



Coalition For Animals & Animal Research CFAAR Arizona Newsletter

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Time to Join or Renew Your Membership

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Targets of Animal Rights Campaign: We Were Terrified By Wayne Parry

One woman said she received an e-mail threatening to cut her 7-year-old son open and stuff him with poison. A man said he was showered with glass as people smashed all the windows of his home and overturned his wife's car. Many others said they were besieged by screaming protesters outside their homes at all hours, deluged by threatening phone calls, and sent pornographic magazines they had not ordered. The trauma that employees of Huntingdon Life Sciences and other companies say they experienced at the hands of radical animal rights advocates is on display during the federal court trial of a Philadelphia-based group and six of its members on domestic terrorism charges. The trial continues in Trenton this week.

Many targets testified that the harassment made them look over their shoulders when walking or driving, change their phone numbers or even move, made them keep their kids from playing outdoors, and prompted several to buy guns. Sally Dillenback said her young son would often crouch by the door brandishing a 5-inch kitchen knife when the doorbell rang, promising to protect his mommy. "He told me not to worry," she testified last week. "He said he was going to get the animal people. Once I found him at the garage door with a knife. That was his state of mind. He was a 7-year-old boy." Dillenback broke into tears as she recounted an anonymous e-mail that threatened her son. "The person asked how I would feel if they cut open my son, Brad, and filled him with poison the way Huntingdon does with the animals," she said, breaking into tears. "That was devastating for me to see something like that."

Huntingdon Life Sciences is a Franklin Township, Somerset County laboratory that tests drugs and consumer products on animals. A group called Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty has waged a five-year campaign to shut it down, extending its pressure tactics beyond the lab to companies that insured it, traded its stock, lent it money, provided security for it and conducted other business with it, according to prosecution testimony. The tactics worked in many instances as firms, including the insurer Marsh USA, dropped Huntingdon as a client after being targeted, the lab's lawyer said.

CFAAR: Who We Are

CFAAR is a nonprofit educational organization which formed in response to activists who were attempting to discredit animal research and animal researchers in 1988. Several local CFAAR chapters have since sprung up across the country. These groups share the following objectives:

- To **organize** students, faculty, and staff at institutions where animal research is performed so effective letter writing campaigns can be initiated quickly.
- To **educate** the public, in general, and the campus, in particular, about the true nature of animal research and animal researchers.
- To **support** responsible and humane use of animals in biomedical research.

Through our newsletter, we will help inform you about legislation and other "happenings" concerning attacks on animal research. Our goal is to make it as easy as possible to contact your Washington, D.C. representatives.

The key to the effectiveness of this organization is you! We need your willingness to write an occasional letter, perhaps talk with a school group and, of course, give a few dollars to cover the cost of printing the newsletter and educational materials.

HELP SUPPORT CFAAR
SO WE CAN SUPPORT YOU

The group notes that its members are not charged with carrying out any of the illegal acts described in court, and denies inciting anyone to break the law. It says its activities were all legal and protected by the First Amendment. Postings on the Web site recounting acts of harassment or vandalism at the homes and offices of targets are no different from news reports by mainstream media organizations, the group asserts.

Like almost all the others targeted by the group, Dillenback, a Marsh executive in Dallas, saw intensely private information about her family posted on the group's Web site. It listed their names, address, home phone number, where their children went to school, and even the name of her son's teacher and the fact that he sings in the choir. Prosecutors say the postings were designed to terrorize the targets, and incite others to commit violence against them. The defendants are charged with animal-enterprise terrorism, conspiracy and interstate stalking.

The trial of Kevin Kjonaas, Lauren Gazzola, Jacob Conroy, Joshua Harper, Andrew Stepanian and Darius Fullmer will likely hinge on whether prosecutors can prove the group did more than simply publish information online. There has been no testimony that the group directed anyone to break the law. "This isn't to be insensitive, but anytime someone is a target of a protest, they feel victimized and threatened," said Andrea Lindsay, a spokeswoman for the group. "While people may find it obnoxious, unpleasant or scary, it's not illegal. The government is hoping to play on the jury's emotions. They're saying, 'Don't think about the law, don't think about the facts. We've got a crying woman up here on the stand; what are you going to do to make her feel better?'"

Prosecutors have tried to humanize the case, letting people tell in their own words how their lives were upended after they were targeted by the group for "direct action." Marian Harlos, managing director of the San Antonio office of a Marsh subsidiary, testified she got late-night calls in which someone asked "Are you scared? Do you think the puppies should be scared?" Like many others, she said she had to endure noisy pickets outside her home in which protesters banged drums and screamed "Puppy killer!" through megaphones, and paraded with photos of mutilated animals. Masked protesters parked down the street from her house, videotaping her comings and goings. They barged into her office, screaming and tossing leaflets, and others ruined the rear door with super-adhesive glue and animal stickers, she said. "I had young children," she testified. "They were no longer able to go outside and play. Would someone be in the back yard? Would someone try to take them?" Eventually, she and her family had to move.

Some Huntingdon workers in New Jersey also say they were targeted. Henning Jonassen, the lab's necropsy director, testified he was watching TV at home in Somerville when someone smashed all his ground-floor windows, and turned his wife's car over.

Toxicologist Carol Auletta said she saw her face on "Wanted" posters all over downtown Princeton, calling her a mentally ill murderer.

(Phillyburbs.com, 2/19/06)

House Panel Focuses on Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act

A congressional panel yesterday heard vivid testimony of violent, criminal actions by animal rights extremists against biomedical research interests. "Extremists have not hesitated to use violence and the threat of violence to further their social and political goals," stated Deputy Assistant Attorney General Brent J. McIntosh. "These extremists are engaged in a nationwide campaign to place our fellow law-abiding citizens in reasonable fear of the death of, or serious bodily injury to, themselves or their loved ones," he noted.

