commits the atrocities it depicts, although our society could hardly be topped. As Animal Liberation Front founder, **Ron Lee**, says in the book, "We have been at war with the other creatures of this earth ever since the first human hunter set forth with spear into the primeval forest. . . . Speciesism is more deeply entrenched within us even than sexism, and that is deep enough."

Treblinka was a Nazi death camp in Poland that began operating in 1942. The title, *Eternal Treblinka*, is taken from the meditations of **Herman Gombiner**, the main character in the Nobel Prizewinning author **Isaac Bashevis Singer's** story, "The Letter Writer." Herman, who lost his entire family to the Nazis, is thinking about a mouse he befriended whose death he believes he caused, and his sadness leads to a larger thought: "What do they know—all these scholars, all these philosophers, all the leaders of the world—about such as you? They have convinced themselves that man, the worst transgressor of all the species, is the crown of creation. All other creatures were created merely to provide him with food, pelts, to be tormented, exterminated. In relation to them, all people are Nazis; for the animals it is an eternal



Treblinka."

*Eternal Treblinka* presents theories from various thinkers including Freud, Montaigne, Carl Sagan, Judy Chicago, and Barbara Ehrenreich on the human penchant for war, violence, and the subjugation of other forms of existence. It looks at traditional methods of subduing animals in pastoral cultures, noting that "[c]astration continues to be the centerpiece of animal husbandry." And like the infamous 20<sup>th</sup>-century psychol-

ogist **Harry Harlow**, who devised experiments to induce terror in young monkeys and pathologic aggression in their mothers, herders around the world separate mother cows from their young by cruel and painful means: "The Nuer tie a ring with thorns around the calf's muzzle, which pricks the mother's udder. . . . Lapps smear excrement on the udders of reindeer does in order to keep their fawns from sucking them." The Tuareg "pierce the nasal septum of the calves with a forked stick that makes sucking painful." They "cut the noses of camel and cattle calves to keep them from sucking their mothers."

*Eternal Treblinka* looks at how we use language to vilify nonhuman animals, who in turn are invoked to justify our vilification of other human beings. According to Patterson, the "designation of the people of Africa, Asia, and the Americas as 'beasts,' 'brutes,' and 'savages' raised the level of murderousness" towards them. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the English denounced the Hottentots in Africa as traveling in 'herds' like their animals" and seeming to "cackle like hens or turkeys," which made it right and "necessary" to torture, kill, and enslave them. The voluminous record of hatred expressed by the Europeans for the non-Europeans they encountered in the 16<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, America's obsession with brain size as the measure of intelligence in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the ubiquitous and iniquitous concept of "lower animals"—all this fits neatly into packages of ideas like that of the American psychologist and educator **Granville Stanley Hall**, who declared at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century: "We are summoned to rise above morals and clear the world's stage for the survival of those who are fittest because strongest." (Lest we think such talk is out of date, several times in the past 3 months, radio talk show hosts have asked me on the air why "the survival of the fittest" shouldn't determine how we treat other creatures; a modern code phrase is "top of the food



chain.”)

Readers may be surprised to learn that the author of *The Wizard of Oz*, **L. Frank Baum**, wrote in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century that “[t]he Whites, by law of conquest, by justice of civilization, are Masters of the American continent, and the best safety of the frontier settlements will be secured by the total annihilation of the few remaining Indians.” Or that Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes’s father, a Harvard professor, wrote that Native Americans were the “red-crayon sketch” of manhood on a canvas “ready for a picture of manhood a little more like God’s own image.” Or that the assembly-line idea came from the Chicago Stockyards so admired by Henry Ford, who adapted the stockyard principle to the manufacture of cars. Or that Ford published anti-Semitic tracts that fueled pogroms against Jewish communities in Russia and inspired Hitler, who kept a life-sized portrait of Ford in his office and praised Ford in *Mein Kampf*.

