



# Hey Kid! PETA says "This Bud's for You!"



## PETA Want's Kids to Drink Beer

It seems that there must be a core group of people at PETA who stay up late at night thinking of really stupid things to do. As if breaking into cancer research labs and "Liberating" all the rats wasn't stupid enough for them, now they go and do something like this.

Believe it or not, PETA is now recommending that kids use beer and not milk on their breakfast cereal.

PETA claims that they have scientific research that proves that beer is better for children than milk. They are giving away beer bottle openers that say, "Drinking Responsibly Means Not Drinking Milk - Save a Cow's Life."

As usual, PETA's total lack of knowledge about animals really shows through. If a dairy farmer failed to milk his cows in a timely manner, his cow's milk sacks would rupture and the cow would die an agonizing death. Susan Ruland, spokeswoman for the International Dairy Foods Association in Washington, D.C said cows produce more and better milk if they are treated well, so it would not make economic sense for dairy farmers to mistreat the animals. Ruland also noted that milk contains 30 per cent of the calcium, 16 per cent of the protein and 25 per cent of the vitamin D recommended daily allowance - things that are not found in beer.

Apparently, PETA has realized that the kids in school these days are wise to PETA's foolishness. What better way to make a kid believe their wild stories than to get him drunk?

Mother's Against Drunk Driver's (MADD) was not impressed. They sent a letter asking PETA to pull the campaign for fear it will encourage underage drinking. "We're very concerned and appalled with it for the simple fact that underage drinking is the number one drug problem among American youths," said Teresa Hardt, a spokeswoman for the Irving, Texas-based group, whose mission includes the prevention of underage drinking.

"If PETA's misguided purpose is to denounce the dairy industry, they certainly aren't advancing their ball by advocating alcohol consumption by college students," said David Botkins, spokesman for state Attorney General Mark L. Earley.

In a statement by The Foundation for Biomedical Research, President Frankie Trull states "Perhaps the public should be aware that People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) spent over \$3 million last year on public outreach and education, enrolling more than 4,125,700 students into its programs and reaching over 170,000 teachers and schools with its biased, anti-research message.

"PETA is extremely active in U.S. schools, aggressively promoting an agenda of misinformation regarding the need for animals in biomedical research. Their aim is the end of the use of animals for any purpose.

"Its special 'education' presentations, which advocate an end to the use of animals for any reason, including medical research, seem to be welcome in public elementary, middle and high schools, and many states allow them and other animal rights groups free and open access to students. Forget recruitment on college campuses, PETA starts recruiting in grammar school.

"Do PETA contributors -- many of them parents themselves -- know that their donations are being used in such a large-scale campaign to indoctrinate students against medical research facilities, not just encouraging kids to not eat meat or wear fur coats? Or that once part of the movement, these kids are then vulnerable to more extreme elements including those that advocate violence and criminal 'direct' action against researchers?"

A online research survey conducted by Memolink, Inc. showed that 94 percent of college students do not believe it is realistic to claim beer is healthier than milk. About 33 percent believe that beer drinking among college students on campus is a severe problem.

PETA's new advertising plan was modeled after the familiar and haunting missing children photos on milk cartons -- using a calf instead. After thousands of protests from their own members, PETA withdrew the ads, but has offered no apology. Instead it heralded the brief campaign as a triumph of its marketing savvy. PETA now says that they used the media to get free publicity, but unfortunately for them, they didn't get anything except what they deserve - bad publicity.

## Seed Saver's Exchange

Seed Savers Exchange, a nonprofit tax-exempt organization that is saving oldtime food crops from extinction. Kent and Diane Whealy founded it in 1975 after an elderly, terminally ill relative bestowed three kinds of garden seeds brought from Bavaria four generations earlier. The Wheelys began searching for other heirloom varieties (seeds passed down from generation to generation) and soon discovered a vast, little-known genetic treasure.