Under consideration by the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security is the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (H.R. 4239), which, with its companion Senate legislation, (S.1926), would enhance existing laws to protect individuals, their families and their homes, as well as companies that do business with animal-related enterprises and those companies' own partners, known as tertiary targets of activist campaigns. Subcommittee Chairman Howard Coble (R-NC), called it a "singularly important issue."

McIntosh informed the panel that "Animal rights extremists have tailored their campaigns to exploit limited ambiguities (in the current Animal Enterprise Protection Act) statute by targeting individuals and businesses associated with the animal enterprise rather than the animal enterprise itself." He noted that while some of the specific tactics could be prosecuted individually under state law, "local police often lack the investigative resources and national perspective to put these local offenses into context as a multi-jurisdictional campaign of violence."

Michele A. Basso, an assistant professor of physiology at the University of Wisconsin at Madison related to the panel how militants focused on her studies of Parkinson's disease that involve the use of a primate model. Activists circulated a flyer replete with picture and personal attacks throughout her neighborhood, and attempted to go to her home, but mistakenly carried out their protest in front of the wrong house. She received threatening voice mail messages, stating 'you cannot get away from us' and 'you cannot hide from us even though you changed the name on your house. You will never get away from us.'

Under questioning, Dr. Basso said that she had been frightened by the activist's tactics, and also feared for the safety of her staff and her research animals. In response to another question, she said that she believed that young scientists might seek other fields to pursue if intimidation and harassment continues. "Yes, I most

absolutely do. I myself have considered leaving the field in light of my experiences. I have colleagues across the country that have experienced what I have experienced and worse, and they have told me that they would leave. I have colleagues in the United Kingdom who are looking to leave because they feel they can no longer do their research. So my concern in the long run is not only those young scientists won't go into the field but already established scientists might even leave and go where the environment is more conducive."

William Trundley, Director/Vice President of Corporate Security & Investigations for GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), testified that in the past 21 months in the United States, GSK has had 150 incidents, including 75 were intimidating home visits by activists, and 10 that resulted in serious property damage. "These incidents have traumatized employees and family members, particularly children," he said. "In all of these, the common thread has been fear, intimidation and the threat of violence." Both in his testimony and in a written statement (available on-line – see below) he recounted numerous specific acts by animal rights extremists against GSK, its employees, and other individuals who have been targeted merely because of their association with GSK.

While GSK has received excellent support from law enforcement, thus far not one of the acts by extremists against GSK in the US has resulted in a criminal conviction. Trundley said he believes that the existing laws are inadequate to provide police with the tools they need to bring the terrorists to justice. He urged Congress to pass the legislation, recounting the atmosphere of terror, fear and intimidation that existed in the UK before new laws went into effect last summer. "We are now seeing the benefits of this," he said, warning. "If the US doesn't act now, they will face the same level of violent escalation and endangerment of lives of American citizens."

The sole witness who opposed the legislation was William Potter, a self-described "independent journalist" who maintains a blog entitled "Green Is The New Red" and has written articles in support of the SHAC defendants and against what he sees as the encroachment of First Amendment rights in the proposed legislation. He told the panel: "I've documented an increasingly disturbing trend of 'terrorist' rhetoric, sweeping legislation, grand jury witch hunts, blacklists, and FBI harassment reminiscent of tactics used against Americans during the Red Scare. The Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act is a continuation of that trend." He added, "This legislation will not help solve crimes. It will, however, risk painting legal activity and non-violent civil disobedience with the same broad brush as illegal activists."

In their comments, subcommittee members acknowledged the need to protect First Amendment rights, but indicated that a revised draft of the legislation could address those concerns. Rep. William Delahunt D-MA, a former district attorney, said while the reported criminal activities were "unfortunate and unacceptable,"

he was concerned about the federalization of crime, and that many of the illegal activities used by animal rights extremists could be prosecuted under local or state statutes. Both Brent McIntosh and William Trundley spoke to that, pointing out the difficulties of connecting cases in multiple locales and jurisdictions.

To watch video of the hearing, and to obtain prepared opening statements by all witnesses, visit the House Committee on the Judiciary's website at: <http://judiciary.house.gov/hearings.aspx?ID=146>

The Chronicle of Higher Education reported on the hearing in today's online edition. "House Panel Hears Call for Bill Treating Animal-Rights Harassment Like Terrorism" <http://chronicle.com/daily/2006/05/2006052403n.htm>

AMP expresses its appreciation to the House Committee on the Judiciary and the Subcommittee members for consideration of this vital legislation. To learn more how your institution can help work for the passage of the bill, contact Matt Bailey, Government Affairs Manager of NABR, at mbailey@nabr.org. We need your help!

(AMP News, 5/24/06)

Valley Residents, Drug Developer Battle for Domain Names By Chris Markham

Even though drug-testing giant Covance has yet to propose specific plans for a research facility in Chandler, the company and a local opposition group are now locked in a public relations battle. Most recently, members of Citizens Against Covance charge that the world's largest drug developer has bought up Internet domain names nearly identical to one they were using. Until recently, the group had its Web site as www.savechandler.org.

Now, Web sites at www.savechandler.net and www.savechandler.com direct browsers to a pro-Covance site. "We're kind of tickled that they felt threatened enough by our Web site to do this," said Jan McClellan, a spokeswoman for Citizens Against Covance. The group has changed its Web address to www.stopcovance.com to avoid confusion with Covance's sites, and this time they made sure to secure all three domain types. Traffic from the old site also is routed to the new address, McClellan said.

