

THE ISCOWP NEWS

The Quarterly Newsletter of

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR COW PROTECTION

Winter

1990

KVEN Radio:

The Doves who were showing their two oxen at the Ventura County Fair were given a choice by the board of directors; stop talking about the oxen or pack up and go.

Frank Hanes of KVEN;
We're talking about censorship and the stifling of free speech at the county fair. Specifically what are you selling in the leaflets you were passing out?

William Dove of ISCOWP;

We are trying to sell alternative means to big farming. I'll read you a little from the leaflets. "ISCOWP is primarily concerned with presenting alternatives to present agricultural practices that support and depend upon the meat industry. Cruelty-free lifetime protection of the cow, ox training for the purpose of the oxen becoming a needed and appreciated member of society, and ecologically sound agrarian lifestyles are the practices that ISCOWP would like to make available to everyone."

Ventura County Fair, California Summer 1990



Freedom of Speech for Vegetarians ?

Our rights denied

Freedom of speech is an unalienable right of all Americans. The founding of our country is unique because it was based on equal and unalienable rights for all Americans regardless of race, creed or occupation. Unfortunately the powers of the majorities who possess wealth, greed, and fame often override the ability of minorities to practice this very fundamental right.

Last summer while traveling with our oxen we experienced just such a denial of our fundamental right, freedom of speech. While conducting an ox power display at the Ventura County Fair, for which we were contracted for ten days, we were asked to remove our literature and refused permission to tell anyone about "cow protection." It seemed impossible to tell people about Burfy and Lee, our two oxen, without also telling them about cow protection and after considering the literature was only available on the table in front of the display (we were not forcing them on passersby) we felt we had no choice but to leave. One alternative was offered and that was to distribute our literature in front of the fair without our oxen. That was another impossibility, leaving the oxen by themselves in the livestock area.

We had been told we could not present any message other than what was being presented at the fair. Due to the enthusiastic crowds at the cow protection display we felt we posed a threat to those in power who attain their livelihood and wealth through the breeding and slaughter of the cow. Interestingly, the decision of the Ventura County Fair Board

informing us to remove the message of cow protection occurred the night before the 4H clubs were to bring in many calves who would be sold for slaughter!

The people liked us

Throughout the five days we were allowed to stay there we were inundated with crowds of enthusiastic people, glad to see oxen who would not be slaughtered. Many of them were very interested in "ox power" as an alternative energy source. At that time the Iraq, Kuwait situation had just begun and gas prices had just started to rise. It was very timely to be discussing alternatives to the usage of the oil run tractor.

The positive result

Although we quietly left there were those who felt the situation to be totally unjust on our behalf. Due to the efforts of William Roberts and his family the whole episode became a multimedia exposure of the denial of an American's unalienable right to exercise his freedom of speech. Several newspapers carried the story on their front pages and radio announcer Frank Hanes defended our position on his hour long radio program.

We would like to present some of the major newspaper articles expressing support from vegetarians and non-vegetarians alike. Due to lack of space we will present excerpts from the radio show in the next issue. Please read the following pages and become heartened to hear how freedom of speech for everyone is alive in the hearts of many Americans!

STAR-FREE PRESS

front page coverage
August 23, 1990



Richard Hernandez / Star-Free Press

The Fair Board told vegetarianism advocates Irene and William Dove not to distribute literature at their oxen display.

Vegetarians ousted over Fair beef

By Gary E. Goldhammer
S-FP staff writer

Ventura County Fair officials had a beef about a livestock display that promoted the use of farm animals for non-culinary purposes.

Pennsylvania farmers and vegetarians William and Irene Dove were invited by Fair Livestock Superintendent Vic Briggs to show their oxen team at the Fair. The couple, which uses the one-ton beasts as alternatives to tractors, agreed. Last week, they set up shop next to the cows and sheep.

But Fair officials weren't too bullish on the friendly couple when they learned that the farmers had been passing out leaflets encouraging Fairgoers to think twice before buying a hot dog or hamburger. The Doves and their oxen left the Fairgrounds on Monday after Briggs informed them that they would have to keep their views, and lifestyles, to themselves.

"I'm a small farmer trying to present an alternative to fuels," said William Dove, who is staying with his bullocks at a friend's farm in

Ojai. "We're vegetarians, so I'm trying to present that type of lifestyle. I'm not involved in animal rights. We weren't trying to shove our philosophy down anyone's throat."

Briggs said the Fair Board has a policy that prohibits anyone from promoting personal beliefs on the Fairgrounds, and that what William and Irene Dove were doing was "contradictory" to the 4-H concept of raising market animals for slaughter.

