Beauty Without Cruelty
AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CHARITABLE TRUST
INDIA BRANCH: 4 PRINCE OF WALES’ DRIVE, WANOWRIE, POONA 411 001. TEL. 2444. GRAMS: ‘AHINSA’

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Cover
Illustration: Ms. Rita Braganza
BEAR – threatened with extinction.
Used as a performing animal – or trapped
for its skin which fetches a grisly
Rs. 100/- in Kathmandu

Beauty Without Cruelty is a way
of life which causes no creature of
land, sea or air, terror, torture or death.

AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS
EDITORIAL

Those who carry the stigma of having inflicted macabre killings for controlling lucrative trade will not look back to weigh the reaction of their critics. With constricted thought process and with blinkers restricting their range of viewing things in perspective, they soldier on and wrest their coveted gains. To them the world is meant to connive at their lapses and the welfare of their victims is a foreign connotation not applicable in their sphere of life. This is why the dealers who are bent upon accumulating wealth at the sacrifice of mean and animals have acquired a malodorous reputation. The incredible tales of chicanery are countless and widely spread in a land polluted by lack of intrinsic goodness.

Projecting the doctrine of “ahinsa”, the saints have ordained: “Regard all creatures as thyself and harm no one”. Harmlessness grows out of the vision of equal treatment for all, men as well as animals. It also grows from the conviction that all life is sacred. If this consciousness is awakened in all, the contemptuous fling among those who have no rapport with animal kingdom, that it is fatuous to treat birds and animals with love and kindness will drown itself. So long as we cling to the anachronism involving superiority of one over the other merely on the strength of overbearing power and pelf, the devastating gap between man and man, or man and animal, will continue to stand, jeopardising peace and harmony in the universe.

The incidents of extinction of some of the animals for expanding the trade of a class of callous businessmen have surfaced in the official census taken by the naturalists. To cite an example, crocodiles are persecuted for their valuable belly skins. The inducement for commercial gain has led to rearing the crocodiles and slaughtering them on farms. With the sale of farmed crocodile products, the demand multiplies and to meet this demand, the slaughter increases manifold.

Even under the aegis of the Government, ambitious programmes of rearing crocodiles have been undertaken, so that large revenues can be earned by the states from their slaughter. It is astounding that some of the wildlife sanctuaries which are meant to give refuge to the animals are veritable slaughter houses. The Gandhi Peace Foundation has found that Jawahar Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary near Kota in Rajasthan has been a huge failure, inasmuch as a large number of crocodiles inhabiting that place are wiped out of existence for commercial consideration.

These facts pertain to the life of only one category of animals. Other species are not immune from the danger of one or the other sort. Is it then desirable to farm crocodiles under the guise of faunal conservation? If they are bred to be bumped off for commercial gain, all talk of conservation of the species is moonshine.

S.M. MASANI
FROM MY DESK...

Beauty Without Cruelty (India Branch) welcomes Ms. Virginia McKenna and her husband Mr. Bill Travers as Joint Presidents of Beauty Without Cruelty International. We are so glad to know that Ms. McKenna is not content to be a “sleeping” President and is taking an active interest in promoting Beauty Without Cruelty at various functions.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals has written us about the Canadian Seal Hunt which “has not ended but that the seals taken this year were those that had shed their white coats. Although the number of seals taken in 1983 was substantially lower than in previous years, the quotas continue to remain the same. Unfortunately, there was a great deal of wrong information in the press – because they heard that there would be no killing of whitecoats, they automatically assumed that there would be no killing of seals... If it is morally and ethically wrong to kill a week-old seal pup, surely the same principles apply to killing them a week or so later... W.S.P.A. is still striving to obtain a total ban on sealing.”

American animal welfare organisations have been working hard on obtaining legislation to ban the steel-jaw leg-hold trap. It is heartening that forty-eight countries (including India) have already banned its sale and use, even though it does not entirely stop persons from employing other methods of trapping fur-bearing animals.