Camilla Strongin, a local spokeswoman for Covance, said Friday the company has to take such steps to defend itself against "misinformation" campaigns launched by animal rights groups, such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Covance plans to open a 400,000-square-foot research facility on land it purchased last summer near Price and Germann roads in Chandler. The announcement has sparked heavy resistance by PETA, including a worldwide e-mail campaign urging Chandler City Council members to deny the company the zoning changes necessary to build its \$100 million facility. The company has not yet filed any development plans with the city, Strongin said.

McClellan denied her group is an offshoot of PETA, claiming she only accepts information and materials, such as signs and videos, from the larger organization. "When I say I'm not PETA, I'm not PETA," she said. Erin Maupin, a 21-year-old student at Arizona State University, said she purchased the savechandler.org domain name on behalf of the local group last fall. She also denied Friday being involved with PETA or any other animal rights organizations and claimed she learned about Covance's plans in Chandler while browsing the Internet.

But several Web sites, including PETA's and her own, www.erinmaupin.com, identify her as a PETA member. "As courageous as she is beautiful (she was voted 'Best Body' at ASU and is a rising fashion model), Erin is involved in a number of animal rights campaigns, most notably her commitment to prevent Covance from setting up a laboratory in Chandler, Arizona," states an article published on PETA's Web site. She also was president of ASU's Animal Welfare Association last fall.

(EastValleyTribune.com, 2/5/06)

Liddy Anti-Covance Ad Running on Radio

By Luci Scott

A Phoenix radio station is running a commercial recorded by national talk show host G. Gordon Liddy in support of the animal-rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, prompted by drug-tester Covance's plans to build a facility in Chandler. Covance has fired back, claiming, "PETA has turned to a convicted felon and an expensive advertising campaign to spread misinformation about our company."

Meanwhile, Chandler City Council members continue to receive e-mails from all over the world protesting Covance's plans and demanding the council stop the company - even though no zoning request has come before the city on the issue. "I'm reading a lot of e-mails lately," Councilman Bob Caccamo said. "Even though the number of e-mails from PETA is outnumbering those from the other side, there are a lot of duplicates and mass produced e-mails." Caccamo, whose father is an immigrant from Italy, joked, "I saw one from Italy and I was going to answer him in Italian. but I (only) speak enough Italian for people to make fun of me when I go to Italy."

Councilwoman Donna Wallace agreed there is a campaign under way. "The PETA group is far-reaching and very passionate about what they believe, but nothing has come before us yet," Wallace said. Covance bought 38 acres on Price Road between Germann and Queen Creek roads and plans to appear before the Chandler Planning and Zoning Commission. No date has been set.

In the 30-second ad running on KFYI-AM (550), Liddy mentions what he calls abuse of monkeys in another lab run by Covance. "Please help us put an

end to this nightmare that these monkeys endure in this laboratory every day," says Liddy, who refers listeners to PETA's Web site, CovanceCruelty.com.

Covance cites Liddy's role in the Watergate burglary during the Nixon administration, for which he served prison time. "This (ad campaign) should come as no surprise to anyone familiar with the smear tactics and media stunts this group is known for," Covance said.

The ad is scheduled to run through Wednesday but that may be extended, a PETA spokeswoman said.

(AZ Republic, 1/18/06)

PETA Sideshow Hurts Legitimate Debate

As if a worldwide orchestrated e-mail campaign wasn't enough, animal-rights activists have enlisted radio host G. Gordon Liddy to their cause against drug-testing company Covance. The letter writers - and now the radio spots - accuse Covance of cruelty to animals and urge Chandler City Council members to block it from building a facility in Chandler.

The group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals jumped the gun months ago by blasting the Chandler City Council and Covance when nothing had occurred other than an announcement that the drug-testing company bought land in our city. At this point, Covance has yet to come before the Planning and Zoning Commission with any requests to build. Yet the campaign against the company ratcheted up this week, thanks to the voice of conservative icon Liddy.

Such tactics are a disservice to Chandler residents. Good governance relies on facts and informed public input. The public is not well served by high-dollar campaigns orchestrated out of state and aimed at inflaming local emotions. A glance at some of the e-mails to Chandler City Council reveals formatted e-mails from Germany, Austria and Italy. Why do they care what is built here?

The answer is that PETA members are determined to stop Covance from building anywhere. They have set up a Web site, www.savechandler.org, to spread information - and perhaps misinformation - to sway Chandler away from allowing the company to operate here. A quote at the top of the site states that California has kept the company out. Not true: Covance operates a lab in Berkeley. This misinformation makes other claims on the site suspect, yet the site adds to the frenzy over the possibility of a lab in Chandler.

For their part, Covance officials insist their facilities and procedures not only conform with federal law but also with strict internal policies guaranteeing humane treatment of test animals. Rather than continue its questionable smear campaign, PETA and other anti-Covance factions should address the issue at its core.

It's understandable that animal lovers do not want animals used for drug testing or any other testing. Perhaps their considerable energy would be put to better use by lobbying the federal government to change existing

laws that require animal testing before human clinical trials. The reality is, as long as those laws stand, we will need companies such as Covance.

We would hope that flooding Chandler city e-mail boxes with letters will not in the end persuade council members, especially when it's obvious that the letters are orchestrated from afar. The Chandler council is charged with planning well for our city as it approaches build-out, and the biotech field is a headliner in this young century. While there may be issues to address concerning how Covance would operate in our community, those issues need to be weighed without the sideshow distractions brought by PETA.

(AZ Republic, 1/21/06)

Activist to Her Supporters: Lie

By Edythe Jensen

In e-mail sent to supporters, Chandler animal-rights activist Jan McClellan encouraged recipients to give phony names when they protested a Gilbert circus this week, and told them to conceal their association with a group trying to stop Covance, a drug-testing company, from building in Chandler. The communication became public record this week after one of the recipients forwarded it to city offices.

