

ALF Claims Credit For Fire, Bomb Threat

The Animal Liberation Front (ALF) has claimed credit for setting a fire in Washington state and telephoning a bomb threat in North Carolina.

According to the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, a branch of ALF called Western Wildlife said it set fire to a building at the Northwest Farm Food Cooperative at Edmonds, WA. The three-alarm fire caused \$400,000 damage and gutted a dry storage area.

Western Wildlife said the fire was an act of "economic sabotage" to punish an industry that "profits from the misery and exploitation of fur animals." The coop's customers for animal food include 150 mink farms.

In North Carolina ALF claimed credit for calling in a bomb threat to the Hanes Research Center at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC. Although no bomb was found, police did find a box of plumbing fittings in the facility, which houses animal research projects. No one knows why the bomb threat was made or why the box was placed where it was.

Senator Files Bill To Protect Hunters

Senator Wyche Fowler, Jr., (D-GA) has introduced a bill in Congress that would subject animal activists to federal prosecution for harassing hunters.

The bill, cosponsored by Sen. Conrad Burns (R-MT), would establish fines of \$500 to \$5,000 each time a person is convicted of intentionally obstructing or interfering with legal hunting on national forest lands. Anyone using force or violence to interfere with legal hunting on public lands would be subject to fines of \$1,000 to \$10,000.

State Court Told To Determine Custody For Silver Spring Monkeys

It now is up to a Louisiana state court to decide who should have custody of the two remaining Silver Spring monkeys at Tulane University's Delta Regional Primate Center at Covington, LA.

The US Supreme Court in an 8-0 vote ruled that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) should not have been allowed to transfer a lawsuit challenging the ownership of the monkeys from a state court to a federal district court, where the suit was dismissed.

Animal rights organizations – International Primate Protection League, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and Louisiana In Support of Animals – had filed the suit in order to gain custody of animals and to prevent NIH and Tulane from carrying out planned euthanasia of the ailing and suffering monkeys and to perform terminal experimentation while the animals were anesthetized.

"We hold that removal was improper and that the case should be remanded to state court," wrote Justice Thurgood Marshall for the court. Justice Antonin Scalia did not participate in the case.

The controversy dates back 10 years when Alex Pacheco, founder of PETA, worked as a volunteer at the Institute for Behavioral Research in Silver Spring, MD. In September 1981 he instigated a police raid of the facility on the grounds that 17 monkeys being used by researcher Edward Taub were not provided with sufficient food, water, veterinary care, or sanitation. Taub, charged with 117 counts of animal mistreatment, was cleared of all wrongdoing by the Maryland courts.

Experimentation on Silver Spring monkeys shows brain can rewire itself.

Taub was working under a federal grant studying the ability of monkeys to use their limbs after their nerves had been severed at the spine. The research was designed to seek help for persons disabled by stroke and head trauma injury.

Only two of the 17 monkeys are subject to the court's ruling. Five of the control monkeys were moved to the San Diego Zoo and 10 have died. Of the two remaining monkeys, only one could be the subject of further experimentation. The other monkey is a control animal.

The monkeys were seized in the police raid and turned over to NIH, which transferred them to the Delta center. In 1988 the suit seeking custody was filed in a Louisiana state court by the animal rights groups, but NIH had the case transferred to a federal district court. The move was challenged and the Fifth US District Court of Appeals ordered the suit to be dismissed. That action then was appealed to the US Supreme Court.

Justice Marshall said the Fifth Circuit Court made a mistake because federal agencies have no such power to move a suit from a state court to a federal court. The court said no removal power is accorded when an entire agency of the federal government is named as the defendant.

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