

Man in jail for refusing to answer questions in lab probe

By Bob Waite
Emerald Reporter

A Eugene resident is being held in a Sacramento County Jail for not cooperating with a Federal grand jury investigation.

Henry Hutto, 37, is refusing to answer questions about crimes committed in the name of the animal rights movement.

The grand jury is investigating crimes at the University animal lab in 1986, an arson fire at the University of California at Davis veterinary sciences building, and similar crimes at other universities.

The Animal Liberation Front, an animal rights activist group, has accepted responsibility for the crimes.

Damage to the University, where 125 animals were stolen and research equipment and experiments were destroyed, was estimated at about \$38,500. Arson damage at the Davis veterinary sciences building was estimated at \$4.6 million.

Californians Jonathan C. Mark Paul, 24, and William James Keogh, 41, pleaded not guilty to charges filed against them in Lane County Circuit Court Oct. 14. Cresenzo Velluci

Jr., 49, also of Sacramento, pleaded not guilty last Friday.

Warrants for the arrest of the three were issued based on evidence gained at the Sacramento Grand Jury hearings, said Karen Tracey, an attorney at the Lane County District Attorney's office.

All three are charged with burglary, theft and criminal mischief.

Paul and Keogh voluntarily appeared before the Lane County Grand Jury. Sacramento police arrested Velluci on a fugitive warrant last month. The three were released after pleading innocent.

Hutto, 37, is among about a

dozen animal rights activists who have been subpoenaed and refused to testify in Sacramento.

Daine Sontag, Hutto's wife, said neither she nor Hutto are members of the ALF, but said Hutto calls himself an animal rights activist.

"Henry is in jail with no charges being filed against him, no trial, and no opportunity to be released on bail," Sontag said.

"Like people during the McCarthy period, he refused to name names," Hutto's attorney, Mark Merin told the *Sacramento Bee*.

"He feels it is an invasion of his right to privacy. He is standing on his first, fifth and fourth amendment rights," Sontag said. "The grand jury system is able to thwart those rights by putting him in jail."

Hutto could be jailed from 18 to 36 months for refusing to testify, Sontag said.

According to *The Sacramento Union*, activists have asserted that their telephones have been tapped and their homes have been broken into since the investigation began. The 18 month investigation is expected to conclude at the end of the year.

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