McClellan, 57, has for months insisted she is just a Chandler resident concerned about drug testing on animals and not affiliated with the national group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. But in the e-mail, McClellan said she and another woman gave fake names to the Gilbert Kiwanis Club, which was sponsoring the Carson & Barnes Circus, "because it would be detrimental to the Covance campaign for us to be associated with this protest." She also referred supporters to national PETA activists for advice. Reached Friday, McClellan declined comment for publication.

Jeannette Duffield, a member of the Gilbert Kiwanis Club that sponsored the circus to raise funds for underprivileged children, said two unidentified women disrupted a club business meeting before the shows. "That really upset us . . . they started spouting off about the circus employees, and it really got ugly," Duffield said.

In McClellan's e-mail she said she was one of those women at the Kiwanis meeting and that she gave her name as Pam Jess. Some of the targets of her protests said the e-mail exposes McClellan's deceptive tactics and unmask PETA's aim to mislead and frighten the public. "We have been saying for a long time that this group was really hiding their actual agenda and trying to create the appearance that they were local citizens," Covance spokeswoman Camilla Strongin said.

Covance, a global biotech firm, owns 38 acres on the Price Road Corridor and last year announced plans to build one of its largest facilities in Chandler and

employ more than 500. Company officials said they would conduct animal testing at the facility.

Ben Trumble, spokesman for Carson & Barnes Circus said PETA protesters periodically show up outside his performances and try to disrupt them. In addition to animal cruelty, the e-mail and protesters accused circus employees of being criminals, sexual predators and undocumented immigrants. "It's false, ludicrous and meant only to inflame and create fear," Trumble said.

The circus, based in Hugo, Okla., left Gilbert on Friday and is performing this weekend in Phoenix. In her e-mail McClellan said the group plans to demonstrate at the Phoenix site.

(AZ Republic, 5/13/06)

Animal Rights Activists Create PR Crisis

By Anthony Tao

It's been a big month for animal activists. On October 27, a bill was introduced in the Senate that declares animal activists to be terrorists. Some observers may have found the proposed legislation extreme. But on November 13, Jerry Vlasak, MD, a spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), appeared on 60 Minutes and argued that it would be morally justifiable to kill a researcher who "tortures animals for a living or for profit and who won't stop when they're asked to."

On Monday, PharmExec called Vlasak, a Los Angeles physician, and asked about his televised remarks. He did not recant. "I said I thought it was morally justifiable to use violence if that was the only way it would stop," Vlasak says. "Just like it was morally justifiable for Nelson Mandela to use violence when he fought against apartheid in South Africa; just like it was morally justifiable for John Brown to use violence when he fought against slavery in this country."

No one has died at the hands of animal-rights extremists, but a rising number of attacks on persons and property at research facilities suggest that there is more to Vlasak's remarks than idle rhetoric. The National Association of Biomedical Research counted 560 incidents involving animal rights activists, ranging from stolen rabbits to vandalism, death threats and assault, since 1981. "With the advent of the Internet, the attacks have become far more sophisticated, with more people involved because it's harder to trace them," says Frankie Trull, the founder and president of NABR. Most alarmingly, Trull says, the practice of targeting individuals with threats, identity theft, and verbal and physical abuse has "definitely escalated in the late 90s, and in this decade there's been a dramatic escalation in all kinds of approaches." Meanwhile, the FBI identified ALF and a spin-off group, the Earth Liberation Front, as the country's most worrisome domestic terrorist threats. John Lewis, Deputy Assistant Director for Counterterrorism at the FBI, said the agency is investigating more than 150 cases of eco-terrorism.

Many of these attacks were directed at pharma research facilities. In addition, animal rights groups have carried out several grassroots campaigns to convince the public that animal research is immoral and unjustifiable. All the while, pharma has remained oddly silent. "The pharmaceutical industry has a lot of issues they're dealing with right now, but this needs to be viewed as one of their top priorities," Trull says. "And that means they need to put their considerable intelligence and resources behind addressing this issue."

Trull suggests a public relations campaign to teach people the benefits of animal research. The message, if directed at schoolchildren, may help keep scientifically oriented youngsters from deflecting to other areas of academia because they get the wrong idea about biomedical research. "I think for a long time the industry has operated under the assumption that if we didn't pay attention to [animal rights extremism], it would just go away," says John Gallagher, director of corporate communications at Chiron. "And I think there's been a growing awareness over the past several months that it's never going to go away. If anything, it's only going to get worse."

Chiron has dealt head-on with animal rights extremism, in large because the company was forced to when two homemade bombs, delivered by members from Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC), which has harassed the UK-based company Huntingdon Life Sciences and other companies that do business with Huntingdon since 1999, went off on Chiron's California campus on August 28, 2003. No one was hurt, but the bombing spurred Chiron to take a proactive approach against zealous activists. The company placed court injunctions on SHAC in 2004 and haven't had problems with them since.

"I think everyone's aware of what happened to Chiron because of the pipe bombings on campus and the really severe level of harassment our employees underwent," Gallagher says. "But my message consistently has been over the last two years that this is not about Chiron. This is about the entire industry. What happened at Chiron can happen anywhere."

Trull, who labels the problem of animal rights extremism as "huge," fears that continual pressure from activists will create a chilling environment for biomedical research. "If this escalates in the U.S. and the climate becomes nonconductive to research, then the research will not stop – it will just move out of the country."

Congress has taken note. On October 27, Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) introduced a bill called the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, which would close up loopholes in 1992's Animal Enterprise Protection Act by extending federal protection from research facilities to the people themselves. The act – which is unlikely to be passed this year due to time constraints – would make it a federal crime to disrupt animal research.

