

Relative misinformation

I thought it was very interesting how Brent Field from the Institute of Neuroscience wrote to back up the use of animals in University labs as well as others across the world (April 15, *ODE*). I thought I should back up some misguided information he uttered.

First of all, he said some people have questioned the use of animals on our campus. Well, I'll tell you right now we are doing more than questioning it, we are saying *it is wrong!*

The "misinformation" that Field has accused is just SETA stating a truth that can not be denied. When SETA states "information extrapolated from animal models can not safely be applied to humans," it is true. For example, in 1963 studies of humans showed a strong association between cigarette smoking and lung cancer. When testing this on laboratory animals, this connection recognition failed. This delayed health warnings for years, subsequently thousands of people died of cancer. Examples like these continue on and on.

I know people with depression, mania, attention disorders and others that the University experimentation is attempting to help,

but this just makes me even more angry that these people's problems are researchers' excuses for murder. There are many strong alternatives to animal research that many believe can find more cures to disorders. Results from *these* studies can not only create future hopes, but be done with a clear mind and moral heart.

Scientific fraud can no longer be accepted. Murder of innocent animals must be stopped. This holds true to animal research on campus and everywhere else. Until this is done, our society can not and will not be civilized.

Chelsea Lincoln
Director
SETA

Anti-ASUO?

Prior to this week, I was unaware that it is the role of the University departments to campaign against student groups. On April 16 and 17, the University Institute of Neuroscience, housed in Huestis Hall, sponsored and arranged a lobby table in the EMU against SETA's ballot measure in the upcoming election. Besides the fact that by failing to file as a protest with the ASUO, they committed an illegal act and face due fines, I question the legality of such action in the first place.

If the University is so dedicated

to diversity, why is it campaigning against ASUO student groups? What happened to the University's much touted activism? SETA's ballot increase is warranted to increase education and awareness that its current measly budget doesn't allow for. Whether one agrees with SETA's issues or not, surely one must question the actions of the University in campaigning to silence ASUO activities.

Kyla Schuller
Comparative Literature

Life perspective

When faced with someone paralyzed by injury, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis or Lou Gehrig's disease; a baby with birth defects; someone with severe mental illness, like schizophrenia or suicidal depression; someone dying from AIDS, could you tell them the life of a laboratory animal is more important and doom them to hopelessly suffer and perhaps die?

If you could not say this to all of these people (and countless others who suffer), then you cannot rationally support those (Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) who would end the ethical use of animals in basic and medical research, and you should vote no on the SETA ballot that allocates student fees to their organization.

Research involving animals is the most reasonable hope that people who suffer from disease, birth defects and injury have for the development of eventual cures or effective treatments. Perhaps you can deny to yourself access to and hope of treatment, but can you also deny that to everyone?

I study how eyes develop, using zebrafish as a model for how human eyes develop. I hope my research will help lead to the prevention or cure for blindness caused by macular degeneration (the leading cause of blindness), glaucoma and retinitis pigmentosa (night blindness).

When I see a blind person, I am compelled to work harder and to defend what I believe is their only hope to see—basic and clinical research that humanely uses animals. In my mind, I see a blind person every day.

Abbie Jensen
Institute of Neuroscience

Real truth

Several weeks ago, SETA had a table in front of Huestis Hall, and members distributed pamphlets to give one "the real truth of the research issue." I want to be up front. I am a graduate student in the biology department, and I do research using an animal model—zebrafish. The universal goal of

my research is to help shed light on abnormalities that cause death and disease in the developing nervous system.

A member of SETA might well disregard my recommendations. However, I hope that those of you who read its pamphlet take some additional time to get the facts based on scientific and objective evidence in order to fully understand the controversy surrounding the use of animals in research.

It is important that the readers of its pamphlet be aware of the many factual errors in its pamphlet. I invite everyone to stop by the "Forum for Science Education" information table and read the poster pointing out some (not all) of the glaring misinformation being passed as support for SETA's position.

I also invite everyone to pick up and read information on why one should support the responsible and humane use of animals in basic and biomedical research. Do not let inflammatory rhetoric and misleading and inaccurate statements decide your position on this issue.

This is a complex issue that requires each of us — researchers, animal rights activists and you — to get the facts straight in order to make an informed opinion.

Rosie Reyes
Biology

ATTENTION

SUPPORTERS OF FOOTNOTES

As you may or may not know, Footnotes has been fighting a losing battle to get adequate space in the EMU next year. Throughout this process, it has become clear that the EMU Board has no intention of providing space to Footnotes that would be adequate to house our operations. The fact is that the EMU Board has squeezed us out of the EMU, and we are forced to move to an alternate location in order to continue to be here for students. Unfortunately, the costs associated with a new location are more than we can handle, given our nonprofit approach to serving students.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT ON OUR BALLOT MEASURE! LET US KNOW YOU STILL WANT US!

Voting YES! for the Footnotes ballot measure means that you are in favor of preserving:

- *A 30 year tradition of nonprofit, academic support for students
- *30 to 35 student jobs during any given term, both work study and non-work study
- *Low cost, campus services such as faxing, word processing, and thesis formatting
- *And don't forget those class notes that help so much!

GET ON YOUR FEET AND VOTE TOMORROW AND THURSDAY!

Sincerely,

Josh Dobson, Corie Koppen, Devon London, Parrish Pynn, and Angela Spann

Students who comprise the Footnotes Board of Directors

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