

letters

Animal Testing Cruel

TO THE EDITOR:

I find it astonishing that Thomas Kraemer would seriously defend the experiments on so-called gay sheep at Oregon State University, let alone try to compare this shoddy study with the quest for beneficial scientific knowledge ["Martina Navratilova vs. Gay Sheep," Nov. 17].

Experts in the field of research ethics and gender studies have called the entire premise of the experiments irrelevant and have expressed concerns that the study teeters dangerously on the edge of homophobia. Not that I needed an expert to tell me what is perfectly obvious: These experiments are stupid.

Whatever they may tell us about the sexual preference of sheep, they will tell us nothing about why humans prefer one gender over another as sexual partners. Perhaps more to the point, promising avenues of nonanimal research are ignored and underfunded by agencies and experimenters who are mired in the animal test methodology. This is a tragedy, as people are dying of diseases that still have no effective treatment or cure despite decades of wasteful, cruel tests on animals.

GRAY CASKEY
Portland

Hollywood Brings Oscars Home

TO THE EDITOR:

Film Action Oregon, owner and operator of the Hollywood Theatre, will once again be home of

Oregon's only officially sanctioned Oscar Night America celebration Feb. 25, 2007. The event is a fund-raiser for our beloved Hollywood Theatre.

As you may already know, this year's Oscars will be hosted by Ellen DeGeneres. No doubt we can look forward to a fun and memorable evening! I am coordinating volunteers for the event, and we are looking for event sponsors. If anyone would like to help out, please contact me directly at akdouglas@msn.com.

AARON KIRK DOUGLAS
Portland

Oppressive Skin

TO THE EDITOR:

I was saddened to see *Just Out* endorsing Boy-O Leather, a business that profits from animal exploitation ["When Leather Is Bound Up in Art," Nov. 3].

Does anyone else see the irony in a newspaper that caters to those who have felt oppressed in their lives promoting the oppression of other sentient beings? Most of the millions of animals slaughtered for their skin endure the horrors of factory farming before being shipped to slaughter, where many are skinned alive.

Buying leather directly contributes to factory farms and slaughterhouses, since skin is the most economically important byproduct of the meat-packing industry. Leather is also no friend of the environment, since it shares all the environmental destruction of the meat industry, in addition to the toxins used in tanning.

I'm all for adults getting their freak on, but why does it have to come at the expense of animal exploitation?

SARA EICKHOFF
Portland

Blame the Gays

TO THE EDITOR:

Well, I hope all the gays who got "married" by Multnomah County in 2004 are happy right now. I see that another happy heterosexual marriage has been broken up.

First it was Britney Spears and Kevin Federline splitting the sheets, and now I see that

Pamela Anderson and Kid Rock are filing for divorce. All the gays laughed at that nice Rev. Ted Haggard when he said that gay marriage endangered the foundations of straight marriage, and now look what the gay couples in Multnomah County have done: They've wrecked the storybook marriages of some of America's most happy couples!

I just hope Portland's gay married couples can live with themselves. When I think of that poor Pamela Anderson probably crying her eyes out, it just makes me sad. Thanks a lot, gay Portland!

JACK OSTERBERG
Hillsboro

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