

This editorial is intended to prove that even *Contact* cannot escape the BSE scare! You hear about it wherever you turn, Only the cattle seem unconcerned, unless they happen to be mad. One commonly repeated remark has particularly struck me, which is that we have only ourselves to blame for the disease if we insist on feeding cattle such an unnatural diet as sheep brains, when they were designed to eat grass. This has led to some nervous examination of what we eat ourselves. And yet even the green lobby has been strangely silent about the rather unnatural diet with which we humans nowadays feed our own minds, and those of our children.

When, for example, did you last see a film which didn't feature more or less graphic portrayals of extra-marital sex or gratuitous violence? Now call me inexperienced, but I cannot recall when I last witnessed either of these in real life. And if I switch on at peak viewing time on Saturday, I'm told that winning at gambling will make me supremely happy, despite the opposite experience of millions from King Midas to previous lottery winners. At least winning the lottery is more likely than getting *CJD*.

A recent study suggested that children are increasingly undisciplined at school because they never have any role models for voluntary submission to others. Fathers put themselves before their wives, mothers demand their own way from their husbands, and every newspaper insists that laws and governments are both asses, unworthy of any support.

No wonder this country seems to be in the grip of Mad People Disease. Why should we be surprised when we feed our minds such unnatural fare? How many statistics on family breakdown, drug addiction, truancy, abortion and so on will it take to convince us that we're in the grip of an epidemic needing urgent action?

The Bible says, "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things." Things like that are in pretty short supply nowadays. But then, you always have to shop around a bit for healthy food, don't you?