JEANNE DE FELICE HOLDS A HALF GROWN OPOSSUM SHE HAS RAISED AFTER IT WAS RESCUED FROM A DOG. JEANNE DOESN'T WANT TO BE CRUEL TO A WILD ANIMAL BY KEEPING IT IN CAPTIVITY, BUT IS AFRAID TO RELEASE IT, TOO. WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE JEANNE?

see story page 4
WHAT'S THE WORLD COMING TO?

by Graylin Bushrod, Loudoun County High School

As I look out of my window, I see the beauty of autumn leaves blowing and falling together as a family. An eagle with out-stretched wings calmly glides through the air.

Nature is taking her usual ways of making peace, harmony, and tranquility look so easy. And to think that we humans are the ones thinking of no one but ourselves. What's this world coming to?

On the other hand, this attitude toward our fellow man is slowly but surely changing.

In some schools today, every child's heart pounds to the beat of love. It seems that present day humans are riding a Friendship Train, anticipating their arrival at the city of Peace.

One would be amazed at and overwhelmed by much of the kindness that has developed within the hearts and minds of many people in schools today. The impressions the teachers give the students, and vice versa, are as warm as a summer sun.

Prejudging is probably the major problem of communication today. Although it does not seem so prevalent as it did six to ten years ago, many people still have a tendency to base their feelings about another on the way he dresses or the way he looks. We sometimes say despicable things about others on the basis of little real knowledge.

Do we realize that words are man's worst enemy? Words have the ability to make us, their victims, cry all night, thinking there's no one who cares. Words also can make joyful tears stream down the happiest face. Words give comfort whenever we're down or distressed.

All too often people have failed to realize the power of words. What we say to others could mean the difference between loneliness and brotherhood.

One artist once wrote: "Are you sure there's nothing you can do to help someone worse off than you? Think before you answer....are you sure?"

Are you sure that there will still be time to stop and let your love light shine? Think before you answer....are you sure? Think about it, and be sure.

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A CAT WHOSE LUCK CHANGED

Exotic animals are a status symbol with some people, and ocelots are exotic animals. Mya was found abandoned when a landlord checked a rented apartment. He called the humane society, who brought her to the National Humane Education Center, in the hope we could find her a bright future. This isn't always possible, but it's rewarding when we can.

Mya got car sick. She sat for days in her cage room, staring at nothing at all. We visited her frequently, talking softly, and offering her tidbits. Then she began to watch the domestic house cats in the next room, as they tumbled and played. Then she began to pace her cage and 'talk' in the low, throaty voice ocelots have. She was responding, but it was obvious she would never be happy alone in a cage, having been raised in a home, around people.

A woman who devoted her life to the care of misplaced ocelots offered to adopt her. Mya would have to adapt to the other ocelots, and if she couldn't, she would have to be put mercifully to sleep. It was her only chance for happiness. Mya responded with great charm, and has become the favorite ocelot, living in a home, with people--the only life she ever knew.
Jeanne De Felice had always wanted a wild animal as a pet. But Jeanne knew wild animals should be permitted to live free. So she never attempted to disrupt the life of any wild animal, just so she could have one as a pet. She limited her pets to the domestic animals that need people to care for them.

One day a boy brought her a tiny baby opossum that his dog had caught. She fed it and cared for it, and was very happy that she finally had a wild animal as a pet—one that needed her help. She named the opossum Shakesphere. As her pet grew, she discovered Shakesphere was growing a pouch. Shakesphere was a girl!

Shakesphere is only about half grown, but could probably find food for herself if released to live free. But winter is coming and food will soon become scarce in Indiana where Jeanne lives. Jeanne is troubled. She knows Shakesphere should be released to live free, as nature intended. But will she know that dogs are enemies of opossums? How will she learn about other dangers? Even if she finds a refuge for her, would she find food enough during the winter? Or if she keeps her until spring, wouldn't she have a better chance for survival? But then, would Shakesphere be so used to life as a pet by that time, that she couldn't adapt to the wild?

If you were Jeanne, faced by this dilemma, what would you do? We would like to hear what you think.

