

## Animal-rights activists make false accusations

At a news conference held Dec. 29, a coalition of animal-rights activists presented photographs that were taken from slides stolen from University animal labs during an Oct. 26 raid.

The Animal Liberation Front had claimed in an earlier letter that the photographs would be "incriminating examples of the systematic torture of living animals that takes place behind the locked doors of your institution."

However, it turned out that all but two of the photographs shown were taken at Washington State University.

John Moseley, University vice president for research, said the slides were old and out of context and bore no relationship to what is happening currently at the University animal research laboratories.

Chris DeRose, founder of the Los Angeles-based Last Chance for Animals, and Donald Barnes, director of the National Anti-Vivisection society, showed about two dozen photographs of monkeys, cats and other animals undergoing various experiments.

Barnes was not aware until the news conference that the photographs had not been taken at the University.

According to the University News Bureau, the only photographs that were actually taken at the University are a spoof showing Greg Stickrod, animal laboratory services director, delivering a baby monkey from a human female in a mock Caesarean section.

The slide was in a pile of old photographs and material, Stickrod said.

He added that he regretted

having participated in the 12-year-old spoof and said he has not done anything like that before or since.

California animal-rights groups received copies of the photographs anonymously from the ALF, the group that claimed responsibility for the laboratory raids, DeRose said.

The University has filed a claim with the state restoration fund for \$36,415, the estimated cost of the losses resulting from the laboratory break-in.

The figure includes the theft of \$5,613 worth of research animals, equipment and supplies; damage to equipment and supplies was valued at \$18,791, and travel expenses associated with temporarily relocating the remaining and recovered animals to other institutions which is \$2,744.

## University innocent of negligence charge

A Lane County Circuit Court jury decided the state of Oregon and Fircrest Poultry Farms Inc. were not negligent in the 1984 accident that resulted in the deaths of two members of the University wrestling team.

The jury, handing down its finding on Christmas Eve after three weeks of testimony, voted 10-2 against Fircrest's alleged negligence and 9-3 against the state's alleged negligence.

The \$4 million civil lawsuit was filed by Norma Kesey on behalf of her son, Jed, 20, and Vernell West on behalf of his brother, Lorenzo, also 20.

Kesey and West were killed in January 1984, when a van carrying 10 members of the wrestling team and two assistant coaches to Washington State University

for a meet hit ice and plunged over an embankment near Palmroy, Wash.

During closing arguments, the attorney for the plaintiffs, Art Johnson, contended that the "needless" death of the two athletes was caused in part by negligence on the part of the state of Oregon and Fircrest.

Johnson alleged that Fircrest was negligent in failing to supply the van loaned to the wrestling team with seatbelts and other safety equipment, while the state of Oregon was negligent in allowing assistant coach Dean Dixon to drive unsafely in hazardous conditions.

Johnson told jurors that awards should be countered against both defendants to not only compensate the families for their losses, but to help establish acceptable safety guidelines.

Attorneys for the state, Jerry Thonn of Seattle and Win Calkins of Eugene, countered that Dixon lost control on "sudden, unexpected ice," and that the highway lacked proper warning signs and a secure guard rail.

Portland attorney Frank Day, who represented Fircrest, told the jury that company owner Ray Hooley was a civic-minded man who only wanted to help the University athletic program.

Day argued that the van, which had snow-tread tires, was adequately equipped for the conditions met on the trip. He also told the jury that the seatbelts were removed because attempts to clean them during a renovation of the van were not successful.

According to Kesey, the plaintiffs are looking into an appeal, but she was unsure as to the details.

"We were disappointed in

the verdict," she said. "There clearly seemed to be negligence."

"People who have children riding with sports and other activities should check first. We took it for granted that there would be rules," Kesey said.

"I understand the University has come up with some rules lately. I'm glad to see that," she added. "People forget how easy it is to get killed in a car wreck."

## Budget funds to pay for airport expansion

Off campus news over the holidays:

•The Eugene City Council voted 5-3 to repay a bond issue for Mahlon Sweet Airport expansion costs with existing and future budget funds, not with an increase in property taxes.

•A lawsuit was filed seeking to force the U.S. Air Force to file an environmental impact statement before constructing a Ground Wave Emergency Network tower near Klamath Falls. The No-GWEN Alliance of Klamath County and the Klamath County Board of Commissioners are named as plaintiffs in the lawsuit, which seeks a temporary injunction against construction of the tower until the environmental impact and land-use issues are resolved.

•A Berkeley, Calif., architectural firm was selected by The Carley Capital Group to prepare the master site plan for the Riverfront Research Park. ELS/Elbasani & Logan Architects will begin work on the project this month and expect to complete the work in about six months.

•Oregon's first test-tube baby was born at Sacred Heart General Hospital on Dec. 22.

## Fire breaks out in dormitory room

A fire broke out in Hamilton Complex on Sunday night causing damage to a room and evacuating residents from the hall.

The fire broke out in Room 405 Watson Hall, at the corner of 13th Avenue and Agate Street, said Tim Birr, public information officer for the Eugene police, fire and emergency services.

The fire was reported at 9:52 p.m., and the first of five fire units arrived at 9:53 p.m., Birr said. Two campus security officers, Dennis Kelley and Kent Abbott, conducted a search of the fourth floor before firefighters arrived, he said. The fire was reported under control at 10:06 p.m.

The fire, which was confined to the room, was caused by a candle that was left burning on a bolster on the south side of the room when the occupants left the room, Birr said.

"It wasn't a real major fire, but there was quite a bit of smoke throughout the hall," Birr said.

No injuries were reported, and the hall was evacuated, he said.

The occupant of the room will pay for the damage, which includes smoke damage to the bed and closet doors, said Marjory Ramey, director of University Housing.

## Correction

On Dec. 12, in an article about the play "Teatro Nuestro," the Oregon Daily Emerald misspelled the names of Ernesto Ravetto and Armando Morales. The Emerald regrets any confusion this may have caused.

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