

### Chapter 1 : “We can still save them”: wild cat conservationist Alan Rabinowitz, 65 “ Animals

*Can we save endangered species? Yes, we can! The environment is constantly changing. People are building roads, houses, bridges, and cities. This development has damaged the natural habits of many native organisms.*

You know, the Manhattan Institute is involved in ideas and in prosecuting these ideas. I am Dick Gilder, Chairman of the Manhattan Institute, and on behalf of my fellow trustees, our staff and our fellows of the Manhattan Institute, and our terrific President, Bill Hammett, welcome. And Bill, where are you, I want you to get a special nod. Bill, please stand up. He knew I was going to do this. We have a problem of having a very shy president. Obviously, he is not an elected official. In any event, when Bill comes back, I will rerecognize him and I know you will all indulge me. And for these next minutes, we have some Manhattan Institute matters that I hope you will enjoy listening to and that this is backing up so that we can get a running start for Mayor Rendell. The main reason we give these lectures is to thank you. But many of you of that group and many others are here coming to our seminars, coming to our forums and our discussion groups, reading our City Journal and our other publications and getting involved in the real meat and potatoes of what we are trying to do. We are, after all, a policy institute. We are trying to effect and change public policy through public opinion. And so your involvement in any part of the transmission of our ideas is absolutely vital. So thank you and well done. In thinking about this last year of activities of the Manhattan Institute, we have continued our excellent work in introducing new Americans to quick Americanization, the work in judicial reform continues apace with Wally Olsen and Peter Huber, Linda Chavez helping in the New American effort in Washington. But tonight I want to focus particularly on two of our activities, the City Journal and the Center for Educational Innovation. In the City Journal we are thinkers. In the Center for Educational Innovation we are doers. And both of those might be the theme for this evening. As far as the City Journal is concerned, you have read issue after issue full of facts and ideas on New York City budget matters, New York State budget matters, comparing our City and State to other cities and other states, quite unfavorably, as far as we are concerned, working on issues of governance, working on judicial ideas, on streamlining government and on the quality of life. And these issues are building up such momentum that it is definitely having an effect. I mean, I think we all sense that. We believe in our city and our state, in spite of the untoward direction both have taken in recent years, and it is so great to have these facts at our disposal, so that we can begin to build for the future using them. And we are not alone, Mr. Guillian both spent much time with our fellows going over these ideas and these issues. And this was such a close election that we really feel on the margin we made a big difference here. In the Institute for Educational Innovation, it was a tremendous year for us. You are going to meet Sy in a little while, so I will not ask him to stand quite yet. You remember a couple of years ago our main focus was on District 4, but last year we began to move the idea of school choice to District 3. District 3 is a very crucial district, because District 4 is all quite unified. Whereas, District 3 starts at 59th Street on the westside, goes all the way up to Columbia, so it embraces rich and poor districts, black and white districts and it is, from a point of view of trying to make a point, much more interesting in that sense. And we have reports already within one year, thanks to John Ellwell and Anton Klein, the leaders of that district, and, of course, our wonderful fellows, that great things are happening already. And you will hear in a little while how we plan to build on this success in now these two districts and a number of other districts in the city. We are particularly happy that we have a new Chancellor in Ray Cortines, and we hope the new Chancellor will be able to stop in later tonight, he has another commitment, but we are hoping he will be here. We are very pleased with his appointment because here for the first time in many years we have a school chancellor who is particularly interested in children and in classrooms. And once you have school leadership who are interested in the kids, lots of good things are going to happen. He has announced more than once that he would like our help and the help of other groups who are interested in growth, in choice, in charter schools, anything to move this improvement forward in our invaluable New York City school system. So, we are thrilled about that. They have been active in Philadelphia, in Baltimore, even in Buffalo and an important progress was made in a town called East Orange, New Jersey. East Orange is an inner city enclave, near the