*Eternal Treblinka* documents America’s support for Nazi (and global) eugenics—“the science of the improvement of the human race by breeding,” in the words of poultry researcher and human eugenicist **Charles B. Davenport**. Foundations like Rockefeller provided extensive financial support. “Learned” American men, whom Patterson represents in short fascinating portraits, and from whose writings he quotes significant excerpts, visited German racial hygiene institutes and wrote fulsomely about the “clean, virile, genius-bearing [Nordic] blood, streaming down the ages through the unerring action of heredity” sweeping us on to “higher and nobler destinies.” In America, compulsory sterilization and castration were used to punish criminals, prevent further crime, and conquer imbecility. In the words of Justice **Oliver Wendell Holmes** in 1927, the principle that sustains compulsory vaccination and serving in the armed forces “is broad enough to cover cutting the Fallopian tubes.”

American and German eugenics is an offshoot of farmed animal science. **Charles B. Davenport**, a chicken researcher and member of the American Breeders’ Association, was the director of the Eugenics Record Office established in 1910 on Long Island; his colleague, **Harry H. Laughlin**, was also a chicken breeding experimenter, as was **Heinrich Himmler**, head of the SS. Other high-ranking Nazis translated the language and procedures of farm animal experiments into human improvement and annihilation programs designed to “eliminate inferior blood,” “free people from the burden of the mentally ill,” “lure victims into gas chambers, kill them on an assembly line, and process their corpses.”

Patterson shows how human concentration and killing centers are virtually identical to farmed animal concentration and killing centers. Tubes into which cows and pigs are driven single-file to their deaths are no different from the tubes at Treblinka and elsewhere that led from the disrobing rooms to the gas chambers, down which naked people were driven by guards using their fists, whips, and rifle butts—which is how we treat millions of farmed animals everyday. The SS called its tube leading to the death center the “Road to Heaven,” but, Patterson asks, how does their mockery differ from meat industry scientist, **Temple Grandin**, who calls the tube she designed for driving cattle to their death the “Stairway to Heaven”?

Some will say that treating creatures badly in order to eat them is a far cry from treating creatures badly simply because you hate them, but a key point of *Eternal Treblinka* is that the psychology of contempt for “inferior life” links the Nazi mentality to that which allows us to torture and kill billions of nonhuman

animals and human beings with no more concern for them and their suffering than Hannibal Lecter and Jame Gumb feel for their victims apart from the pleasure they derive from the taste of their victims’ pain in *The Silence of the Lambs*. That book says that the plight of the lambs screaming in the slaughterhouses—the whole human enterprise of degradation, cruelty, and murder—“will not end, ever.”

*Eternal Treblinka* reminds us of all those other slaughterhouses that were running alongside the human ones—the “[a]round-the-clock killing and butchering” conducted at Treblinka, Auschwitz, in Dresden, and elsewhere. In their diaries and letters, Nazi officials dwell on their meals. One writes to his wife: “The sight of the dead—including women and children—is not very cheering. Once the cold weather sets in you’ll be getting a goose now and again. There are over 200 chattering around here, as well as cows, calves, pigs, hens and turkeys. We live like princes. Today, Sunday, we had roast goose (1/4 each). This evening we are having pigeon.”

It’s been said that if most people had direct contact with the animals they consume, vegetarianism would soar, but history has yet to support this hope. It isn’t just the Nazis who could see birds in the yard, slaughter them and eat them without a qualm, and in fact with euphoria. In this respect, the persecuted Jewish communities were no different from their persecutors. In the chapter entitled “This Boundless Slaughterhouse,” we see the Jewish communities of Poland through the eyes of **Isaac Bashevis Singer** (1904-1991), who grew up in a Polish village, where his father was a Hasidic rabbi, before emigrating to America in 1935. In story after story, Singer describes the slaughtering of animals he witnessed in the village courtyards. In Warsaw, people brought chickens, ducks, and geese to be slaughtered. “The butchers began to pluck their feathers even while those creatures were still alive and wallowing in their own blood. . . . Women push forward each with her fowl to be killed. Porters load baskets with dead birds and carry them off to the pluckers. This hell made mockery of all blather about humanism.”