Members will be pleased that non-animal rennet is now manufactured in India. This is singularly due to the effort of Beauty Without Cruelty over the past few years. However, we are continuing our efforts to obtain a total ban on the import of calf/animal rennet and also to get Government to make it obligatory for cheese manufacturers to state the ingredients including the origin of the rennet on their packages.

Recently the newspapers covered an atrocious topic entitled “Tinkering with genes to produce super-animals”. The news item stated “a sheep the size of a cow, a pig that of donkey and a cow of rhinoceros – these many look like fantasy, but scientists have developed a technique which allows production of animals double the normal size...” What does humanity gain by such production? All that can be said of this sickening experiment is that it is a total waste of time and money apart from the bizarre attitude of the so-called scientists towards innocent creatures.

Another heartless experiment – “sight deprivation” – is commonly carried out on kittens and monkeys in laboratories all over the world... The eyelids over one eye or over both eyes are trimmed and sewn together under ether anaesthesia, at or shortly before, the age of natural eye opening. After visual deprivation in a certain technique the other eye is cut and removed by suction. This qualifies as “part of research into resulting brain cell changes.”

It is sad that so many totally unnecessary experiments are undertaken. For example, according to experiments on rats, a person would need to consume 5 1/2 lbs. of sugar in one doze to cause death; and 5 lbs. of tartaric acid (present in wine and baked foods which means 2,250 litres of wine or 1 1/4 tons of baked food) at one sitting to cause death. It is strange that inspite of technological advances, chemicals, pesticides, cosmetics, drugs, detergents, household items and industrial products are tested by poisoning animals to death.

DIANA RATNAGAR
Chairperson
BRUIN – THE PITABLE CLOWN

CRYSTAL ROGERS

Up in the cool mountain air of the Himalayas, between 5,000 and 15,000 feet, Bruin the black bear, first sees the light of day. He is born very small – often weighing not more than 10 ounces, blind and helpless – and takes two years to mature. His mother treats him with much affection, and takes great trouble to train him until he is able to look after himself.

Though Himalayan bears prefer to live in the thickly wooded areas below the snow line, the further they descend the more dangerous becomes their contact with man. They are shot to stop them from ruining the crops, and for their thick black skins which are valued as rugs. If the shot bear happens to be a female with a cub, it is after losing his mother that the cub’s life of misery begins.

The small bear cub makes a delightful pet, and is quick to imitate. It is this talent that leads to his downfall, as he becomes a source of revenue as a performing bear. His first taste of real agony is when a hole is bored through his nose – not with a local anesthetic by the practiced hand of a veterinarian, but in the curdest manner possible by an amateur wielding a sharp instrument, which is forced into his nose, while he is tightly held and unable to move. A rope is then thrust through the hole, holding him a prisoner for the rest of his life.

His training is based on fear. The Himalayan bear, though mainly a vegetarian, is not aggressive unless roused or frightened, when his size makes him a formidable enemy and he is apt to attack without warning. Steps are taken, however, to see that he does not attack, and his spirit is quickly knocked out of him by fear. If this is not enough his teeth and claws are in danger of being removed.

Bruin’s worst purgatory begins, however, when he is brought down from his native mountains to the plains. Being a natural mountain-dweller, he is almost stifled by the heat, but here he is obliged to dance for the amusement of passersby, who are ready to pay a few coins for the amusement they get from his clown-like antics.
If you are to understand the sufferings of the bear at all, wait for a hot day in the summer of the plains, then put on your warmest overcoat, and go out into the sun and dance! You can’t do it? No, of course you can’t! But the bear has no option. He has to go through the same hell fire day after day, only to break off to sleep and then follow his master on foot to the next village.

It is only by legislation against this sort of “amusement”, and a heavy fine imposed on all those bringing Himalayan bears to the plains that this hell on earth for bears will eventually cease.