oranges, where the entire school district has gone to choice, under the terrific leadership of John Howard. Now, our lecture series, The Wriston Lectures, were named for Walt, who is a key trustee and very hard working, never misses a meeting and contributes tremendously to our work. And we thought to honor him with this Wriston Lecture series six years ago. The General Electric Company also felt pretty strongly about Walt. And so we have decided to take the income from that grant and evolve a new award for education in school administration. And we have our first honorary tonight and Sy Fliegel is going to present the award. So, Sy, could you come up and do some honors. And I will come back to you after Sy. And what he was talking about and the reason I mention this is for those of you who feel, how do we change the system without really knowing about education? I can tell you Dick Gilder knows very little about education, yet he is changing the system. I took him up to visit a school in the South Bronx. It was an outstanding school with three schools of choice, and we went through the school and everyone was happy and then they met with myself and Dick and he said, "You have done an outstanding job. And he said, "Your stock is at 50, what are you going to do to get it to ? So, I thank you. Now, John Howard became the Superintendent of East Orange, a school district of over 15, youngsters, in , in September. I think it was on September 5. What is most impressive about the Wriston General Electric Award is that we are giving an award to an innovator at the beginning of the innovation. It is very easy to give awards to folks when they have done something exceptionally fine and there is no danger. But it is at the beginning that you need support. And let me just tell you a little bit about him. He was a star basketball player in Cincinnati. He toured with the Harlem Globetrotters. He then went on to become an educator. He spent twentyfive years in this education business of ours, receiving his doctorate. He has been a teacher, he has been a high school principal, he has been a curriculum developer and a researcher. And I was speaking to the President of his School Board, who is here with him today. So, it is with great pleasure that I call John Howard to the rostrum to receive this award. Any time you give a podium and a microphone to a superintendent, you can expect a very elongated presentation. But this evening I am going to try to make it as brief as I can. I want to thank Mr. Medina, Reggie Landow and Coleman Ginn. I also want to say and extend my appreciation to Ray Domenico, Executive Director. I have not met Mr. Walter Wriston but if he is here, God bless you. This is my twentysixth year in the business. I always thought I was an innovator and an educator who looked beyond the traditional, looked beyond what was in front of me and I tried to make a lot of change. This award that I humbly accept this evening, I wish both of my parents were living to witness this very important occasion for me, but they are not, but I want to say God bless them for giving me the courage, giving me the energy and the intellect and all the things that go along with trying to succeed in this country. And now I find myself trying to implement and will implement eighteen schools of choice from preschool to fourteen in the East Orange School District beginning next year. I believe that the vision that the Manhattan Institute and the Center for Educational Innovation has regarding schools of choice is a very important one for all of us in this country. I stand by you to provide my support and my leadership any time that I can help you accomplish your mission. And, again, I want to thank all of you who made this possible for me this evening. My name is Peter Flanigan. And as Dick said, education is an important part of this evening, and an important part of our guest list here are three people who have served the cause of education in, this city extraordinarily well and I would like to introduce them. Nympha Saga, Nympha, would you stand, please. A member of the Board of Education. And Irene Impellizeri, a member. God bless the three of you and what you have done for the kids of this City. Now I have a very special and exciting announcement to make. And that is what public choice has advocated, has designed, has implemented, as Gilder said, by the Center for Educational Innovation, intends to do. But tonight I am announcing an extraordinary gift by an extraordinary man, that will bring choice to at least five other districts in this city, and that is a million dollar gift by that unbelievably generous Chairman of the Manhattan Institute, Dick Gilder. And with that money the Center for Educational Innovation is going to help create seventyfive new alternative schools in five school districts. It is a little self-serving. Those of you who are interested in investing in not for profit activities, and I suspect most of you in this room are, realize that providing the money is the easy part. The hard part is done by the people on the receiving end, and if you are lucky to have absolutely superb folks, who are going to manage your investment for you, then you really have a chance of

doing something. You have been hearing about these fellows, you have met Sy. I would like to introduce you now to the other fellows of the CEI. These guys started as teachers and worked their way up as principals and assistant superintendents, superintendents. When they go into a school or to a school district, I mean, everybody knows these fellows, know exactly what they are doing and they are very tough. Cole Genn wore a wire in order to turn in some migrants in his district to the FBI.

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In just the past seven years, African elephant populations in savannas have dropped 30 percent. Similarly, the number of elephants living in forests dropped an incredible 62 percent from to These deaths, says Smithsonian , are "intimately linked with the illegal global trade in ivory. Since then, the commercial ivory market in the United States has virtually collapsed. As much as 70 percent of the illegal ivory currently being plundered is being routed to China. Revered for millennia as a rare, status-boosting luxury item, ivory has long been out of reach for most. The tusks of a single adult elephant can be worth more than 10 times the average annual income for an African worker. The lust for ivory and the situation in Africa have created what is likely the greatest percentage loss of elephants in history. Many fear the survival of African elephants is at stake. What can we do? But what about the rest of us? None of us can single-handedly stop the ivory trade, but we are not helpless â€” as much as it may feel like it. Here are six actions we can take to support these grand creatures. New ivory is strictly banned, but antique ivory can be legally available for purchase. The regulations are complicated; this is a good overview. Ivory has traditionally been used for jewelry, billiard balls, pool cues, dominos, fans, piano keys and carved trinkets. Buy elephant-friendly coffee and wood Coffee and timber crops are often grown in plantations that destroy elephant habitats. Support conservation efforts If only we could all be Jane Goodall or Dian Fossey, and move to the jungle or plains and thoroughly dedicate our lives to wildlife. In the meantime, we can support the organizations that are actively committed to elephant preservation. There are many, but here are a few:

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**Chapter 8 : Can We Save Them? Endangered Species of North America by David Dobson**

*"I say we still can save them" First called "the Indiana Jones of wildlife conservation" by Time magazine circa , and since remembered as such by many others, Rabinowitz might also be remembered as an incorrigible optimist in a field dominated by pessimism and misanthropy.*

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