(Please turn to A-6, Col. 5)

Fair beef

Continued from A-1

"These people don't eat meat," Briggs said, referring to the farmers. "A number of organizations have the right to get people to change their lifestyle, and there is a 'free speech' area set aside at the main gate for that. The Fair Board felt that what the couple was doing fell within the range of free speech."

Briggs said the board made its decision at a meeting Sunday, and said he informed the couple on Monday that they could stay in the livestock area — provided they didn't pass out their literature or discuss their views — or move to the front gate, without their oxen, to promote their cause.

The Dove family, in a statement they prepared after Monday's incident, referred to the Fair's action as an act of "commercial bigotry." Dove said he and his wife were asked to leave because of the leaflets, but speculated that their departure may have been tied to Monday's arrival of the 4-H commercial animals, which are auctioned after being judged. Almost all of the 4-H animals are slaughtered for food.

"The Fair officials said we could leave our sign up concerning cow protection, but we wouldn't be allowed to explain what cow protection was," Dove said. "We couldn't promote a message or philosophy."

The sign referred to the International Society for Cow Protection, a Pennsylvania-based group concerned with "presenting alternatives to present agricultural practices that support and depend upon the meat industry." The society also believes that oxen should be trained to become "needed and appreciated" members of society.

Dove said he is worried that young people who want to get into farming are deterred by high equipment costs. He sees the oxen as an alternative source of energy.

"There are a lot of people interested in alternative energy sources, and we would like to be able to present this alternative style of farming," Dove said. "We were at the Fair for five days, and our booth was completely inundated by people."

"Thousands of people saw us," he said. "It's unfortunate that this week, thousands won't."

Oxen in the park

The American Vedic Association has arranged for Lee and Burfi, two 2,000 pound prize-winning Swiss Brown Oxen, to meet with the public today in Libbey Park in Ojai between noon and 3 p.m., and again in front of the "Veggie Buffet" across from the Soule Park Golf Course from 4 to 9 p.m.

The two oxen are fully voice trained, extremely gentle and amazing.

This is an opportunity to learn more about "a real solution to the environmental and energy crisis."

Fair discrimination

Editor, Star-Free Press:

Re: your Aug. 23 article, "Vegetarians ousted over Fair beef":

Since when does one have to go stand in an out-of-the-way place in order to exercise free speech in this country?

Everything is backward. Those who have a moral, compassionate message are the ones who are censored. William and Irene Dove are up against the massive power of the big business.

Slaughtering animals, and raising children to suppress their natural feeling of love and compassion for the animals so that they will view them as merely money-making commodities, is evil. No half-way-sensitive person could even watch animals be slaughtered, and, therefore, many people who go to the Fair and eat meat are living in denial of the suffering they are contributing to. The people who can slaughter an animal frighten me.

I have boycotted the County Fair for the past 12 years (not that it's hurting for lack of my admission fee) because the livestock portion of the Fair is a celebration of killing, greed and selfishness.

I hope our city, county and state officials will do something to prevent the county Fair Board from discriminating against the Doves, and people like them, in the future.

SUE MARSTON,
Ventura

Unprofitable beliefs

Editor, Star-Free Press:

Your Aug. 23 article, "Vegetarians ousted over Fair beef," states that the Fair Board has a policy that prohibits anyone from promoting personal beliefs.

Well, then, what about the 4-H'ers and the cattlemen? They are not only promoting a personal belief which is offensive to some people, they are also indoctrinating children into practices that brutally destroy life.

What is the difference? The difference, as I see it, is that the personal beliefs of the cow-, lamb- and pig-killers are profitable to the Fair, and any other beliefs which may interfere with that become personal beliefs that are not acceptable.

It looks like a clear case of discrimination to me, and the Doves should sue, although I know how difficult a proposition that can be for people without heavy financial backing.

Is there justice anywhere?

MARY STEBBINS,
Ventura

Free speech at the Fair

Editor, Star-Free Press:

Re: your Aug. 23 article, "Vegetarians ousted over Fair beef":

After recovering from feelings of total disbelief over the decision of the Fair officials, I felt I must write and question the policy of the Fair Board that "prohibits anyone from promoting personal beliefs on the Fairgrounds" and relegates those who believe in free speech to an area set aside at the main gate. Since tax dollars support the Fairgrounds, it seems to me those wishing to participate at the Fair should not be censured for having beliefs other than those who approve of the slaughter and consumption of market animals.

It appears the Ventura County Fair's policies are just another example of the loss of rights the American public is so willing to give up in pursuit of what they are led to believe is for their good and protection.