List the reasons Shakesphere should and should not be released this fall. Find out more about opossums—this will influence some of the reasons you may list. The best suggestions that are postmarked no later than Nov. 15 will be printed in your December newsletter. Send us your suggestions right away.

NEW JERSEY PROJECT

If you live in New Jersey, don't forget to help The Humane Society distribute leaflets on the state's new trapping laws. (See October newsletter) Order leaflets from: The Humane Society of the U.S., New Jersey Branch, 1140 East Jersey St., Elizabeth, N.J. 07201

Although there is now a federal law for the protection of endangered animals, this law expects the states where these animals live to provide them with the protection they need. This can never be done until each state enacts a law similar to the federal law, giving endangered animals proper protection. Some agency of the state must also be given powers to enforce the state law.

You can help endangered animals. Write to the Legislative Reference Bureau at the capitol of the state where you live. Ask if there is a state law that protects endangered animals. Ask for a copy of any law that may exist on this subject.

If you receive a copy of such a law, send it to KIND headquarters and we will make a copy of it so our files will be up to date. We will then send the original back to you for your own reference file.

If there is no law to protect endangered animals in your state, write a letter to the editor or your local paper, telling what you have learned, and urging such a law be passed. Write your legislators, and governor, too, asking that such a law be enacted. Keep KIND headquarters informed on what you learn, so we can report any progress in your newsletter.

With the help of KIND members, we can get protection for endangered animals, state by state, until every one of the fifty states provides the protection that is needed if we are to save these animals from extinction.

(Editors note: You can learn which animals are endangered at your local library. Ask for the official red book on endangered animals.)

MISTY, THE FAMOUS PONY FROM CHINCOTEAGUE, about whom Marguerite Henry wrote a book, and a movie was later made, DIED recently. Misty was 26 years old.
Dear Humane Society:  
I ordered some seahorses for school. They arrived and I followed the instructions, but the food they sent didn't hatch. The poor things died of starvation and there wasn't anything I could do! What can I do about this? I already wrote a letter to the company.

Miss Audrey Harrer, San Gabriel, Ca.

Dear Audrey:  
Most probably you could have bought food for your seahorses at a local pet store. You did do the right thing, however, in complaining to the company. They will probably replace the seahorses, and, knowing what you told them, they may be able to prevent it from occuring again. It's always risky to order any live animal by mail. If you are going to buy animals for an aquarium, it's nearly always better to get them from a good local pet store.

Your friend, Dale Hylton

Dear KIND,  
This summer I got the addresses off of tuna cans and wrote to them about killing dolphins and porpoises. They wrote back and said they were working on a new design of purse seine net. It is being tested in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service, American Tuna Board Association, and the United States Navy.

I wrote to the President about naming March 19, 1973 as National Wildlife Week, and was told I should write my Congressmen, too.

This summer we saved a kitten from being killed by a group of boys, took it home, and found a home for it.

I also made a contribution to Orphans Of The Wild.

Your friend, Milene Letzkus, age 12
Pittsburgh, Pa.

TIME TO RENEW

Renewal date for your membership is January 1973. It's not so far away, and you can renew your membership anytime during the last quarter of 1972. Send your $2 dues in now for next year.
KOALA BEARS

Toy koala bears, sold in gift and novelty shops, are nearly always covered with the fur of kangaroos. Watch for them and ask clerks why they cannot be made of synthetic fur. FAO Schwarz (Fifth Ave. at 58th St., N.Y. N.Y. 10022), offers many plush animal toys, all in synthetic fur, except the koala bear, which is in kangaroo fur. Write Schwarz and protest.

RECYCLED PAPER

In 1942, because of World War II, 35% of all paper used was recycled. Today concern for the environment only prompts people to recycle 25% of all paper used.

It takes the equivalent of a 100 foot tree to produce the paper just one person uses during just one year.

There are 758 million acres of forests in the U.S. If the paper industry recycled 50% of its product, 500 million trees would be saved each year. They would make a forest roughly equal to all of New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

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R. Dale Hylton, Editor
This is recycled paper.

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