

Subject: [SALDF] Moot Court Photos, Cage-Free Egg Petition
From: saldf@law.harvard.edu
Date: 2/26/2007 11:20 PM

Hi everyone,

Two quick announcements:

1. Congratulations to everyone who participated in last weekend's National Animal Advocacy Competitions!
2. Cage-free eggs at Harvard University

Thanks!

* * * * *

1. Congratulations to NAAC Participants!

Thanks to all the participants and volunteers who made this year's National Animal Advocacy Competitions a success! HLS entrants were incredibly successful: Kevin VanLandingham received Honorable Mention in the Closing Argument Competition, and Moot Court team Victoria Schwartz and Kenneth Stalter won the Best Brief award. To see photos of the event, please visit <http://www.law.harvard.edu/students/orgs/saldf/NAAC07.html>.

2. Petition for Cage-Free Eggs at Harvard University

Consider signing and/or distributing the iCommons petition for Harvard's cafeterias to switch to cage-free eggs. Right now 95% of the signatures are from undergrads, so it would be great to raise grad student awareness!

<http://poll.icommons.harvard.edu/poll/taker/pollTaker.jsp?poll=1-5349-84627>

Following are links to the relevant Facebook group and Crimson article, and the text of the letter.

<http://www.thecrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=516322>
<http://harvard.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2224226630>

Dear Mr. Ted Mayer and Harvard University Dining Services,

Harvard University Dining Services has made a commitment to provide its students with food that is not only prepared in a nutritious and satisfying way, but is also representative of the University's deep and long-standing concern for social justice issues in the local and global community. As students of Harvard, we appreciate and support the ways in which HUDS has put those values of social responsibility into action—by forming partnerships with community organizations to provide food for the hungry, by supporting local farmers and businesses whenever possible, and by moving toward eco-friendly food production, packaging and transportation in order to reduce environmental impact.

We would also like to show our appreciation for the HUDS Food Literacy Project — educating students about the importance of sustainable agriculture, the environmental impact of food production, and the health and nutrition of their food choices. We believe that HUDS is helping Harvard to lead the country in the areas of sustainability and social responsibility. For this reason we urge you to consider gradually working towards the full implementation of cage-free eggs in Harvard dining halls.

As you may know, the cruelty of the modern egg industry is immense and unimaginable. Hens in factory farms are forced to live their entire lives in barren battery cages—unable to stand upright, walk, or spread their wings—each given only 67 square inches of space. A hen raised in a battery cage is not able to engage in many of her natural or comforting behaviors (see attached information), and has no real quality of life besides the minimal food and water provided so that she can continue laying eggs until slaughter. Due to the crowded and crushing conditions in which they are forced to live, many battery-caged hens are already crippled with broken wings and legs (if not already dead) at the time of slaughter. Hens which die a painful death in their cage are often left to decompose alongside their living cage-mates. (See attached information.)

In addition to the confinement and cruelty of modern factory farms, these operations are extremely harmful for our environment. Because they stack birds on top of each other in endless rows and columns, battery-cage farms typically hold hundreds of thousands of hens in a single warehouse. The ammonia produced from the hen's waste then pollutes both the air and water surrounding the facility—creating an environmental health hazard for hundreds of (typically low-income) communities. The practice of battery-caged egg production has been denounced by all the leading environmental advocacy organizations, including the

Environmental Defense, the National Environmental Trust, the Natural Resource Defense Council, and the Sierra Club. Cage-free facilities, on the other hand, are much smaller operations—spread out across the country—the way farming used to be. They are a perfect example of the sustainable agriculture movement which HUDS has been working to support.

A university with a commitment to social responsibility must be a leader in the movement toward environmentally friendly and humane animal care practices. Prominent universities such as Yale, Princeton, Dartmouth, Georgetown, and Stanford are already using cage-free eggs, along with over a hundred more across the country. We do understand that switching to cage-free eggs carries an extra financial expense. We feel, however, that a reduced cost does not justify supporting the inhumane and environmentally harmful methods that are used to produce eggs in battery cage facilities.

Harvard has a far-reaching influence in our country and the world. We urge you to add this policy on humane treatment of the animals that feed us to the many other areas in which HUDS has so admirably shown leadership in providing wholesome food in a socially responsible manner.

Thank you so very much for your time and understanding.

Sincerely,

Students of Harvard University