CIVILIZATION? - OR SAVAGERY?
PRATIMA SINHA

There was a time when Darwin’s explosive theory on “The Origin of Species” stating that Man had descended from the Apes, aroused widespread opposition. It was a theory wholly unacceptable to smug Victorian morality but, which today seems to be the most plausible in the world.

Through the evolution of the Apes there emerged a more advanced creature - advanced both physically and mentally. He was the Human Being who walked on two legs instead of four, and made use of his arms as only arms ought to be made use of. However, he was mentally stronger than his co-partners in the natural habitat. He made use of his superior mental faculties cunningly. He realised the potential usefulness of seeds sprouting into flowers and plants, providing him with food. He witnessed the carnivores hunting down the herbivores - after all, was it not a survival of the fittest? He covered himself with barks of trees and leaves, and, as climatic conditions demanded, with skins and fur of animals. All this seemed essential for existence. But, that was in the Stone Age, when man was apparently less civilised.

With the advancement of civilisation and enlightenment, man realised the importance of shelter-providing garment. Fur was the first to catch man’s attention, both for its breathtakingly beautiful appearance and its comforting warmth. But, things began to change for the better; or so man fooled himself into believing. His social group consisted of people incessantly vying with each other as regards their wealth in possessions, talents and appearances. His mind became distorted and started working in
a way which would help him acquire these items of "social snobbery". Ruthlessness and cruelty entered the scene and has remained ever since.

Why don't we leave skins and fur on the backs of their rightful owners? Because by possessing and flaunting them, we enhance our social status and inflate our already over-inflated egos. At this point, one can almost visualise one of the glossy fashion magazines offering us tempting bargains like: "She looks stunning in her sleek new leopard-skin jacket, kid gloves, snazzy leather skirt, with a matching ranch-mink hat sitting prettily atop her Vidal Sassoon-styled head-spelling the very latest this season from Yves Saint Laurent's Fall Collection."

Does SHE know WHO suffered and how much? I wouldn't think it likely. Or, even if she did, she couldn't care less. To help her achieve her dazzling, fashionable look many a leopard has had to be mercilessly caught in the unflinching clasps of gin traps or with poisoned baits where death comes slowly. The gloves? Any goat-kid could have been slaughtered to provide just the right softness and finish of a perfect high-fashion pair. As for the hat—That was easily obtained from a sable or mink farm where these wild little creatures are bred only to be butchered when the fur has reached the correct texture and feel.

Such practices are surely barbaric, perfectly abominable—and yet, modern man is the most civilised being the Earth has ever seen—so 'tis said, but somewhere along the way, someone has got his definitions all wrong. Civilised? Whew! Far from it.

To create only to destroy—we, who do this are either mentally retarded or totally insane. Superior beings of Creation, are we? Tennyson referred to us as "the roof and crown of things"—so if we are such, does not our elevated position in the natural hierarchy demand the recognition of greater responsibilities and fulfilment of duties and commitments? This self-absorbed, pompous attitude of ours will, in the end, have a corroding effect, leading to a small narrow world of fantasies and transient pleasures. Modern man appreciates the beauty of skins and fur; but he is not satisfied to appreciate it from a distance; he must claim them for his own. Half the beauty dies when the savagery and the sordidness of the entire process is revealed. The other half looks sadly out of place on the fashionably-clad human.

All this to what end? Man's perverse aestheticism gains no one anything—least of all himself. In fact, it will in time, actually tilt the natural ecological balance to such a hopelessly unnatural degree as to render it irreparable for future generations.

In the end, we will be the losers, and all at the expense of the animals who have an equal right to existence on this wonderful Earth of ours. One of the greatest heritages of our life is Nature in its truest and most untampered and undisturbed forms. If left alone, it will become one of the greatest sources of joy to the future generations of humankind. Fate is slowly closing in on us with its deadly clasps. If we don't act now, and very soon too, entire mankind and the natural world are doomed....

