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NEWSPAPER**

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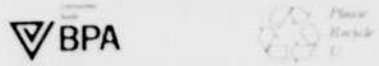
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The wrongdoings of animal rights activists

By MARK DRISCOLL
Daily Evergreen, Washington State U.



As a child, my favorite part of Sesame Street was when the TV screen split into four squares, each containing an object. Kids were supposed to decide which object was different and didn't belong with the others. One episode featured a pig, rat, dog and boy. I blurted out, "The boy is different."

I wonder if some other kids watching the show said, "There's no difference. Little boys and animals are the same."

It seems these misguided youths of yesterday have grown into the fully misguided adults of today who oppose animal research on campus, claiming that human and animal life are of equal value.

But they're wrong. Animal experimentation for research purposes is ethical because it saves and improves the quality of human lives.

Vaccines, antibiotics, insulin, and drugs to treat heart disease, hypertension and strokes are all based on animal research, according to Ron Karpati, a pediatric fellow at the U. of California, San Francisco. Complex surgical procedures such as coronary-artery bypass and organ transplantation initially were developed in animals. Also, microsurgery to attach severed limbs, an increased cure rate for acute lymphatic leukemia, and progress in finding a cure for AIDS and Alzheimer's disease resulted from animal research.

The importance is such that columnist John G. Hubbell said, "Animal research has helped increase our life span by nearly 28 years."

And animals, particularly pets, currently undergo surgical procedures and immunizations that were developed in animal research.

The truth is that life is cruel to animals and



CHAD CROUCH, THE GATEWAY, U. OF NEBRASKA, OMAHA

people alike. The question is whose suffering should take priority?

What if your child were dying of leukemia and the physician said nothing could be done because scientists wouldn't risk the life of a rat or pound dog for the research? Is that ethical?

Widely accepted ethical standards require that scientists subject animals to as little pain or distress as necessary to accomplish the objectives of procedures. Pain is induced only when necessary for the experiment because distressed animals are not good research subjects.

There are alternatives to using animals, and if animal experimentation were outlawed, researchers would be left with four choices.

One, the impossible task of creating a model of the animal to study disease and test possible

cures could be tried. Two, rats could be spared and experiments conducted on humans. Three, no medical research could be done and human suffering and death would simply be accepted. Four, research could be done on a computer.

But microchip technology will never replace firsthand study of the complex interaction of the cells, tissues and organs that make up a living being. And animals would still be needed to provide information to write the software, as well as double check the reliability and validity of computer alternatives.

Few of us witness suffering and death firsthand, so it's removed from our conscience. If only people cared for humans as much as their pets, there would not be any debate.

EDITOR'S MAIL

To the Editor:

I am older and somewhere in town I picked up your paper. You had a nice little article beginning on page one about drinking and the problems on campus. So what is on the back cover? An ad for Budweiser? Somebody goofed.

Patricia Raamot
Pullman, Wash..

To the Editor:

Your February cover story discussed the abuses of college-age drinking. The article discussed the difficulties of overcoming the

problems of campus drinking. Perhaps a start might be to look in your own backyard, or back page. I can only guess how much money Anheuser-Busch paid for the full-page four-color ad. Hopefully a more responsible relationship between editorial content and magazine advertisers can be established.

Timothy J. Sommers
State College, Penn.

To the Editor:

A friend gave me the February issue of *U. The National College Newspaper*. The pieces

that caught my attention were the articles on drinking among college-aged students. However, as I finished reading your newspaper, I laid it face down on my desk and found myself staring at a full page advertisement for Budweiser. I can not justify or condone such advertisements. Please reconsider your decision to accept such advertising in the future. You can play a major part in the fight against underage drinking and affect the youth of our society.

Sarah Stevens
Prevention Specialist
Missouri Institute for Prevention Services

U. VIEWS 1-800-662-5511

Can love be legislated, or should affairs of the heart be left alone?

Should universities prohibit professors from dating students?

Call our toll-free number to vote yes or no.



Teacher's pet?

March results: Students believe money matters and financial records should be made public where research funds and conflict of interests are concerned: **Should disclose, 90% Shouldn't disclose, 10%.**

Editor's Response

Alcohol abuse and underage drinking are major issues and concerns on college campuses. This newspaper does not condone underage drinking or alcohol, nor do the brewing companies in this country. Anheuser-Busch is a leader in the brewing market and has made major strides toward developing and supporting comprehensive education and awareness programs. The end to the problem will not come with the prohibition of them and other alcohol advertising. The solution may come, however, with better information given to students and administrators on the severity of the problem. The purpose of the story was to, in some measure, provide that information. —Ed.