It's a good first step, many within the pharmaceutical industry agree. Even Michael Markarian, the executive vice president of the Humane

Society of the United States (HSUS), says, "We agree with Sen. Inhofe and other members of Congress that any violent activity in the name of a cause is absolutely wrong and inexcusable." But some question whether the law targets the crux of the disagreement between pharma and activists. "I think the legislation won't do anything for anybody who's concerned about the tactics that are [the] underlying [reasons for] the legislation," says Jeff Kerr, general counsel for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). "The only thing that's going to be effective is for the pharmaceutical industry and others involved in animal testing to move away from animal testing." That means stopping all animal research, Kerr explains.

It's not something that's about to happen anytime soon. Not counting mice, rats and birds – animals not covered under the Animal Welfare Act – the U.S. used about 1.1 million animals for research in 2004, according to a report produced by Animal Care, a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "Animal research is absolutely necessary, and I think every pharmaceutical executive will understand that," says Jacquie Calnan, president of Americans for Medical Progress, a non-profit organization designed to promote biomedical research. Calnan maintains that animal rights extremists have not curbed animal research, but she concedes that pharma has neglected its responsibility to foster research and growth.

Noting that animal-activism organizations such as PeTA and the HSUS outspend the research community 100 to 1 for public relations, Calnan calls on pharma to mount a public relations campaign defending animal research. "We need to have PhARMA (Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America) work with us, we need to have individual companies work with us in pursuing policy and in pursuing public affairs programs that are really going to reach out," Calnan says. "It's no longer time for ostriches. We've got to be involved in outreach, or the activists are going to prevail."

(PharmExec.com, 11/22/05)

Animal Tests Are Key to Disease Research

By Timothy A. Martin

Animal research is the best hope for humans - and our four-legged friends. Critics of the drug-testing company Covance's expansion in Chandler want you to believe animal research is outdated, that we no longer need it for new treatments and cures to address our worst illnesses and diseases.

That's science fiction. Animal research has been vital in the development of nearly every major medical breakthrough in recent history. And it continues to be just as important today.

The Foundation for Biomedical Research has compiled a long list of important medical advances achieved through animal research and the types of animals involved in the research. Here are just a few:

- 1923 - Insulin discovered (dog, fish).
- 1945 - Penicillin tested (mouse).
- 1954 - Polio vaccine developed (mouse, monkey).
- 1956 - Open heart surgery and cardiac pacemakers developed (dog).
- 1968 - Rubella vaccine developed (monkey).
- 1989 - Organ transplantation advances developed (dog, sheep, cow, pig).
- 2001 - Promising drug for prevention of AIDS developed (monkey).

That's why the world's top scientists and doctors, both past and present, support animal research. "The use of animals in biomedical research and testing has been, and will continue to be, absolutely critical to the progress against AIDS and a wide range of other applications in both humans and animals," said Jocelyn Elders, former U.S. surgeon general.

"Without the use of animals and human beings, it would have been impossible to acquire the important knowledge needed to prevent much suffering and premature death, not only among humans but also among animals," said Albert Sabin, developer of the polio vaccine.

Compare those statements to those made by animal rights activists over the years: "If the death of one rat cured all diseases, it wouldn't make any difference to me," said Chris De Rose, founder of Last Chance for Animals.

"An animal experiment cannot be justifiable unless the experiment is so important that the use of a brain-damaged human would be justifiable," wrote Peter Singer in *Animal Liberation: A New Ethic for Our Treatment of Animals*.

"If abandoning animal research means that there are some things we cannot learn, then so be it. ... We have no basic right ... not to be harmed by those natural diseases we are heir to," Tom Regan wrote in *The Case for Animal Rights*.

This is a callous disregard for all the people worldwide who are suffering from chronic illness, painful conditions and fatal diseases.

As the Foundation for Biomedical Research notes, the consequences of stopping animal research would be devastating. There would be little hope of finding a cure for AIDS, understanding the intricacies of Alzheimer's disease, or finding an effective new treatment for Parkinson's disease. There would be no cure for diabetes or sickle cell disease, and there would be no new surgical techniques to help babies with congenital heart defects.

Even animals would suffer if such research was stopped. Few realize that animal research has led to incredible lifesaving treatments for dogs, cats, farm animals, wildlife and endangered species, FBR notes. Vaccines for rabies, distemper and tetanus are helping our pets live longer, happier lives. New treatments for heart disease, cancer and glaucoma are helping dogs

and cats, and treatments for infertility are helping endangered species.

Yet animal activists ignore all of this. In recent years, PETA has claimed "sophisticated computer technologies" have made test animals unnecessary. It has even detailed some of those alleged technologies, such as "an accurate working model of a human heart that will allow researchers to test new treatments electronically."

But reality is different. "Companies would be thrilled with such systems because it would be cheaper and faster," according to Frankie Trull, president of the Foundation for Biomedical Research. "Unfortunately, machines with this kind of computing power are probably at least 15 years away."

In fact, researchers are genetically engineering animals to make them better test models. For example, while normal mice are impervious to AIDS, engineered ones can contract it. These animals have contributed to the drop in AIDS deaths we've seen in recent years. And can you believe Magic Johnson was diagnosed with HIV 15 years ago? What's kept him alive, healthy and happy isn't magic.

Let's not judge Covance based on the rhetoric of a vocal minority who categorically oppose animal research. Instead, let's look at the facts: All of us are living longer, healthier lives thanks to animal research, and so are our pets, farm animals and wildlife.

(AZ Republic, 4/30/06)

Scientists Rally Behind Teenage Pro-tester By Steve Bloomfield

Scientists carrying out animal testing for medical research were acclaimed as heroes yesterday as hundreds of demonstrators attended an unprecedented rally in support of a new biomedical research centre at Oxford University. Two of Britain's leading scientists defied violent threats from animal rights extremists to speak out in favour of animal testing. Physiology professor John Stein, whose research on dyslexia involves recording the brain activity of monkeys, told the crowd: "This is a historic day. We are drawing a line in the sand." Professor Tipu Aziz, a leading neurosurgeon who has used primates in his research into Parkinson's disease, said the demonstration signalled "the return of democracy to the UK. This is the end of animal rights terrorist activities in the United Kingdom".