IT'S SMART
NOT TO WEAR
ANIMAL SKINS

It is creditable that YOU have adopted a “pie” dog. But, she will deliver twice a year... can you find homes for ALL the puppies? Will ten other persons and yet scores more, do the same? Let us face it, the majority of these “cute pups” will finally undergo intense terror when caught and killed by the authorities to “control rabies” or subjected to torture in a vivisection lab. Their skin could be converted into leather goods.

A SOLUTION exists – it is up to YOU.

ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL

Basic Facts:

Every bitch over a year old, has a litter every six months. On an average 5-6 puppies are born per litter.

Out of these, 1-2 are likely to die of a natural cause. The remaining 4 puppies would on an average be 2 male and 2 female.

Computer Study

The following is the Computer Study showing the increase in the female Dog population only over a period of three years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH &amp; YEAR</th>
<th>BITCHES</th>
<th>FEMALE PUPPIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 1983</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1984</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1984</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1985</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1985</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1986</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1986</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Female Pup-bearing Population in June 1986 = 85
Total Female Dog Population in June 1986 = 171
Total Male Dog Population in June 1986 = 170

Spay your Bitch:

By neutering just ONE Bitch, you will be saving the lives of about 340 unwanted dogs over a period of 3 years.

They will not be born, to be subjected to suffering and death.
SNARED

WHAT IS A SNARE?

A snare is simply a noose set to catch animals by placing it across the pathways they use. Snares are very cheap and very nasty. They are usually made of wire but can be made of nylon, house hair or brake cable from a bicycle. It is fastened by a peg or by anything that will anchor it. Any fool can make one—more's the pity.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

When a snare is set it will catch whatever comes along. It is utterly indiscriminate. It may be set for rabbits or foxes but actually catch a deer, a cat or a dog. Sheep, cattle and pigs have also fallen victim. It is all a matter of luck—very cruel luck.

A snare may catch the animal round the neck, stomach or foot. The animal then panics and a vicious circle of terror and pain begins. As the victim struggles, the snare tightens; the deeper it cuts into

THE SOLE BENEFICIAR

Millions of animals are caught in the powerful jaws of the leghold trap, suffering intense pain, broken bones, terror, starvation, chewed-off limbs and exposure while they await slow and agonizing death. When the animals do not die from these causes, and are alive when the trap-
fur and flesh, the more terrified the victim becomes, the more desperate the struggle, the more the snare tightens...

The fortunate victim is the one that strangles itself quickly in a frenzy of fear. The less fortunate die slower.

They either weaken, stop struggling and are attacked and eaten by predators. Or they stop struggling, and the noose slackens, they breathe again, struggle again, weaken again...and so on... The animal may be caught by the leg and then might bite off a foot to escape or pull the peg out of the ground – still not free of the wire that has cut to the bone. Either way an unmerciful death is likely, from a poisoned wound, or from the animal’s inability to run and fend for itself.

But don’t people regularly patrol their snares? By no means. For many the snare is just a cheap and easy way of ‘keeping down vermin’, to be laid and forgotten.

WHO SETS SNARES?

Both adults and children who imagine they are controlling ‘pests’. Poachers also set snares, especially in winter when they are looking for fur.

In winter when animals’ coats are at their best, the land is littered with snares.

WHAT CAN WE ALL DO?

If you know anyone who sets snares, speak, up. Show him this. He may innocently have no idea what suffering he is causing.

Spread the word. Ignorance is cruelty’s best friend. The more people know about the cruelty of snaring, the greater the pressure will be for action.

Courtesy: R.S.P.C.A.

