

people, the DVDs should be available sometime next year.

Vince Loving
Eugene

ABUSE AT PRIMATE CENTER

Recently, PETA conducted an undercover investigation into the Oregon National Primate Research Center, which found apparent violations of animal protection laws and monkeys who were living in constant fear, confined to small cages and traumatized by rough handling. Well, the latest news I'm hearing is that the USDA, which is charged with responding to animal abuse complaints such as this one, has investigated the ONPRC and come up with nothing.

If the USDA really has found no problems at the Primate Center, either the law needs to change or the inspectors do. The evidence gathered by PETA's investigator was shattering: Monkeys screamed in terror as employees chased them around gang cages, grabbed them and pinned their arms behind their backs. An infant monkey, taken from her own mother, rocked inconsolably on the floor of a cage, clutching her arm — her only source of comfort. Monkeys, cornered in their small cages, couldn't escape the needle-sharp spray of high pressure hoses. Animals driven mad by confinement and isolation whirled in their cages, unable to find comfort. See video of all this online (StopAnimalTests.com).

More likely, this is a shameful whitewash by the Primate Center, and this inspection is just one part of a larger, ongoing investigation. It would be impossible to examine fully — in just two days — every example of abuse PETA's investigator documented. USDA inspectors normally spend many, many months, reviewing documents, photos and video, and interviewing the whistleblower.

The real tragedy is that the Primate Center continues to make disingenuous excuses rather than taking meaningful action to alleviate the terrible suffering witnessed by PETA's investigator.

Curtis Taylor
Eugene

CARELESS CYCLISTS

Dear cyclists: You inspire little respect from motorists because you observe few if

any traffic laws beyond the apparent self-evident creed that you always have the right-of-way. You ride on the sidewalks, crosswalks and in the street, encroaching on the paths of pedestrians and motor vehicles. You ignore stop signs and traffic signals, and you rarely signal when turning.

Of course, there are exceptions ... very few exceptions. You then make a big stink about "careless" drivers and how we're ruining the environment, even implying that we're the cause of this war, while cyclists, being visionary activists, are actually supporting the troops. When I consider the gall, the megalomaniacal hubris of it, I become nauseous.

The reality: Cyclists endanger themselves, and motorists can be careless, often times distracted or too busy trying to avoid an accident.

The layout of this city is awful, yet it seems to cater to cyclists with its bizarrely low speed limits and abundance of bike lanes. Eugene is a city grown too big for its britches, and these issues will only worsen as the population expands. Yet to suggest that motorists should begin a widespread shift to bicycles is delusional and grossly impractical. Many people have children who must be driven to school/daycare. Many people lead busy lives, having to accomplish multiple tasks every day. Other people have health limitations (i.e. arthritis, vision problems, physical handicaps.) Bicycling is simply not a feasible mode of transportation for the masses.

You want to support the troops? Vote only for politicians who fervently oppose the war. Otherwise, mind your own business.

Dylan Wilks
Eugene

NOT SO VICIOUS CYCLE

I'm a human being. Every day when I step out my front door, I enter a vibrant and beautiful city. Oftentimes, I'll pass parents dropping their young passengers off at the nearby school, and I think to myself how easily I can cruise by their idling machines. Nearly every morning, I smile and wave to others doing the same thing as me.

I breathe deeply the clean air and am pleasantly reminded that I'm one with my surroundings while gliding through space and time. I gracefully navigate any obstacles on

my lightweight two-wheeled human powered machine.

There are days when I cannot believe I'm able to spend 30 minutes before and after my workday effectively relieving stress for free and without a prescription. Sleep comes easy each night after calmly winding down on the quiet neighborhood streets and off-street paths. You won't find any restless syndrome in these legs.

It's easy for me to realize why I'm out here doing what I do. First and foremost, it is for simplicity, efficiency and personal pleasure. Secondly, it comes from a deep sense of obligation to set an example for my fellow citizens, my country and future generations.

I made a conscious choice to sign up for this commute; I ride my bicycle across Eugene each day. While I concede there may be an occasional challenge, the benefits of riding a bike for transportation far outweigh any perceived barrier. Please don't let the naysayers keep you from experiencing the joy of commuting by bike.

Dave Roth
Springfield

SAGGY YOUTH

I am writing this letter to delve a wee bit deeper into Skye Rios' letter (11/29), and this comes with a small risk of "exposing" myself and some truths about these so-called "homeless" youth that, yes, infect downtown today.

I came to this town in May of 2002 on my way back up to Washington State, and I ran out of money and ended up getting stuck here, thanks to the wonderful EPD. The next six months were a whirlwind of chaos; I made many friends, and I had the pleasure of filming that whole "homeless protest" thing in September that aired on local access Channel 29 (yes, that was me).

Here it is: Yes, there are a few select actual "homeless" youth; however, I am going to have to say that when folks pass judgment on the "punks," well ... they are right. Most "homeless" youth are just little kids who think that they can pass off their parents asking them to take out the garbage as some kind of horrible abuse, and so they go out in the clothes their parents bought them and beg for change so they can buy their precious marijuana (to

save my ass, I am pro-ganj) and booze.

Am I passing judgment? No, I am not, for I work at Monaco and have to get off the bus to watch throngs of the saggy youth in front of the library get harrassed by security for clogging up space reserved normally for people who either work or folks who travel and try to play quite nice tunes on the instrument of their choice to make money so they can possibly eat or stay somewhere nice.

When I used to go to New Roads in 2002 and tried to eat dinner on Tuesdays and Thursdays, I would watch as the kids who HAD houses would walk in and, freshly stoned, I should add, grab a seat and almost take over ("I'm hungry, feed me first"). I do believe there are other folks, including very good friends of mine, who can attest to this "judgment call."

Bottom line is, Skye, that there ARE true homeless youth out there who really do earn a living by begging for change to eat a slice of pizza — but they are extremely hard to find, and if you do find them, be careful, cuz they may just be faking it.

Jimmy Spoor
Eugene

LEGAL ENTITLEMENT?

In response to "Give us our lane" (11/21 letters) I'd like to point out that lawful behavior does not necessarily equal just, equitable or sustainable behavior. According to the letter's author, a bicyclist is entitled to the full width of the lane in the absences of a bike path. As a fellow bicyclist, I don't take up an entire lane. I only exercise that right when necessary, such as to avoid a pothole, pile of leaves or an opening car door. Otherwise I strive to use up only as much of the lane as I need.

Similarly I have the legal right to own and operate a "gas guzzling SUV," but I don't. I don't need a Hummer just like I don't need to ride down the middle of the lane all the time. I think we all need to think more critically about our behavior in terms of justice, equality and sustainability rather than simply claiming legal entitlement.

I don't think that provoking road rage even by legal means is a productive way to motivate positive change.

Ryan Ojerio
Eugene



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