

letters

Thanks

Gypsy Moth Eradication Spray Project is completed. There are a number of ways of measuring its success. The final measure, the trapping program, will not be completed until this fall. However, one of the measures of its success is the understanding, acceptance, and support of the project by the local merchants, the news media and the general public. We, who supervised the spray operation, would like to thank the citizens of Lane County for their cooperation and patience.

We thank the local merchants who made supplies, equipment and services available for the project. An undertaking the size of the Gypsy Moth Project creates many unusual demands on local businesses. The merchants of Lane County responded quickly in meeting all of the needs.

We thank the news media. The Project could not have been conducted without their help. Newspapers, television, and radio stations have performed a vital service in informing the public of daily spray plans. The news media has also been helpful and objective in reporting on the Gypsy Moth, the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.) and the massive spray project.

But most importantly, we thank the residents of Lane County. We recognize the inconvenience that was created by the early morning noise, the B.T. on automobiles and the low-flying helicopters near animals. We appreciate the public's understanding, acceptance and support of the project.

The cooperation of the merchants, the media and the residents of Lane County has helped to make a difficult project run smoothly. In this cooperative spirit, we hope our efforts have been successful in protecting our State from the damage that the Gypsy Moth has created elsewhere.

Gypsy Moth Spray Project Staff

Barbarism

In regard to the issue of experimentation on laboratory animals, I feel that if funding aimed at preventing their suffering, at finding alternative methods of gathering data, at researching the basic moral and ethical questions involved, and at effective and constant surveillance of the labs with citizen panels is not at least equal to the funding for the research itself, then it is barbarism, and only the degree of it remains unspecified.

Transcripts from recordings

made in a supposedly "very good lab" at a university in Pennsylvania which I read recently indicate a considerable degree of barbarism in that instance. Anyone wishing to check this for themselves may obtain transcripts or copies of the tapes from the organization, PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), of which I am a member.

Michael J. Means
PETA member

Experiment

"To find the difference between their brains and ours," said the medical attendant, "we need these experiments."

"But it's torture," shouted his co-worker.

"We don't know that," said the first attendant.

"You don't consider sewing up their eyes in order to test responses from their brains as torture?"

"Not at all," the first attendant answered. "What matters is the possible benefit to our race."

"Why should we benefit at their expense?"

"It is simple science," said the first attendant. "We do not seek to cause pain. We seek answers to our questions."

"But we are stealing life from other living creatures."

"We do it in order to see and understand more."

"Must we blind something in order for us to see more?"

"Why do you concern yourself with these pitiful creatures?" asked the first attendant.

"Because all creatures, no matter how pitiful, have a right to live in peace. We have no right to change that basic truth."

"But we have the right to"

"No," said the co-worker, "we have the power, but not the right."

The conversation between the two Empathons ended. This controversy began when the Empathons first came to Earth. As creatures far more powerful than Earthlings, they performed their scientific experiments at will. At first, the Earthlings attempted to communicate. But, to creatures as advanced as the Empathons, Earthling voices sounded as incomprehensible as the mewling of kittens. The Empathons were not evil. They simply couldn't understand the Earthling's cries or, they chose not to listen.

Dr. Erik Nelson
ERIC Clearinghouse

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