Annual membership is \$30. To receive a four-page color brochure describing Seed Savers projects and publications, send \$1.00 and your name and address to: Seed Savers Exchange, 3076 North Winn Road, Decorah, Iowa 52101

### Is This Your Last Issue?

The dues for the PBCPFA club are due on January 1st and all memberships run until December 31st. This is your last newsletter if you have not paid your year 2000 dues. If you need to pay your year 2000 dues, make your check payable to the Palm Beach County Poultry Fanciers Association (\$8 sgl, \$12 family) and give it to Rose at the meeting or mail it to her at 8643 El Paso Dr., Lake Worth, FL 33467.

## Report on Y2K

You may be wondering what went with all the Y2K predictions. Like, why are the lights still on? Why is there still food in the grocery stores? The answer is called preparation. Literally, billions of dollars were spent trying to fix the worst of the Y2K bug. In most cases, they succeeded.

However, the Y2K bug still bit a few people, and is still gnawing at others. For example, today, more than two months after January 1, 2000, you'll still see web sites and computer programs displaying and processing dates incorrectly. Seeing the year incremented from 99 to 100 is the most common. One web site probably stated, "Good morning, today is January 1, 192000." WordPerfect, a common word processing program, displays the date as "1/1/ 0".

What about the power? There were 5 electric power stations across the country that shut down due to the Y2K bug. However, because of the national grid system, none of their customers experienced any power failures.

Experts say that most Y2K bugs in the corporate world were swept under the rug for fear of bad press. However, Unidanmark A/S, Denmark's second-largest bank, admitted that account information for several of its depositors had been erased due to the Y2K bug. Nevertheless, a US military spy satellite system failed for three hours due to Y2K, yet the government claimed all was OK. It later admitted the deception was for national security reasons.

The Islamabad Stock Exchange shut down. Brokers were forced to trade stocks the old fashioned way - on paper. All US markets were prepared and had no glitches.

All in all, the US survived the Y2K bug very well. Although, still more work needs to be done.

## Seeing in COLOR

Most mammals (excluding humans) don't have retinal cones that are tuned to red wavelengths, but they do for blue and green wavelengths (with some variation).

Birds (and fish and turtles) have up to seven types of cones in the retina (compared to three for humans). They manage this with only three pigments.

The retinal cones in most mammals eyes are tuned largely to blue and green. From Gordon Shepherd's book, "The Synaptic Organization of the Brain": Mammals have a single type of rod (peak spectral sensitivity at 500 nm). This makes sense because at night photons are too sparse to be worth segregating by wavelength. But in daylight, there are plenty of photons, so most mammals gain extra information by using two cone types with different spectral sensitivity (Barlow, 1982). Most cones (at least 90%) are tuned to middle wavelengths (~550 nm), termed "M" or "green" (reviewed by Jacobs, 1993). A few are tuned to short wavelengths (~450 nm), termed "S" or "blue".

Old World primates (including humans) are special in being "trichromatic," meaning that there is an additional cone type tuned to long wavelengths (peak ~570 nm), termed "L" or "red".

The cones in the eyes of dogs are tuned to the violet and blue-violet range and the greenish-yellow, yellow, and red range. Dogs are unable to differentiate colors that appear as green, yellow-green, orange or red to people, and are unable to differentiate greenish-blue from gray. This is similar to people who are red-green color blind.

## Killing Sick Chickens

What do you do when you want to kill a sick chicken that has no chance of recovery. Here is an approach that many vets use.

Hold it by the feet, head down, put the head securely under your foot, turn the body 180 degrees or so, then pull up on the feet until the neck ruptures. It's by far the fastest, neatest way to dispatch sick chickens. Or, use a broomstick; put the head under the broom stick, stand on the broomstick, one foot on either side of the head, then pull up on the chickens feet. In both cases, death is nearly instantaneous.

## Will Double-Yolked Eggs Hatch?

A reader tried hatching a double-yolked barred rock egg last spring to see what would happen.