The demonstration was organised by the pro-animal-testing campaign group Pro-Test, set up by 16-year-old Laurie Pycroft and supported by students and academics. He set up the campaign after coming across a demonstration by animal rights protesters, Speak, outside the building site for the new laboratory. Oxford has become the main focus for animal rights campaigners after the university restarted building work on the new medical research laboratory in December. Work had been delayed by 16 months after the previous building contractor, Montpellier, pulled out following death threats.

The Animal Liberation Front (ALF) warned that anyone connected to the university is a legitimate target.

Animal rights extremists have threatened attacks on nearly 100 companies and charities that have donated money to Oxford University, The Independent on Sunday revealed last week. The ALF said it would target the homes and offices of directors and employees unless they promise never to give money to the university again. Scientists have been advised to stay silent for fear of attacks. But Professors Stein and Aziz decided to speak out publicly for the first time. Professor Stein said: "Imagine yourself a mother with a three-year-old with meningitis. Fifty years ago, that child would have died. Now, due to the discovery of penicillin, we can stop that child dying. Do we stop her getting penicillin just because it had been tested on 20 rats?"

Among the Oxford students in the crowd was Duncan Coutts, 24. Holding a banner reading: "Vegetarians against the ALF", he said: "Vegetarians are for animals but even we think the ALF are daft. They are raucous and nasty thugs." Campaigners at Speak, who insist they are peaceful and have no connection to the ALF, organised a rival protest in Oxford yesterday. The police feared the two demonstrations could clash but there was no trouble.

Addressing the pro-testing demonstration, Oxford MP Dr Evan Harris, the Liberal Democrat spokesman for science, said: "My message to the extremists is that you will never win. Every action of harassment, intimidation or violence undermines any legitimacy your case ever had. My message to the technicians, the researchers and anyone who carries out biomedical research is that you are heroes; you are underpaid and under pressure. You are under-praised; well, we have come here today to praise you." Dr Harris also called on mainstream animal rights campaigners to condemn violence.

(The Independent, 2/26/06)

Animal Rights Activist Cited as 'Mastermind' of Violent Attacks By Robert P. King

The Web site of the magazine Bite Back leaves little mystery about the fate that could await people and companies that profit from mistreating animals. Somebody might slash their tires, or spray-paint slogans such as "Puppy Killer" on their homes or cars. Or smash their computers. Or glue their door locks shut. Or run up \$1,000 charges on their credit cards. Or spread rumors that they are convicted rapists. Or threaten the safety of their employees' families. "We are sick and tired of having to track down murdering scum like you," reads one online message, directed at the head of animal testing for a British multinational pharmaceutical company. Another warns: "You never know what could happen!!! Ask Brian Cass!" (Assailants beat the British

animal-testing executive with baseball bats five years ago.)

The dozens of messages, attributed to anonymous animal rights activists from around the world, are a staple of the magazine's Web site, www.directaction.info. And now they're bringing international scrutiny to Nicolas Atwood, a longtime activist in West Palm Beach whose company operates both the print and online publications. A story in London's Sunday Times this week described Atwood as the "mastermind behind an animal rights campaign inciting violent attacks against Oxford University academics."

But Atwood said this week that he's merely a volunteer, reporting on the work of people who are "risking their freedom to help animals." "The media, especially in England, really needs to believe that there's a leader or a mastermind behind the radical animal rights movement, and that's not true," said Atwood, president of the company Bite Back Inc. "I'm not a mastermind of anything."

The movement is mainly nonviolent, said Atwood, who dismissed some of the more extreme messages as "a lot of hot air." But he left it to individual activists to decide how far to go in freeing animals from labs or deterring companies from harmful research. "I hope our movement doesn't cross that line into actually killing somebody," Atwood said.

But as for the 2001 attack on Cass, managing director of the British animal-testing company Huntingdon Life Sciences, "I just don't shed any tears if he had a bump on his head." Atwood, 33, is a former communications coordinator for the Animal Rights Foundation of Florida. He pleaded guilty in 1999 to a charge of criminal mischief in Broward County, although the judge withheld a conviction, according to state law-enforcement records.

Among the actions championed in the Bite Back Web site's anonymous messages is a December 2004 burglary in the Tequesta office of Seaboard Securities, a firm that the activists say had done business with Huntingdon. Activists accuse Huntingdon of subjecting monkeys, beagles and other creatures to painful, lethal experiments. Other postings take credit for attacks on the parcel-delivery company UPS, also accused of doing business with Huntingdon. (On the other hand, Atwood's company uses a UPS Store in downtown West Palm Beach as its mailing address.)

Many of the messages supposedly come from the Animal Liberation Front, a loosely organized movement that the FBI has labeled one of the nation's most serious domestic terror threats. But FBI spokeswoman Judy Orihuela said the online messages are legal under the Constitution. "Atwood is acting like a media entity, and it's a matter of free speech, First Amendment rights," she said. "There's no criminal activity reaching back to him."

But Patti Strand, a vocal critic of the animal rights movement, said activists are exploiting the First Amendment to carry out "a campaign of broad intimidation." And, she added: "Intimidation is part of terrorism." Strand noted that the anonymous messages

often name specific pharmaceutical executives and others who supposedly deserve abuse, and in some cases advocate going after their families, too. "These Web sites put up derogatory claims about people in the most horrible and most vilifying terms possible, and then bad things begin to happen to people," said Strand, national director of the National Animal Interest Alliance, which says its members include research scientists, veterinarians and pet owners. "Signs will be put in front of your house. Your wife, your children will get phone calls. Your kids will get letters passed to them on their playground at school."