--THE FUR INDUSTRY--

per finds them, they are often killed by being stamped to death to preserve the fur. No industry, agency or individual has the right to torture and kill sensitive, living creatures for financial gain and personal vanity.
**CONSERVE ALL OUR EARTH'S RESOURCES**

**Energy (BTU's) to Manufacture Real vs. Fake Fur Coats**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Fake Fur</th>
<th>BTU's Expended/Coat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Energy content of plastic in shell</td>
<td>120,300</td>
<td>equal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lining, thread, buttons etc</td>
<td>equal</td>
<td>equal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed for ranch-raised animals</td>
<td></td>
<td>equal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traps lost or destroyed</td>
<td></td>
<td>52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skinning and scraping</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drying pelts</td>
<td></td>
<td>84,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation to shipping point</td>
<td></td>
<td>128,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation to auction centre</td>
<td></td>
<td>64,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scraping, washing, tanning, drying, tumbling, beating, dyeing, cutting, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture of actual coat</td>
<td>equal</td>
<td>equal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation to coat factory</td>
<td>equal</td>
<td>equal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation to retailer</td>
<td>equal</td>
<td>equal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>120,300</td>
<td>433,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7,965,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As evidenced by the Table, the energy content of a real fur coat is at least *three times* that of a fake fur.

For ranch-raised animals, assuming that (1) each animal eats approximately 10% of its body weight/day (common for small mammals), (2) an animal takes 300 days to mature, and (3) it takes 50 lbs. of feed to make one coat, we find: (50 lb. animals) x (10 lbs/lb/day) x 300 days = 1,500 lbs. of feed/coat.

To transport feed requires roughly a 20 mi. round trip in a 3/4 ton pickup which uses 1.3 gal. of gas/trip. The energy cost of 1 gal. of gas = 150,000 BTU (including energy to produce it). Therefore, the trip costs 200,000 BTU.

The total energy cost of feed = 5,000 BTU/lb x 1,500 lb = 7,500,000 BTU (i.e. the energy cost of feed alone for ranch-raised animals is 7,500,000 + 200,000 = 7,700,000 BTU.)

For furs that come from animals trapped in the wild, one can safely assume that at least one trap is lost or destroyed per coat. The average weight of a trap is 2 lbs., or 52,000 BTU.

Further energy estimates for a real fur coat must take into account final scraping, washing, tanning, drying, dyeing and assorted processing, which roughly equals 100,000 BTU/coat.

The energy cost to make both real and fake fur coats (once the furs are completely...
processed) is about equal, although more workmanship (and consequently more energy) customarily goes into a real fur coat.

The energy cost for the distribution and sale of both real and fake furs is about equal. However, since real furs are sold by smaller, low-volume, high-cost outlets, the fake fur's energy content for this component is probably lower.

If kept in cold storage during summer months as many furriers recommend, the added energy expended for a single real fur coat would be approximately 100,000 BTU/yr. or over 80% of the total energy content of a fake fur. (250 coats stored at 5,000 BTU/hr. equals 20 BTU/hr/coat. For 200 days of storage at 24 hr/day = 96,000 BTU).

From all indications it seems obvious that fake fur is a better buy than a real one, not only in terms of initial cost, but in terms of conservation of all our earth's resources. Prepared by Gregory H. Smith, Resident Engineer Scientific Research Laboratory Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, Michigan.

Courtesy: FACTS ABOUT FURS

Much research falls into this category — "frivolous or dispensable".

Sets himself on fire to save Blue Bulls

The self-immolation by a 25-year-old youth, Mr. Har Narain Bajpai, would go down as the rarest offering for the protection of wild life in the world. (In India, some 200 years ago, a few members of the Bishnoi community in Rajasthan laid down their lives against the indiscriminate killing of wild life.)

Mr. Har Narain Bajpai had given an advance notice in Mangalpur Police Station of his resolve to end his life if the administration failed to protect the Neel Gais and take action against the Shikaris who had killed several of them in the neighbourhood of his sleepy village of Jaura.

