

NEWS: "HUMPTY DUMPTY" HAD A GREAT FALL

Monday, April 1st

Humphrey Duncan, environmental and animal rights activist, passed away last Thursday afternoon in Birmingham General Hospital as a result of serious injuries sustained during a demonstration that day. Duncan, (referred to as 'Humpty Dumpty' by critics after the fiasco two years ago at the Birmingham protest), was leading a peaceful demonstration atop the wall running along the south side of Birmingham Way, across from City Hall. The protest was in response to council's failure to act on the significant increase in incidents of poaching in Her Majesty's Nature Reserve and Bird Sanctuary, eight kilometres north of City Centre. The primary victim of the alleged poachings is the endangered Birminghamshire Pheasant. The past three weeks have seen 13 alleged incidents of hunting of the pheasant, as well as the discovery of four nests in the Sanctuary believed to be intentionally destroyed.

Duncan, dressed as a Birminghamshire Pheasant egg in an effort to bring attention to these known 'crimes', fell from his perch on the wall or the crowded sidewalk below, possibly after losing balance in his costume. He sustained broken bones, punctured lung, and critical damage to the cerebral cortex. Medical Emergency staff were on the scene immediately, but there was nothing that could be done for the fallen activist. Duncan was pronounced dead upon arrival at Birmingham General Hospital.

A long-time advocate for animal rights and environmental issues in the Birmingham area, Dun