It is obvious that the censuring of William and Irene Dove was strictly for monetary purposes.

I, for one, prefer to do my own thinking and make my own decisions. So, I have decided not to attend the Fair.

MICKY MIELE,
Oxnard

OJAI VALLEY NEWS

front page coverage August 27



Two huge oxen attracted a lot of attention Saturday at Libbey Park. The two gentle beasts were part of a display by the International Society for Cow Protection that was asked to leave the Ventura County Fair last week.

Oxen exhibit stirs fair controversy

Farmers and vegetarians William and Irene Dove found themselves at the center of controversy last week at the Ventura County Fair.

The couple had contracted to exhibit two massive oxen at the fair in the livestock area. However, after fair officials realized the Pennsylvania visitors were advocating vegetarian ideals and distributing literature seeking support for the International Society for Cow Pro-

tection, they were asked to leave.

"We received a complaint that they were soliciting memberships and financial support. We don't allow that in the livestock area," a fair official said.

The Doves were given the opportunity to move their literature operation to the Free Speech area and keep their oxen on exhibit in another part of the fairgrounds. But after considering the alternatives and the fair administration's

stance, William Dove decided to pack up the show.

The Doves and their supporters instead set up their display in Ojai Saturday afternoon attracting attention from dozens of residents.

In a shaded part of the Libbey Park, the couple explained their approach to conserving fuel and a vegetarian lifestyle.

"We save thousands of gallons

(Please see **OXEN**, Page 2)

of fuel by raising the animals for milk and not slaughter," he pointed out to one family.

"You can produce thousands of pounds of potatoes with an acre of land that will only raise 165

pounds of beef," he asserted.

The oxen will be displayed at the Ojai Valley Green meeting tomorrow evening at the Atrium, 404 N. Montgomery St. at 7 p.m.

Commercial bigotry

To the editor:

Many folks may have had the opportunity to see one of the most exciting exhibits in the livestock section of the Ventura County Fair, but unfortunately many others will be deprived of that opportunity because of commercial bigotry.

For the first five days of the fair, William and Irene Dove introduced Lee and Burfi, their two prize-winning bullocks. They were living proof of an alternative agricultural way of life that utilizes oxen not for food, but as partners in working the land for a truly organic harvest. From ten in the morning till ten at night, thousands of fascinated fairgoers crowded around their corral to admire the beauty of the two, 2000-lb., oversize Brown Swiss Oxen.

Children were fascinated by the docile nature of these tremendous animals and spontaneously began petting their head and feeling their horns. Adults admired that they weren't just dumb beasts, but intelligent enough to respond to voice commands and fully trained for plowing and hauling. Indeed, Lee and Burfi were not ordinary oxen, they were the shining example of what the 20th Century left behind when the world embraced the industrial age and fossil fuels.

Thousands of people appreciated the message. It was actually quite simple: "Get back to the land." In the presence of these majestic animals it was painfully obvious how our so-called advanced society has somehow been duped into trading the opportunity to work in an open field, under a blue sky, with a beautiful animal, for dirty factory jobs, in confined areas, with loud and dangerous equipment that destroys our environment.

William and Irene came all the way from Pennsylvania where they tend a full herd of 135 Brown Swiss bovine. They started the International Society for Cow Protection and have been teaching small farmers and environmentalists

how there is greater benefit in protecting a herd than in selling it off to the slaughter house.

Of course, we all can appreciate the tremendous amount of milk that comes from the cow. By nature's arrangement she provides far more milk than is necessary for the baby calf, and that milk is the source of cheese, yogurt, butter and ice cream. Similarly, the bullock is capable of providing a phenomenal amount of energy that can be easily and painlessly harnessed.

It should not be too difficult to understand why so many people appreciated Lee and Burfi, even though they initially seemed to indicate a step back to the 1800s. What they really represented was hope, the alternative to pollution, factory work, the oil crisis, chemical pesticides and, in general, an artificial way of life that has driven many people to the brink of despair and apathy.

Why then were they driven out of the Ventura County Fair? The fair that is portrayed as a family event, educational, fun, a reflection of our own beautiful community and whose purpose it is to promote agriculture? It seems the only real answer is commercial bigotry.

While the common folk were crowding to see the harbingers of hope, the fair directors cast their ballots to expel the heretics. Apparently, the very idea of raising animals in a truly loving community where man and beast work cooperatively together for the mutual benefit of all was just too radical. The conclusion was all too clear. Even though the fair is billed

as an educational community event, it really isn't. Alternative viewpoints are simply not tolerated, regardless of how nicely they are presented. Bill and Irene are farmers sharing an agricultural lifestyle that utilizes and protects animals instead of consuming them. They offer a convincing plan based on the harmonious relationship between cow, man and the land with economic, social and environmental benefits.

