

■ Tekst 5

Vegetarian views meet opposition

From Professor R. T. D. Oliver

Sir, While I respect Simon Barnes's view ("A meatless diet isn't healthy, just wise", August 23) that factory farming is cruel, I was unable to understand, from what he wrote, why he is averse to eating a wild rabbit. Equally I wonder why he considers animal life superior to plant life, given our Lord's plea to consider the lily of the fields as one of us, and the fact that all animal life depends on plants to generate our oxygen.

I have an omnivorous cat that was made ill by living on an all-meat diet. Recently I observed a lion kill on safari in Kenya and was struck by how the first morsel the pride¹⁾ ate was the stomach contents of digested grass. It seems clear that so-called carnivores have a broader palate than conventionally believed. Observing the lions led me to wonder how herbivores in the field avoid eating insects on the grass and conclude that in the wild all animals are omnivores with a greater or lesser dependence on one or other extreme.

With evidence that pure vegetarians have more anaemia, it is clear that vegetarianism is not good for all of us, however much Simon Barnes may think it is wise.

Yours faithfully,
TIM OLIVER
Professor of Medical Oncology
St Bartholomew's Hospital,
West Smithfield, EC1.

'The Times'

noot 1

pride: group (of lions)

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- 3p 21 □ Geef voor elk van de onderstaande uitspraken aan of deze wel of niet overeenkomt met beweringen in de brief van professor Oliver.
- 1 Er is meer bezwaar tegen het eten van dieren uit het wild dan uit de bio-industrie.
 - 2 Geen enkel dier in de vrije natuur is alleen vleeseter of alleen planteneter.
 - 3 Mensen zijn alleseters en hebben dus vlees nodig.
 - 4 Plantaardig voedsel is rijker aan voedingsstoffen dan dierlijk voedsel.
 - 5 Vegetariërs mogen hun leefwijze niet opleggen aan hun huisdieren.
- Noteer het nummer van elke uitspraak, gevolgd door "wel" of "niet".