Neel Gais belong to the antelope family and in English they are called Blue Bulls or Blue Horse to smother the sentiments which Hindus attach to them by associating them with the Cow family. It is not a protected animal and any licence can kill it. The Blue Bulls generally live in the open, not forest, and cause damage to the crops. However, the residents of Jaura and other neighbouring villages do not make any discrimination between the Cows and the Blue Bulls and consider both equally sacred. The number of the Blue Bulls in the Jaura area had gone down to about 40 as a result of the indiscriminate killing by the Shikaris for meat and hides.

The youth of the village, led by Mr. Har Narain Bajpai, decided to protect the animal at any cost after 4 Blue Bulls were shot dead on the occasion of the Holi festival. They had been loaded on a tractor and taken away. The villagers lodged a report with the Police but no action was taken. The Shikaris bagged 2 more Blue Bulls the next day near the village of Kigna Ka Purwa. They were gheraoed by the villagers who informed the Police which took the Shikaris, the tractor and the 2 Blue Bulls which were killed, into custody. However, the Station House Officer let them off before reaching the Police Station.

The agitated villagers gheraoed the Police Station. Alleging Police collusion with the Shikaris, Mr. Har Narain Bajpai went on fast and also served a 15-day notice to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate and the Police Superintendent to arrest the poachers and informed them if no action was taken he would commit self-immolation on May 11, at 12 noon.

No action was taken against the Shikaris, who were named. They were alleged to have killed 6 Blue Bulls. The only action taken was to post a Police pose in Jaura village on May 11, when Bajpai was to commit self-immolation.

Mr. Har Narain Bajpai prepared his funeral pyre near the Dharia Nullah outside his village where 2 Blue Bulls were killed. He had also taken 10 litres of kerosene oil and ghee with him and, having soaked the cow dung and the fire wood, he lit his own pyre and was soon charred to death.

The Station House Officer of Mangalpur, Mr. M.A. Kazi, 5 Sub-Inspectors and 3 Constables were present. They drove away the villagers about 100 metres from the funeral pyre and allowed the youth to commit self-immolation. Now the Government has ordered a Magisterial enquiry. The Station House Officer has been suspended and 2 Sub-Inspectors sent to the lines and transferred.
FUR TRADE IN KASHMIR

I. D. KEHIMKAR

As reported in "Traffic Bulletin" Martin van den Berg and Resi Damhus came across an important trade in skins of rare Indian wild cats, while they were in Srinagar, Kashmir during July-August 1980 and 1981.

In 1980, posing as potential buyers they visted about ten fur shops and taxidermists in Srinagar and found that Jungle Cat (Felis chaus) and Desert Cat (Felis silvestris ornata) were most popular species with the furriers, where many thousands had been made into coats and caps. What was more shocking was the presence of many skins or coats of snow leopard, tiger, clouded leopard and panther, in several fur shops. A rough estimate with three traders revealed 24 skins of snow leopards, 10 of clouded leopard, 55 of panther, 10 of tiger, 60 of lynx and 50 of leopard cat, with the prices ranging from U.S. $15 for a leopard cat to $350 for a tiger skin - snow leopard, clouded leopard and panther being sold at anywhere between U.S. $120 to $300. The prices could be bargaining and could be reduced by 25-50 percent. Each shop had hundreds of skins of smaller species like Jungle cat, Fishing cat and Desert cat.

In 1981 they revisited the same fur shops and taxidermists and found no reduction in the number of skins offered for sale. On request the furriers showed them a coat of tiger skin and unlike the previous year, snow leopard coats were offered for sale openly. The fur of the coats (3 to 4 individual skins for one coat) did not look old and were of excellent quality.

Most of the species mentioned are no longer to be found in the Kashmir valley and the adjacent areas, but their presence in fur shops explains that traders of Kashmir obtain the skins from other parts of India or even the neighbouring countries. For instance desert cat (mulam, Kashmiri) is obtained from hunters in Rajasthan.

It was also revealed that traders can arrange for the payment through foreign banks of the customer's country and on payment they would arrange to send the fur by mail!