Growing up, Singer sought to understand the endless bloodbaths that others took in stride, and worse. He writes: “I had studied in the book of Leviticus about the sacrifices the priests used to burn on the altar: the sheep, the rams, the goats, and the doves whose heads they wrung off and whose blood they sprung as a sweet savor unto the Lord. And again and again I asked myself why should God, the Creator of all men and all creatures, enjoy such horrors?” In New York City, Singer decided—“A combination of a slaughterhouse, a bordello, and an insane asylum—that’s what the world really is.”

In *Eternal Treblinka* chickens and pigs shriek as they are being cursed and butchered. Nazis bear their souls in their letters and diaries. We read the opposing testimony of Holocaust survivors and their descendants. The artist **Sue Coe**’s descriptions of the slaughterhouses she visited are excruciating: if people can read her account and continue to eat animals and drink their babies’ milk, what hope is there? A question that is raised over and over by those who became vegetarians rather than perpetuate the legacy of butchery in their own lives, is “How can ‘we’ do to ‘them’ what was done to ‘us’ and not even recognize it?” Because this book shows, in the words of **Albert Kaplan**, that so far “we have learned nothing from the Holocaust.”

**Christa Blanke**, a former Lutheran pastor in Germany and founder of the organization Animals’ Angels, cites a link between how we treat animals and Nazism. First we strip the

animals of their dignity—"The degradation of the victim always precedes a murder." But, we want to know, why do humans want to degrade and kill? According to Blanke, "because cruelty and greed always seem to get the upper hand." But why? Serial killer **Ted Bundy** said it wasn't that he had no feelings of remorse towards his victims but that those feelings were weak and ephemeral compared to his rapacious emotions and drives. Naturalist **John Muir** wrote that the people he knew enjoyed seeing the passenger pigeons fill the sky, but they liked shooting and eating them more—"every gun was aimed at them."

*Eternal Treblinka* thus raises questions, and we long for answers. Why, in the words of **Albert Kaplan**, are the majority of Holocaust survivors "no more concerned about animals' suffering than were the Germans concerned about Jews' suffering?" **Isaac Bashevis Singer** says we pretend animals don't feel in order to justify our cruelty, but why do we want to be cruel to animals? Is comfort with cruelty, taking pleasure in cruelty, a trait that we carry from our past as part of our genetic survival kit? Why, when we have the technology to duplicate animal products with textured vegetable protein, do people continue to insist they have to have "meat"? Why do we praise technology for developing substitutes for cruder practices in other areas of life while balking at its use to eliminate slaughterhouses, which technology can do? Has Isaac Bashevis Singer's philosophic vegetarianism had any effect on modern mainstream Jewish ideas and lifestyle? And if not, why not? This is not to suggest that the Jewish community should be expected to rise above the rest of humankind, but that the Jewish response raises questions about our species no less than does Nazism.

*Eternal Treblinka* traces an attitude, the work of a base will, that the Hitler era epitomized. It is the attitude that we can do whatever we please, however vicious, if we can get away with it, because "we" are superior, and "they," whoever they are, are, so to speak, "just chickens." Isaac Bashevis Singer rejected this attitude and the behavior that goes with it. The *New York Times Book Review* wrote of him when he died, "He shied from chicken soup and became a devoted vegetarian. From childhood on he had seen that might makes right, that man is stronger than chicken—man eats chicken, not visa versa. That bothered him, for there was no evidence that people were more important than chickens. When he lectured on life and literature there were often dinners in his honor, and

sympathetic hosts served vegetarian meals. 'So, in a very small way, I do a favor for the chickens,' Singer said. 'If I will ever get a monument, chickens will do it for me.'"

Like Singer's collected works, *Eternal Treblinka* is what Singer called "a deep protest against the killing and torturing of the helpless." It says No to blaming God, Nature, and Original Sin for the atrocities we choose to commit against our fellow creatures, forcing humans and hens together into gas chambers and calling it a humane solution. In conclusion, Patterson writes that "the sooner we put an end to our cruel and violent way of life, the better it will be for all of us—perpetrators, bystanders, and victims." Who but the Nazi within us disagrees? If we're going to mass murder someone, let it be him.

