

Illegal dog, cock fighting called 'primitive'

United Press International

MCALLEN — Although thousands of Americans consider it sporting to watch roosters and dogs fight, Humane Society officials say it is cruel, illegal and too often tolerated by society and law enforcement officers who turn their backs.

The Humane Society of the United States spends more time than it would like trying to put a halt to cockfights and dogfights — the favorites of the so-called "blood sports" — that have grown into multi-million dollar

gambling industry in the United States.

Although most state legislatures have outlawed the events that leave thousands of animals dead or maimed, HSUS officials say lax enforcement of the laws have allowed them to continue and spread.

The confrontations between two fierce well-trained animals appeal to the baser instincts of certain humans who thrill at the sight of blood, and too often the callous attitude toward pain and deaths of animals spills over to the participants' regard for fel-

low human beings, HSUS officials contend.

HSUS Gulf States investigator Bernie Weller says he considers bloodsport spectators "a bunch of sadistic macho-type characters."

Thousands of people attend the unlawful animal fights and illegally gamble on which dog or fighting cock can defeat or kill the other for prize money that goes to the owner-trainer, Weller said.

Weller said his travels through Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas have

developed "documented proof of law enforcement officers making bets and directing traffic" at the illegal fighting pits.

"A lot of them (law officers) feel there is absolutely nothing wrong with it," Weller said. "It is against the law, and these legal people need to get involved and not be afraid to act."

Because there are so many local law enforcement "leaks" that forewarn cockfight and dogfight enthusiasts of an impending raid, Weller said he has taken to dealing only with "the highest form of law enforce-

ment intelligence" in his efforts to ferret out and halt animal fights.

Weller accompanied Texas Rangers and state troopers on a recent raid of a cockpit at nearby Sullivan City where they found 300 boisterous fans at a "four-cock derby" that could have won a breeder up to \$10,000.

No one was arrested at Sullivan City, but the officers took names for future prosecution. Weller said among items found at the cockpit were some gaffs and spurs — sharp devices at-

tached to the cocks' feet to make their thrusts more lethal — along with a shoulder patch for a Harlingen, Texas, police uniform.

Ten days after the raid, Hidalgo County District Attorney Rene Guerra reported through his secretary that he was "negotiating" for some of them to pay misdemeanor gambling fines to two justices of the peace, but the two had appeared to pay a fine.

One breeder of fighting cocks at San Antonio said the

fate of a fighting cock better than what happens average chicken — his head lopped off and up on the dinner table.

"That's a pretty far way to rationalize wrong as being right," commented Meade, the regional director of the Gulf States office of HSUS. "Some cockfights its long history and that that President Jefferson cockfighter. But its long doesn't make it right and than slavery was right."

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Nurse remembers WWII China

United Press International

VICTORIA, British Columbia — When the Canadian surgeon Norman Bethune went to China to tend the sick and wounded during the Japanese invasion in World War II, a fashionable young woman was by his side.

Barely 26, Jean Ewen Kovich traveled with Bethune in 1938 to a country reeling under the onslaught of the well-equipped Japanese Army.

Bethune and his nurse moved across the dusty plains

near the Yellow River by train, trucks, mule carts and on foot — with the advancing Japanese forces close behind and enemy aircraft overhead.

They survived the attacks and reached the wartime base of the Chinese Red Army at Yenan that year. Together, they tended to soldiers and civilians alike everywhere they went.

When Bethune met Mao Tse-tung, Chou En-lai and others who were later to rule China, his nurse was there as well.

For Bethune, it was a journey that made him a Chinese national hero — and martyr. The Canadian surgeon, born in Gravenhurst, Ont., died in 1939 in north China of blood poisoning contracted while performing surgery at his frontline medical unit. He was eulogized by Mao, and is known by virtually every Chinese. With the possible exception of Marx and

Lenin, Bethune is still the most revered foreigner in Communist China.

Kovich was Bethune's nurse during his first seven months in China. Now 72, after a nursing career and raising a family, she is retired and living in a modest one-room apartment in Victoria.

She jokes about her "tale of woe" with the temperamental Bethune — they never got along. They had met briefly in New York but their first real encounter came on a China-bound ocean liner in Vancouver in January 1938.

Wearing an overcoat and a hat adorned with feathers, the Scottish-born Mrs. Kovich, then Miss McEwen, was piped aboard by a fellow countryman in Highland dress under the incredulous gaze of Bethune.

"So he said, 'Oh, you're what I have to go to China with,'" Ko-

vich recalled with a chuckle. Her reply: "Don't know what you got with you, either!"

Kovich was chosen to sponsor Communist Canada to go with Bethune because she had been a missionary nurse and Chinese. Although she never a party member, she was Tom Ewen's itoba blacksmith, was an eight Communist arms Winnipeg for sedition and served five years in prison for the lack of elementary hygiene and care in China at the time.

"I don't think that he knew what he was getting into. He couldn't fathom that there were people who knew anything about long and sterility and all that stuff."



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Texas summer program to challenge children

United Press International

From CATS to FISH and CHIPS, the Gifted Students Institute in Arlington offers challenging 1984 summer programs for bright students, near geniuses and geniuses, a perusal of its catalog shows.

CATS puts brainy kids on stage and in the wings during a two-week session opening July 29 at the Creative Arts Theatre & School (CATS) in Arlington. Students say lines, sing songs, execute dance steps.

Other times during the summer mind-stretching fun, gifted entering grades five to 11 run sound, dim lights and move sets.

The insider experience is expected to whet appetites of a few for a career in acting, singing, dancing, designing, choreographing and writing. For the others there will be the lifetime knowledge of how theater works, satisfying a gifted child's curiosity.

The FISH and CHIPS program, set for Southwestern University in Georgetown, casts the super bright kids in a computer-assisted study of fish.

The FISH and CHIPS students, entering grades six to eight, will help the Inland Fisheries Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department study fish populations in a controlled reservoir.

The FISH and CHIPS program, like others in the Institute's catalog, isn't all work, says associate director Laura Allard.

Students will have supervised use of the university's recreational facilities after daily work is completed. The gamut includes swimming, tennis, racquetball, golf.

Allard said the Gifted Students Institute for Research and Development also does research on identification, cultivation and conservation of giftedness, and provides schools with consultation service on gifted youth.

She said each summer the programs enroll a few geniuses; the rest are gifted.

"In every school about 1 percent of the students will be geniuses," Allard said.

Other Institute summer programs for the gifted are offered at Texas A&M University, Fort Worth, western University, Baylor University, Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, Pan American University, and elsewhere.

Two other programs are scheduled for Quebec, Canada and Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico. "Vivir En Espanol" June 17 and runs a music campaign in Morelos.

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Magazine looking for top 50 chefs

United Press International

WESTPORT, Conn. — One of America's growing numbers of food magazines is conducting a nationwide search for the United States' top 50 chefs, restaurateurs, food producers, vintners and authors.

Winners in each category will be selected from nominees submitted by the public, and their names will be published as a "Who's Who of Cooking in

America 1984" in the November-December issue of Cook's Magazine. The feature recipes of the chefs along with biographies, views and photographs.

Nomination forms are available in the magazine or other major national publications.

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