The unborn chicks grew just fine and were alive right up to the 21st day of incubation. However, there just wasn't enough room for them to maneuver. They could not get up into the air cell or crack the shell. They both died.

Perhaps if a lot of intervention had been provided at the hatch, they might have made it, but it would have been difficult at best. Double yolked eggs have hatched in labs before, but it isn't very productive. You just get two chicks. They aren't identical, you just get the same as if you had two separate eggs.



Above: Mr. Gregg waves to the crowd from the club's float in 1998.

## Obituary for Mr. Richard Gregg

by Michael Robinson

One of our most active, loyal, knowledgeable and helpful members of the club passed away March 18, 2000 at the age of 78. He was a very active member for more than 12 years, and was the club's Historian and Property Manager. Richard was very involved in 4-H clubs and local schools providing eggs, incubators and knowledge to educate the children on embryology and raising baby chickens. Richard was always involved every year with the success of the poultry exhibit at the South Florida Fairgrounds for many years. He won many trophies and ribbons for his outstanding Rhode Island Reds. His extreme knowledge of poultry, good sense of humor and friendship was valued by everyone.

**HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED BY ALL!**

## Refreshments for the Year 2000

March	Jeanette Robinson
April	Picnic (see next newsletter)
May	David Whitehead
June	Linda Wright
July	Susie Robinson
August	Arvis Okerson
September	Jamie Gatchell
October	Linda & Lauresa Musgrove
November	Rose Gregg
December	Christmas Party

Please notify Mike Robinson if you will be needing the club's hotplate for your refreshments. Also, kindly label any dishes that contain chicken as a courtesy to those who don't eat it.

## February Meeting

Lee Salmon

Our meeting was called to order at 8:15 on Fri. the 25 of February in the Mounts Garden Pavillion. We want to welcome our new members; Sue and Ross Robinson, Paul and Kathy Butorith, Linda MacDonald and Lauresa Musgrove, also present was visitor, John Ellis.

I want to thank you all for a job well done at the Fair. We voted to sponsor Beth Kramers 4-H club and to up our sponsorship to \$200.00 a year per club. As of now we have 2 clubs, The Fancy Feathers and The For Him. In the event our club ever disbands, we voted to donate all moneys in the Tres. to The Palm Bch. Co 4-H Dept.

We have voted to give the refreshment persons \$50.00. Childrens Festival is March 12, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We will have the same spot. Come prepared to work on the Prerpremium Book at the next meeting. Changes are due in the Fair office May 1st. This way we won't have to work on it at the picnic.

See you all soon and have a good month. Kathy is just getting over some surgery and we wish her well.

## Math Test

Get out your calculator.

Take the number of the month you were born, multiply by 4, add 13, multiply by 25, subtract 200, add the day of the month on which you were born, multiply by 2, subtract 40, multiply by 50, add the last two digits of the year in which you were born, subtract 10,500.

Notice anything funny about your answer?

## Dr. Ruby

by Nancy Rosenberg, Massachusetts

"Ruby proved to be a rare bird -- trusting Frederickson [the owner] so much that she allows herself to be held upside down or on her back (un-thinkable in chickendom!) and to be passed from person to person. "I've also trained her to sit in the palm of my hand," says Frederickson, "and to sit in a basket."

"Simply by evaluating Ruby's clucking as the bird interacts with a child, Frederickson can evaluate the child. "Being a chicken, she clucks to herself constantly, which provides a running dialogue about whether or not she, or the child, is okay," says Frederickson. "The tone of her clucking changes if they're really frightened. If they squeeze her, I hear a different tone. In this way she is a diagnostic co-worker, communicating the confidence level of the child."

When she's not working, the Rhode Island red lives a free-range life on Frederickson's farm. "Part of the deal is that she gets to be a total bird," says her partner. As a late addition to the flock, she's not high in the pecking order among the resident rooster and hens, but Ruby still revels in the ultimate avian activities of bug-catching and dust-bathing."