This report does project a bleak picture of wildlife conservation in India as it is indeed sad that skins of such rare cats can be bought so easily, but this is because unlike other Indian states Jammu and Kashmir has not implemented the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972.

Courtesy: HORNBILL

A Furrier in Delhi, whose head office is at Srinagar, disclosed to a foreigner posing as a purchaser:

The skin of an endangered specie could be sewn between the lining and fur of a cheaper, nonconserved animal coat.

Alternatively, arrangements could be made with airline staff for smuggling the illegally obtained skin out of the country.
LAC INSECTS AND THE LAC INDUSTRY

PIPPA MUKHERJEE

If you saw a tiny insect crawling along a twig, I wonder if you would know what it was? I too had no idea until I went on holiday and happened to sit under a Peepal tree that was infested with literally millions of these tiny creatures. I wasn't sure what it was, but the entire tree looked as if it had some weird skin disease which had been literally treated with a dusting of white powder.

This ex crescence, and the tiny larval insects belong to the Lac family are responsible for the commercial product shellac which is sold to make varnish. It is also used by jewellers to hold gold, silver or platinum setting in place, while precious stones are inserted.

The lac trade is a large one, although not now quite as large as it once was when the lac was used not only for shellac, but also for the red dye extracted from the resin, and very similar, if inferior, to cochineal. This, as most housewives know is a colouring liquid used for food, and in particular for icing on cakes. Cochineal is a dye also extracted from an insect related to lac that lives in Mexico, and feeds on a certain kind of cactus.

Lac insects are parasites, and they swarm onto the branchlets and twigs of certain trees in the larval stage, where they colonise and mature. To do this they undergo several morphological stages. The moment they arrive on the new twig they pierce the bark with a long proboscis, or sharp nose part, and suck up the sap juices of their host. This is converted by glands in the insect’s body into a sticky substance or resin, which when excreted coats the insects and on hardening gives them a protective covering.

Of course for the commercial produc- tion of lac, the trees are specially grown in groves, and carefully nurtured to ensure the healthiest lac insects, a finer quality of lac, and a tree that doesn’t fall down under the strain of its parasitic load.

There are many trees on which the lac insect will colonise, but the ones normally used in the trade, and which produce the best shellac are the Ber, or Bora as it is known in Maharashtra, Palas, or Flame of the forest, Kusum and Khair; these are specially grown in certain parts of India, Bihar in particular.

Once the twigs are well coated with lac, and are crawling with new larvae, they are cut from the tree. Before the lac is stripped, these twigs are tied to fresh branches, so that the new larvae can transfer themselves onto a new host. The lac once stripped is heated to separate the resin.

The whole process is a very specialised one, and it seems so odd to utilise a parasite commercially; I wonder how the lac substance was first discovered? Until 1950 India produced about 75 per cent of the world supply.

Courtesy: THE DAILY

“'You said I could have a friend sleep over tonight’

From Beauty Without Cruelty, Printed in India, July - September 1983.
CRUELTY IS UNDERGROUND
FRANCES PERRY

Today, cruelty has gone underground, in the batteries, the broiler houses, the export of live animals both for food and vivisection, often in the lorries rushing from market to market. In more unlikely places cruelty may be found in our investments.

Do we all read the reports we receive? Only by doing so can we discover what use is made of our money. I cannot advise you on what stocks will rise or fall; I can only ask you to read the reports. This is doubly needful in the case of large combines. You may invest in a reputable business which is taken over and merged with others. What do these others sell?

(A good number of companies these days export marine products and meat. It might give added tax benefits, but, is it acceptable to a vegetarian to invest in such a company? A business manufacturing nylon nets could as well call them “fishing nets”. There are firms which build slaughter houses, or worse still run their own slaughter units. Some manufacture appliances or even machinery which aid other companies dealing in animal exploitation. And what about those firms which run animal laboratories to test harmful chemicals used in their products? The list can be endless... so, let us ask ourselves: Are we not being hypocrites by investing in firms which go against our ideals? Does our conscience permit us to do so? Is it not better to get a percent or two less from another firm which makes money in accordance with our principles of compassion?)

