

june 14, 2011

## test post: about lady bullfighters from a few months back

Hello, Gemma;

I got the El Es Matador vid in the mail a week ago and I have been through it a couple of times. I am also going to post this on that comments page you pointed out.

It is a very well done documentary and met all my expectations from the snippets of it I found on the net. These are largely what got me interested in the topic of bullfighting and especially women bull fighters. That and general researching about animal rights extremism.

Now, if I could get that vid about Frank Evans, the 70 year old British bullfighter... but it is only available in the U.K., so far.

Evans said that he long ago gave up trying to reason with anti-taurine people, because they are simply not reasonable. They have no argument, they just do not like bull fighting and so they don't like him. And so, he does not like them.

This comments page is typical of discussions about bull fighting. There are those who like it and those who hate it and those who do not know much about it. Those who hate it are very intolerant about it, real CAPITAL LETTERS KINDS OF PEOPLE!

Most people do not know much about bull fighting and what they do know about it they hear from the anti-taurine loudmouths. Once they are introduced to it in ways such as your doc, they generally are willing to tolerate it, even if they do not enjoy it. But the haters, you will never get through to.

If you listen for awhile to the haters, you soon realize that they hate, not because they have any feeling for animals, but because they do not like people. They have a need to feel superior to everyone else, and a lot of them have a transposed sadism.

The supposed cruelty of bull fighting is nonsense. But it gets really bad when they start attributing rights to animals, and human feelings. I have had tangles with some of these people who call me a 'speciesist' and claim to respect the rights of their fellow 'earthlings'.

I do not want to get into the philosophical debates about animal rights. I agree with those who say animals do not have rights. They cannot grasp the idea of rights. Humans have rights and

know from an early age that they should have rights. Humans have certain moral obligations toward animals, which are really obligations to other people.

The human species could not have evolved without using and exploiting animals. Civilization could not have grown without domestication of animals and would still be hard to maintain without it. To say animals are not for the use of humans is to say that humans are a rogue species which should never have arisen.

So the bull has a painful and stressful time of it in the ring, then dies. Everything that lives dies, including humans, even humans who despise other humans. Death is generally stressful and painful. The bull's death in the ring is probably easier than that of most animate beings.

The bull should not be killed to entertain humans? What exactly is wrong with that? Somebody might enjoy it too much? The morality police are no more acceptable in this case than in any other.

What should offend people about bull fighting is the bull shit in it, just as shown in the doc. Those who want to fight bulls are exploited by business people. Those who would like to see a different kind of show than what makes the promoters the most money, are shoved aside.

I am Canadian. We have a comparable situation with ice hockey. For sure there are as many hockey rinks in Canada as there are bull rings in Spain. It is hard for girl's leagues to get any ice time on them. It is even harder for amateurs to find space in which to get a little exercise in knocking a puck around the ice.

Rinks are dominated by the boy's junior leagues which are the training grounds for the professional teams. Boys who want to become hockey stars are taught this "win at all costs", "suck up the pain", "go out there and destroy the opponent" ethic. Less than one in a hundred makes it to an NHL contract. Many end up crippled. Hockey is a dangerous game when played "professionally". Exploitation.

Yet, just as there are some seemingly insane women who want to be bull fighters, there are these crazy women who want to be hockey players. The long struggle to get a viable women's professional hockey league going has as yet had limited success.

The people who want to "ban hockey violence" go into high gear every time a hockey player goes out in a coma because of a "hard check". They demand that the player landing the check be charged criminally. They want pro hockey banned from television, and so on.

But the more extreme of them want to ban it altogether because it is a "contact" sport. Like bull fighting is a blood sport; so what? It may be hard to believe, but only about the same proportion of Canadians are interested in hockey as are Spanish who are interested in bull fighting.

These fanatics haven't gotten very far. They haven't even got it banned in Nunavut yet. But they also condemn women's hockey and even neighborhood recreational hockey. Like the anti taurines, they are disinterested in the real issue, which is the exploitation of "culture", of the participants, of the physical space which is usually publicly paid for, by big business.

So, what I would really like to do with this video is show it to some animal rights flakes and watch their reactions. I suspect it will separate the fanatics, the people haters, from the people who do not know what it is about, have not thought the matter through.

Beyond the philosophical debates, the vid hit me at an emotional level. I like stories of people fighting for a chance to do what they want in life, against the all pervasive control and “monoculture” of capitalist societies.

To conclude, I would like to hear more indignation about real injustice, rather than phony injustice cooked up by opponents of... Of anybody doing something really great, which requires real skill and bravery even in the age of electronic dystopia. Or even doing something to keep themselves physically and mentally fit.

Now, I want to get out from behind this damn computer for awhile and go see if there is some pick up hockey to watch over at the rink. I am disabled, I cannot play.... I would love to be able to fight a bull....

tr