

Letter to World Citizens

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More Proof That Meat Is Murder

Garry Davis

I recently read in The New York Times of a 17-month-old girl who died as a result of an infection contracted from another child who became ill after eating a Jack-in-the-Box hamburger. Meat tainted with E. coli bacteria has caused the deaths of several young children in Washington State.

Previously in this space I have described meat-eating (which is really carcass-eating) as immoral, unhealthy and environmentally and politically disastrous for the human race. I have recommended that you read Jeremy Rifkin's book, "Beyond Beef," which details the history and ideology of cattle culture and its effects on our planet and our bodies.

The children who died of E. coli bacteria were not identified as Americans, blacks, whites, Christians, Jews or Muslims. They were just "two-year-olds." They hadn't had time to "become" anything other than human.

Many of those calling themselves Jews or Muslims will sit down at separate tables and eat the same flesh with gusto. Most Serbs and Bosnians will down a thick steak or leg of lamb while denigrating one another's culture. Arabs and Christians, Japanese and Koreans, Filipinos and Malays, all collude without compunction in the killing of their animal food, even as they insist on their differences.

Happily, the trend toward proper eating habits is gaining ground. Doctors are finally stressing regimens with less fat, more carbohydrates, less sugar, more legumes, fruits and grains. Environmentalists are finally beginning to link the destruction of rainforests with cattle-raising. (Have they all become vegetarians as well? I'm not so sure.) TV networks are airing stories on slaughterhouse horrors, which include complaints by inspectors that the production line method does not permit proper scrutiny of diseased animals.

President Clinton wants to tax BTU's. That's an energy unit. But how much energy does it take to put steaks on the White House dinner table? Multiply that by all the dinner tables, including those in restaurants, that feature cooked flesh almost every day of every year. Talk about spending cuts. Let's talk instead about meat cuts.

According to Rifkin, beef production is a major cause of world hunger, pollution, deforestation, desertification, and species extinction.

Humans are killing humans in many places throughout the globe in the name of nationalism and ethnic differences. Yet while we decry that killing, especially of innocents, we condone the killing of millions of animals daily to satisfy our taste buds. And while good and thoughtful people deplore the deaths each year of between 40 and 60 million humans from hunger and related diseases, they calmly eat the cattle carcasses which are fattened by consuming one-third of all grain grown in the world.

We who claim to be World Citizens are also claiming a linkage with our fellow animals who share our planet. Please think seriously about this.

In my next letter, I will be inviting my fellow World Citizens to join me next July in launching the Infoset program. World Citizen News will carry information on why, where, how the Infosets are to be continuously launched. Our Team Syntegrity is working hard in

Toronto to put the final touches on the global program, a first in “meta”-decision-making on the grass-roots level.

One final note: If you haven’t already subscribed to World Citizen News, please do so now. We will soon stop mailing complimentary copies of the publication, except to heads of state, collegial organizations and media representatives.