In general, though, the First Amendment protects "even hateful, repugnant speech," unless it amounts to threats or an immediate incitement to law-breaking, said David Hudson, a research attorney at the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. But in the age of the Internet, he said, it might be an open question what words such as "immediate" mean.

And courts have shown signs of reexamining such questions. In a 2002 decision, federal appellate judges in California upheld a jury verdict against anti-abortion groups that had put "wanted" posters of doctors on the Web, along with their names and addresses. In an ongoing trial in New Jersey, six animal-rights activists are facing domestic terrorism charges for operating a Web site that prosecutors say encouraged violence against Huntingdon and its employees, many of whose names and addresses were on the site.

Unlike the New Jersey group, Atwood said, his doesn't publish home addresses. Still, he acknowledged that the legal tide could be turning against his company, especially in an era marked by post-Sept. 11 fears of terrorism. "I would be lying if I said there wasn't some fear," Atwood said. "I'm not willing to let the government frighten me into being quiet."

(Miami Herald, 2/23/06)

Scientists Discover How Cancer Spreads

Scientists have discovered how cancer spreads from a primary site to other places in the body in a finding that could open doors for new ways of treating and preventing advanced disease. Instead of a cell just breaking off from a tumor and traveling through the bloodstream to another organ where it forms a secondary tumor, or metastasis, researchers in the United States have shown that the cancer sends out envoys to prepare the new site.

Intercepting those envoys, or blocking their action with drugs, might help to prevent the spread of cancer or to treat it in patients in which it has already occurred. "We are basically looking at all the earlier steps that are involved in metastasis that we weren't previously aware of. It is complex but we are opening the door to all these things that occur before the tumor cell implants itself," said Professor David Lyden, of

Cornell University in New York. "It is a map to where the metastasis will occur," he added in an interview.

Cancer's ability to colonize other organs is what makes the disease so deadly. Once the cancer has spread beyond its original site it is much more difficult to treat. In research reported in the journal *Nature*, Lyden and his colleagues describe what happens before the arrival of the cancerous cells at the new site. "The authors show that tumor cells can mobilize normal bone marrow cells, causing them to migrate to particular regions and change the local environment so as to attract and support a developing metastasis," Patricia Steeg, of the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, said in a commentary.

Cells at the site of the metastasis multiply and produce a protein called fibronectin, which acts like a glue to attract and trap the bone marrow cells to create a landing pad or nest for the cancer cells. "These nests provide attachment factors for the tumor cells to implant and nurture them. It causes them not only to bind but to proliferate. Once that all takes place we have a fully formed metastatic site or secondary tumor," said Lyden. "This is the first time anyone has discovered what we call the pre-metastatic niche."

Without the landing pad, the cancerous cell could not colonize the organ. In animal and laboratory studies, the scientists looked at how breast, lung and oesophageal cancer spread. The envoys from the tumor determine the site of the secondary site. Lyden said measuring the number of special bone marrow cells circulating in the body could help to determine whether a cancer is likely to spread. "This opens up the door to new concepts of how metastasis is taking place. If we can understand all these multiple processes we can develop new drugs that block each step. That way we have a much better future than just trying to treat the tumor cell, which is almost like a last step in this process," he added.

(MSNBC.com, 12/7/05)

Counselor for Defenseless: Local Attorney Focuses on Animal-welfare Law

By Kimberly Matas

Chris Wencker loves his critters — two dogs, five cats and three rats — yet Arizona law makes little distinction between animal companions and other property, such as a bicycle or a coffee table. Still, Wencker, a Tucson attorney with the Benavidez Law Group, envisions a future where animals have increased rights under the law.

He is a member of the Arizona State Bar's Animal Law Section. The section is made up, primarily, of lawyers with an interest in animal-welfare cases. As a member of the section, "we're not allowed to advance any political agenda, . . . but that doesn't mean we can't focus on the importance animals have come to play in people's lives," he said. "What we try to do is focus on how society has elevated their status or failed to elevate their status."

Wencker became interested in animal law while attending the University of Arizona. He said he "flirted"

with joining an environmental-based student law group, but there wasn't enough emphasis on animals. Then he started dating the woman who became his wife, and she urged him to focus on animal-welfare issues. On her advice, Wencker founded a student branch of the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

After graduating, he incorporated animal-welfare law into his practice. "I've had pets ever since I can remember," Wencker said. "I always felt close to them, and they've always comforted me in times of difficulty and helped me feel better about the situations I've been in and made me feel happy and made me laugh — all the things that pets are great at doing for people — and I took it a bit more to heart than other people, perhaps."

Although the Animal Law Section of the Arizona State Bar is apolitical, Wencker said, "I'm political as hell, and I personally have all kinds of views on that. "There's already a big move toward granting animals a status that's better than property, but it's unworkable to give them the status of persons because they can't exercise their rights."

If they had that status, he said, "we couldn't eat them; we couldn't experiment on them; we couldn't hold them in captivity. There is an area in between where we grant them more rights than a piece of furniture but not complete legal personhood. I can foresee that. Especially as companion animals gain importance in people's lives, in society at large, the law will catch up. "This is akin to civil rights, women's rights . . . any kind of movements where the laws lag behind any kind of social advancements," he said.

Marsh Myers, spokesman for the Animal Cruelty Taskforce of Southern Arizona, said animal laws are necessary because "there are certain people in our society that education and reason are never going to affect, and they are always going to victimize others. Animal law is important in dealing with that element of our society. The law recognizes . . . that these creatures are intrinsically valuable and deserving of protection."