The first thing that strikes one is the vast range of animal exploitation and as we look for it we shall find it in many strange places. Beauty Without Cruelty members need no reminding of what lies behind so many beautifully packaged cosmetics, but we also know how to find cosmetics which are free from the taint of cruelty. Furs and skins we have been warned about, and we know how they are harvested.

Look in business reports for the things that slip in; large combines cover many products and take-over bids have been increasingly common. So think of the ever-growing amount we take from the animal kingdom, and how we take them, and for what purpose. Then see if in any way your money is financing a trade of which you could not approve.

Cruelty is underground. Look in your investments portfolio – the list of shares, the annual reports and statements; if we all try hard enough, together we can stop a great deal of this hidden cruelty. When we begin to look into the sources of our invested income, when we make sure that our money is spent in ways in which we can approve, then we shall at least have driven the hidden cruelty into the open for all to see....

Courtesy: COMPASSION

COMPASSION
TARTHANG TULKA

Compassion is felt in the centre of the heart and the source of compassion is our feelings, our living experience. Until the positive energy of compassion flows through our hearts, we accomplish little of real value. We may simply be occupying our minds with hollow words and images. We may master various sciences or philosophies but, without compassion, we are just empty scholars trapped in vicious circles of craving, grasping and anxiety... When compassion is as close as our breath, as alive as our blood, then we will understand how to live and work in the world effectively and to be of help to ourselves and others.

Courtesy: OUTRAGE!

NEWS FROM
B.W.C. BOMBAY
CENTRE
C/o Super Prints
Ruby Auto Engineering Compound,
43, Queen’s Road,
Bombay 400 002.

In accordance with our major Beauty
Without Cruelty objectives, this year
more emphasis is being laid on creating an
awareness among people. This will be
done by various means, the main one be-
ing screening our films. Members in
Bombay are requested to contact our office
if they can arrange a programme.

A list is being compiled of public li-
braries, schools, colleges, clubs, who will
be given our literature and magazines.
BWC Members who are also members
of other clubs in Bombay such as Radio
Club, N.S.C.I., Rotary, Lion, Jaycees etc.
are therefore requested to kindly contact
us.

We are considering a disco dandiya
raas. Please let us know if you are inter-
ested. If we receive a good response it
will be finalised.

We plan to take on a lady Projects
Officer and once she is on board our activ-
ities should gain fast momentum.

Once again its greeting cards time
and we are fully geared to meet bigger
and more orders than last year. Our
Members should please try and help get
orders.

Our activity in connection with sub-
scription renewals, continues. We are
happy to state that our efforts are getting
a good response.

SHEELA DANDEKAR
Director

NOW AVAILABLE IN INDIA
MICROBIAL RENNET
for Cheese Making
Process developed by
C.F.T.R.I., Mysore
Manufactured by
Mycozyme Industries
On behalf of
Beauty Without Cruelty
(P.B. 18, Poona 411 001)

DO YOU KNOW?
INSULIN given to diabetics was originally
derived from cow or pig pancreas. Later,
it became pig insulin modified chemically
to suit humans. Now human insulin from
human pancreas by harnessing bacteria
has been deveioped in U. K.
Dead or alive?...

it's up to you!

Each year in excess of thirty million wild animals skins alone cruelly are slaughtered for their and millions more are treated, maimed and killed to provide numerous consumer products. Commercial exploitation of animals is not only outdated and unnecessary, it also exterminates whole species of animals and undeniably degrades human intellect. Simulated furs and alternative products to those containing animal ingredients are readily available.

If YOU care please write for further information to Beauty Without Cruelty

-INDIA BRANCH : 4 PRINCE OF WALES' DRIVE, WANOWRIE, POONA 411001. TEL : 24441. GRAMS : 'AHINSA.'