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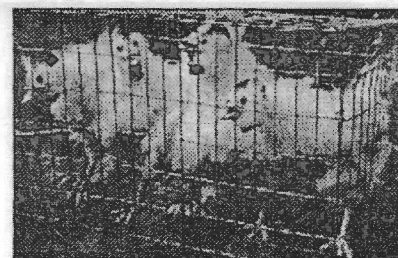
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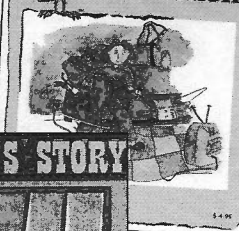
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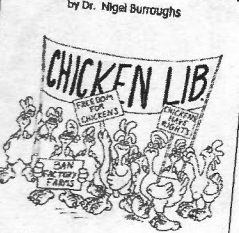
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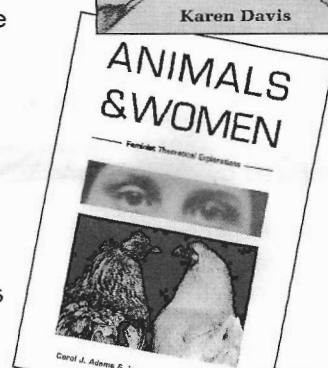
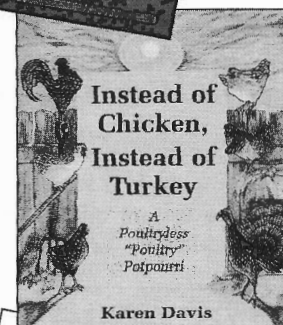
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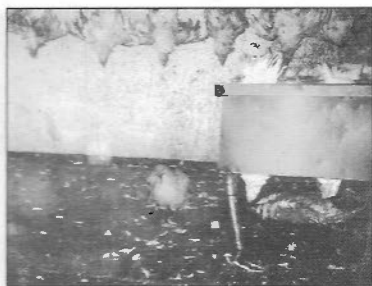
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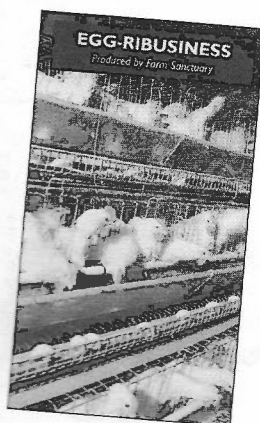
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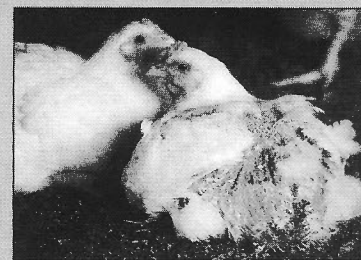
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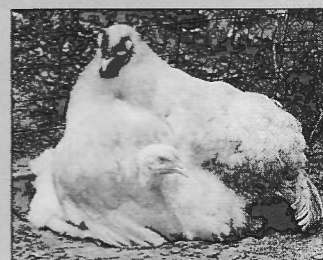


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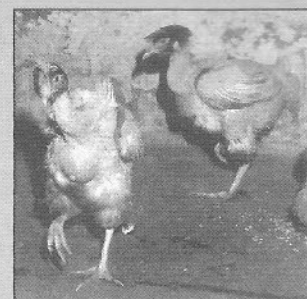
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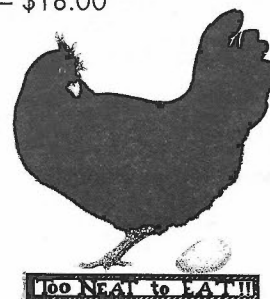
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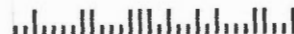
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