Using the legal convenience of corporate policy, the board of directors made it perfectly clear that the fair was diametrically opposed to anything that did not promote the cattle industry. Bill and Irene were specifically told that speaking to the public about a vegetarian lifestyle, cow protection, or raising oxen for working the field would not be tolerated. The obvious enthusiasm that the general public had for their message during the five days they were allowed to speak was not totally irrelevant. It was fuel for the fire of resentment that was burning in the minds of the those who opposed them! Monday morning, Bill Dove was approached and was told he must cease and desist. The tension was evident and Bill wisely chose to put Lee and Burfi back into their customized rig and depart.

If you are interested in learning about the practical aspects of cow protection or want to know more about a sane alternative lifestyle, then give us a call at 640-0405. Despite the commercially bigoted behavior of the fair directors, it's reassuring to know that there is a real life available for real people!

William Roberts
Ojai

OJAI VALLEY NEWS

opinions, August 25

Update Report and Future Plans

by Bill and Irene Dove

The results of our ox traveling program were multifold. We had many immense opportunities to present the message of cow protection and we were very fortunate to meet several organizations that were interested in establishing a lifestyle based on cow protection. The concept of a cow-man-land relationship based on cruelty-free lifetime protection of the cow and ox was perceived as a practical way of life, offering for the world not only a non-violent way of life but an educational example of a lifestyle not based on oil and meat eating. We are planning to seriously work with two groups in the near future to help them establish an "ISCOWP" farm within their organization. A major goal of ISCOWP is to establish small farms wherever possible based on a cow-man-land relationship. Establishing a relationship with these groups is a very major step in achieving this goal.

Happy Valley Foundation



Beatrice Wood and friends at Happy Valley Foundation

The Happy Valley Foundation founded by Annie Besant, an associate of Mahatma Ghandhi, is a group in Ojai California seriously interested in establishing the example of cow protection as an integral part of their project. The principles held by this organization are quite similar in many ways to those of ISCOWP. All members of the community

are vegetarians and no animal slaughter or cruelty are allowed on the 600 acre property.

We were very happy to meet with Rosalind Rajagopal who was primarily responsible for establishing the Happy Valley School and Beatrice Wood a renowned potter and resident of Happy Valley Foundation. It was a very positive meeting and subsequent talks with James and Radha Sloss, both board members of the Happy Valley Foundation, have encouraged us to present a researched report for their February board meeting proposing the instituting of an ISCOWP farm on the foundation's land in Ojai. We are looking forward to a favorable meeting with the foundation's members.

North Carolina Project

Beginning in the spring we will be working hand in hand with about 25 members of a community in Efland, Carolina helping them establish ox power and cow protection on their land. We are seriously considering purchasing two "veal calves" not only to

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Update Report

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save their lives and give them cruelty-free lifetime protection but also to train them to help their human brothers in cultivating the fields for the production of crops

Future Plans

Update reports on progress with these two land projects will be reported in our spring newsletter and subsequent newsletters. We would also like to invite anyone who would like to develop an ISCOWP farm in their area to contact us. One of the major goals of ISCOWP is to establish small farms everywhere based on cow protection. We are happy to see progress in this direction by becoming involved in the two mentioned land projects and we will be happy to become involved in others.

Special Thanks

We extend special thanks to Art Outlet of Port Royal, Pennsylvania for funding the printing of this newsletter. We would also like to express our gratitude to William Roberts and his family for their support and encouragement when we were asked to leave the Ventura County Fair. Due to the kindness of William Roberts and Govinda's restaurant in Ojai we were able to spread the message of cow protection through the publicity of newspapers and radio. One advertiser in the Star Free Press threatened to remove their support if they printed anymore articles supporting us. Yet they printed supporting letters to the editor and The Ojai Valley News and radio announcer Frank Hanes of KVEN radio persisted in presenting our case although they knew of the threats to the Star Free Press. Special thanks to their courage!

Yes! I want to support ISCOWP's work for the cows.

Name -----

☐ \$15

☐ \$25

☐ \$50

Street -----

City----- State ----- Zip-----

☐ \$100

☐ \$Other-----

Please make checks payable to ISCOWP and use the enclosed envelope. All contributions are tax deductible. Tax # 23-2604082. Thank you so much for your help!

ISCOWP

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