

## LETTERS

### Two questions

Two important questions that popped into my mind after reading the article on University research monkeys (ODE, Oct. 18) are as follows:

Why is Jack Vanderlip the only one issuing statements about how happy these primates are?

Why does this article focus on the Animal Liberation Front which has not been seen at the University since 1986?

Addressing the first question, the administration will allow only a select few "outsiders" to see what is going on in University animal labs. They want to keep any criticism out of the press while their public-relations man assures us that everything is fine and ethical. In other words, you won't be hearing many reports about how happy the monkeys are sitting in constraining chairs and wearing brain implants.

Regarding question two: Institutions of power often win public support for their violence by making opposing groups look like terrorists. Despite the fact that SETA has petitioned and talked endlessly with administrators, struggled to obtain basic information privileges and a fair voice on the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (which we still haven't received), Vanderlip insists on lumping campus activists with the ALF by saying, "If they want to change this then they will have to do it by means other than violence and vandalism." That's a cheap shot and an insult.

My question to the Emerald is: Why does a front page news story report the limited viewpoint and rhetoric of our administration, without a single quote from somebody who actually cares about the lives of these animals?

John Boelling  
English/SETA

### Burger college

The lamentably ironic oxymoron "fast food education" has flashed in my mind many times during my two years at the University.

Nevertheless, I was amazed by the Burger King-Knight Library lead story (ODE, Oct. 12), which leads me to conclude that the administration has plunged to a new, gratuitously self-satirizing low in its attempts to "sell" the University.

I, too, think it silly to pretend that academia is somehow "detached" from the so-called real world; but inviting the Kings of char-broiled sub-nutrition to shoot commercials in the library is unconditionally absurd.

Is this the administration's idea of a new publicity campaign, "Burgers and Books?"

Or perhaps they figure that students across the country will decide to stop and shop for degrees at the University after seeing it advertised as BKU.

Truly it is sad to see our state-sponsored university prostituting its facilities of "disinterested" research to the highest bidder on the fast food market. But beyond sarcastic and melancholic reflection, this greasy spectacle should provoke our collective anger; indeed, the administration's concealment of their compromising decision until the day before filming suggests that they anticipated a sharp reaction from the University community.

Moreover, the administration is obligated to explain to the community it represents its reasons for admitting Burger King on campus for such an un-educational purpose as making a television commercial.

As it stands, the only message I can glean from this incident is: "Come to the University, the (disreputable) home of fast food education."

Todd Smith  
Student

### Makes it worse

In response to Brendan Briggs' letter "Feel Special" (ODE, Oct. 23): I too am appalled that the "Coming Out" rally happened. I am appalled that it had to happen. It is attitudes represented in Briggs' letter that clearly illustrate why "Coming Out Day" had to happen.

Attitudes of non-acceptance of people categorically, the roots of prejudice in all forms, have forced normal people out of the main stream and into hiding from others.

Unfortunately there are still many people like Briggs who not only miss the point completely, but further the prob-

lem.

Steven A. Roberts  
Student

### Hands off

Last week some person(s) drove around Southwest Eugene uprooting lawn signs. All of these signs promoted Republican candidates. They were then thrown into an empty lot.

Incidentally, this lot was right around the corner from a house whose lawn sign remained intact. This sign promoted a Democrat.

However, my intention is not to accuse or lay blame on any particular person or party (especially since I am a registered Democrat). My point is that this sort of behavior breaks a particular law from which we all benefit.

I'm not talking about trespassing, theft or vandalism laws. The law these lawn-sign thieves are breaking all over Eugene is the First Amendment law protecting freedom of speech.

When it comes right down to it, lawn-sign theft is censorship. It is an attack on one's right to an opinion and their right to express that opinion. Just as an individual might wear a button or a tee-shirt, putting up a lawn sign is a homeowner's way of saying "I like so-and-so. I like what he or she is doing."

My advice to lawn sign thieves: Don't do it. You can't benefit from it. This attack on someone's First Amendment rights will only strengthen their resolve and give them one more reason to support their favorite candidate.

Besides, if you get caught, I guarantee you'll be used as an example with no one coming to your defense. You only risk harm to yourself and your political affiliation.

Andrew Osanka  
Eugene

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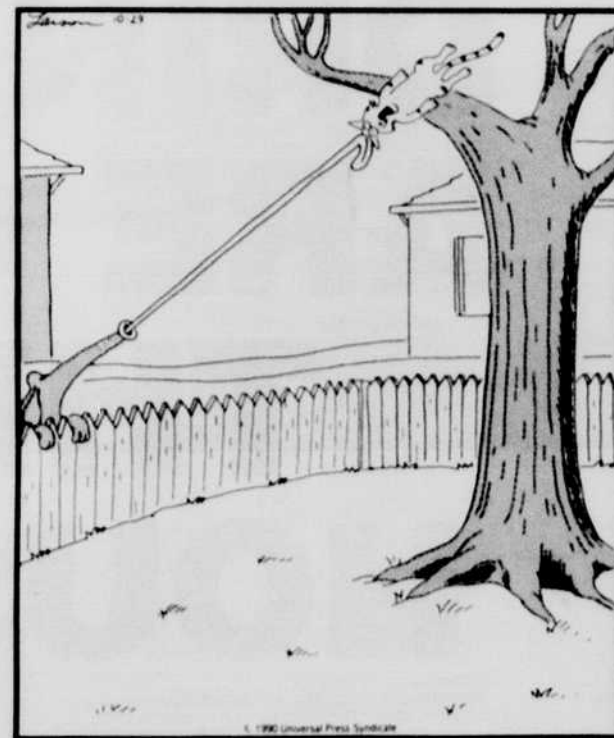
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