Insiders might have helped in lab break-in, group says

By Sarah Kitchen

People with inside connections may have aided the Animal Liberation Front in their Oct. 26 raid on University laboratories

In a letter delivered to University officials and laboratory researchers, the ALF claimed that they had received inside help and will continue

"We now have people on the inside, not only here, but in other places as well. This is how we are able to gain unrestricted access to the buildings and labs. We intend to use these individuals to our advantage, insofar as they are willing to cooperate with us, whenever the opportunity exists." read the letter, signed by the ALF, Unit 5, Pacific Northwest.

The letter, delivered on Dec. 9, is the third written by the ALF since the break-in. The letter

had a Eugene post mark. Officer Mike Southley from the University Office of Public Safety said there is no evidence either confirming or denying that insiders were involved in the break-ins. However, "the probability exists to that being a factual statement," Southley said.

There was no sign of forced entry into the

After investigations leading the police to Nehalem and Portland, Southley said there is some evidence that will be brought up in front of a Grand Jury, however when this will happen has not yet been determined.

One thing that puzzles the police about the letter is the name signed by the ALF: "Unit 5, Pacific Northwest.'

"We are a bit baffled about that, we don't know anything, or haven't heard anything about that unit," Southley said.

The letter also stated that the ten rabbits discovered over the past few weeks were returned to the University labs "due to unfortunate circumstances beyond our control.'

However, the letter added that the total count of animals taken is "well over 200," including 12 adult cats in the breeding colony, and 10 kittens (six more kittens have been born since the breakin, the letter said). That number is 50 more than

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the University's original estimate of 150 animals. According to a University-released response to the ALF's letter, the animals stolen were worth

Regarding the damage done to property and equipment, which the University estimates at about \$50,000 worth, the ALF said it was "an expression of pure, outright rage," because of the experiments conducted on kittens.

In its statement, the University said research will not be stopped at the University

"The group's illegal actions will not prevent biomedical research from continuing to be conducted at the University of Oregon, as it has in the past, in strict compliance with the University's as well as federal policies governing the ethical and humane use of animals in research," the state-

John Moseley, vice president for research stressed that all experiments done at the University are strictly controlled.

All of the research using animals at the University is carried on under the highest of ethical standards approved by the U.S. government for the health and well being of people," Moseley said.

However, the ALF statement said, "with this liberation, it was also our intention to demonstrate our unwillingness to accept the status quo of animal use and exploitation in principle, even when carried out in accordance with established requirements of the law.

The ALF statement also said more than 400 color slides were found in the office of room 304 or Science 1 which they said would be released to the press shortly.

The ALF letter concluded saying, "We see our actions as small victories in the larger war being waged by humanity against the planet earth and all it's occupant life forms. We, of course, have aligned ourselves with the latter side in this conflict, which is no longer a passive struggle for us, but has become a war of open and active

The University's statement said the ALF's letters to the news media about the break-in should be "taken for what they are: the bragging of thieves and vandals."

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