BEAR #134 UPDATE: CHAPTER TWO

The most recent news on Bear #134, the grizzly removed from Yellowstone National Park by the U.S. government and sent to Washington State University (WSU), is not good news. Rather than work with The HSUS to provide Bear #134 a better life, Vice Provost for Research Robert V. Smith has steadfastly defended WSU's continued use of the bear (see the Spring 1992 HSUS News).

In a letter responding to letters sent by HSUS constituents, Mr. Smith stated, "WSU had nothing to do with the decision by the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to trap and remove [Bear #134] from Yellowstone." Yet he conveniently ignores the fact that Chris Servheen, listed on government documents as the convener of the WSU bear project, is also the chief official of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) most responsible for the decision to send Bear #134 to WSU. He ignores the fact that in December 1989 WSU applied for and was granted a permit to collect grizzly and black bears from Yellowstone National Park in the names of Mr. Servheen and Charles Robbins, Ph.D., who runs the bear research program at WSU. The permit was granted, and four months later Bear #134 was captured and sent to WSU.

Mr. Smith claimed that "before the bear was offered to Dr. Robbins, she was offered to accredited zoos and sanctuaries... No zoo or sanctuary would accept her." HSUS legal investigator Michael Winski contacted two of the leading wildlife sanctuaries on the West Coast, both of which indicated that not only would they gladly take Bear #134 now, but they also had never been contacted by the FWS or the U.S. Forest Service about taking her.

Mr. Smith stated that "there were extensive discussions about transferring her to other national parks or forests... transfer to another park or forest was not approved." Top officials at the Shoshone National Forest in Cody, Wyoming, have confirmed reports that Shoshone offered to take Bear #134 but the offer was turned down by Mr. Servheen.

The HSUS is completely frustrated by the lack of cooperation and action by any of WSU's constituents who wish to rescue Bear #134, much work is needed. We renew our call for readers to contact Vice Provost for Research Robert V. Smith (Washington State University, 422 French Administration Building, Pullman, WA 99164-3140) and express our opposition to WSU's refusal to release Bear #134 to a sanctuary. We urge HSUS members in the Washington State area to ask local newspapers and television stations to concentrate on WSU's bear experiments. We can only continue to hope that public pressure and outrage will convince WSU officials to do the right thing. If they don't, we'll just have to try something else.

MANY OUTRAGED BY BRUTAL OLYMPICS

The HSUS has been inundated with calls and letters from HSUS members concerned with watching the television coverage of the Olympic three-day event in Barcelona in July. Horse after horse fell at mammoth fences along a brutal four-mile course, part of a three-phase test of obedience, endurance, and agility that was unlike anything many viewers had ever seen. We have responded immediately, working with expert advisers and planning strategy prior to meeting with Olympic and international equestrian officials to demand changes in any future three-day competitions. We will report on our progress in an upcoming issue of the HSUS News.

1992 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Each school year the National Association for Humane and Environmental Education (NAHEE) recognizes an outstanding teacher through its National Humane Education Teacher of the Year Award. The award serves to highlight the accomplishments of an educator in grades kindergarten through twelve who routinely makes humane and environmental issues a part of his/her curriculum.

NAHEE is pleased to announce Kathleen Ryan as its winner for school year 1992-93. A kindergarten teacher at Scio Central School in Scio, New York, Ms. Ryan gives her students an important head start in understanding the need to care for the Earth and all who share it. She conducts lessons on a variety of humane and environmental topics with concern for both the issues and the sensibilities of young children.

Important themes in Ms. Ryan's classroom include habitat protection and recycling. Her students are privileged to have "Mother Earth" as a guest speaker who shares information with them about proper ways to dispose of recyclables and other trash to minimize hazards to wildlife. Students learn to rinse jars and cans thoroughly, to avoid breaking recyclable glass, and to cut apart six-pack rings that could otherwise present a danger to animals. Under Ms. Ryan's direction, students complete their own coloring books about caring for pets and other animals. Once the books are finished, a host of participants activities makes the students in the whole school aware of the need for kindness to animals.

Ms. Ryan's concern for the welfare of both children and animals prompts her to avoid bringing animals into her classroom. She encourages students instead to care for and observe their own or a neighbor's pet and to watch wild animals such as insects, birds, and squirrels. Although her students are below the target age for KIND News Jr. Ms. Ryan reads the articles aloud and encourages students to take their copies home to share with family members. Through her work with the Allegany County SPCA, Ms. Ryan is a contact for other teachers seeking humane-education materials. We congratulate a talented, compassionate educator.