Myers said he's seen improvements in Arizona animal laws in the last five years or so, but he still doesn't think penalties are tough enough for people who commit serious abuses against animals. "I think we need some laws that include specific kinds of animal abuse. That can include hoarding and sexual assault on animals," Myers said. "I personally would like to see . . . more protections for livestock-type animals, but that's difficult in this state because we have some very strong ranching concerns who have historically been resistant to tightening up laws on those types of animals."

Pat Mehrhoff, trial supervisor for the city of Tucson, said animal-welfare laws are in place, but in general Arizonans have a different outlook on animals compared with residents of more urbanized states. "Because Arizona is still really rural, and ranching and farming interests have a lot to do with this state's economy, you're talking cattle as dollar signs, so it's different here than it would be in New York," she said. "When the Legislature enacts laws, the people who

have pull influence them — the farmers and the ranchers — people like that. That's their livelihood; that's what puts food on the table for their children. They're not really concerned that branding is painful. That's not to say everyone who is a farmer or a rancher has no feelings about animals; it's a factor you have to take into account."

Despite the rural ranching history, however, she sees changes coming in the way Arizonans view animals.

"I think there's a trend toward more humane treatment of animals, and I just think it's going to continue in that way, in the same way that years ago people became aware of child abuse and (that) it's a crime," Mehrhoff said. "A child is not something you can beat mercilessly. The same thing is becoming pretty obvious with regard to animals."

(AZ Daily Star, 2/28/06)

Stem Cell Injections Repair Spinal Cord Injuries in Mice By Rick Weiss

Mice with severe spinal cord injuries regained much of their ability to walk normally after getting injections of stem cells taken from the brains of human fetuses, scientists in California reported yesterday. The work strengthens recent evidence that various kinds of stem cells -- including some from human embryos and others from fetuses -- have the capacity to nurse injured nerve cells back to health and in some cases even become replacement neurons themselves.

Scientists cautioned that the approach was not ready for testing in patients with spinal cord diseases or injuries. "This is a first step in what has to be a long series of steps to get to anything clinical," said Aileen Anderson, a neuroscientist at the University of California at Irvine, who led the latest work with colleague Brian Cummings. But at least three companies are racing to become the first to inject their neural stem cells into patients, and some researchers say the first of those studies could begin within the next nine months.

Yesterday, StemCells Inc. of Palo Alto, Calif., whose cells were used in the new mouse study, filed an amended application to the Food and Drug Administration asking permission to start injecting the cells into the brains of infants with Batten disease, a fatal, inherited syndrome that destroys the central nervous system. The new research, described in the Sept. 27 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, tracked mice injected with a kind of human stem cells called neurospheres. They are the laboratory-grown progeny of human cells retrieved from the brains of 16- to 18-week aborted fetuses.

Nine days after getting identical spinal cord injuries, each animal received about 75,000 neurospheres in four injections around the injury. Within a day, the team reported, the cells began to migrate into the injured spinal cord. After 16 weeks, the mice were given tests of agility and leg coordination, and compared with two other groups. Mice that had received the stem cells scored significantly better than similarly injured mice that had not

-- and also better than those injected with ordinary skin cells, a test to see whether just any kind of cellular injection might trigger healing. Researchers who scored the tests did not know which mice had received the injections.

The differences were "obvious to the untrained eye," Anderson said, with improvements both in terms of how many weight-bearing steps the mice could take and their ability to place their rear feet precisely where needed to cross a ladderlike bridge. Microscopic analysis showed that most of the injected cells had turned into two different kinds of cells around the injury, said Anderson, who does not have a direct financial stake in the company but whose team included two members who do. Some became oligodendrocytes, which wrap themselves around injured nerve cells to help them transmit electrical signals. Others turned into neurons themselves.

Very few turned into a third kind of central nervous system cell, astrocytes, which contribute to scar formation and are generally undesirable around injuries. Moreover, the neurospheres that became new neurons appear to have made connections with nerve cells that survived the initial injury -- a crucial development if those new nerves are really to help.

In a test to see whether the new human cells were really key to the animals' recovery, the team gave some of the recovering mice injections of a toxin that selectively kills human cells. The mice that got the injections regressed in their ability to walk, while those not injected continued to improve. Two other U.S. companies also say they are close to the goal of testing human neural stem cells as therapies.

Earlier this year, Hans Keirstead and his colleagues, also at the University of California at Irvine, reported that rats with disabling spinal injuries could walk nearly normally again after getting injections with human embryonic, rather than fetal, cells developed by Geron Corp. of Menlo Park, Calif. Those cells were initially harvested from days-old human embryos and then cultivated under special laboratory conditions that forced them to become immature oligodendrocytes. Once injected into injured spinal cords, the cells matured and wrapped themselves around injured neurons, which often lose those natural coverings as a result of injury-induced inflammation, leaving even intact neurons unable to function properly. Geron has said it hopes to begin clinical trials in patients next year. A third company, NeuralStem Inc. of Gaithersburg, is also in the race.

In unpublished research, rats with spinal cord damage improved significantly after getting injections of human fetal spinal cord cells, said neuroscientist Martin Marsala of the University of California at San Diego, who led the studies with NeuralStem's cells. The animals had ischemic paraplegia, a paralysis of the lower body and rear limbs caused by a temporary blockage of blood flow to the spine. Patients with this syndrome, which can occur when one of the body's large arteries bursts, are not only paralyzed but also

suffer from spastic twitches because of the loss of a kind of neuron that normally suppresses those movements. In rat and pig studies, about one-third of the human fetal cells morphed into exactly that type of neuron, resulting in far less spasticity, Marsala said.

NeuralStem has been talking with the FDA with the aim of getting the go-ahead to begin human testing next year. The FDA has said several questions will have to be answered before such tests can go forward, including whether some stem cells might turn into the wrong kinds of cells after being injected.

(Washington Post, 9/20/05)

Video of Animal Activists' Antics Shown at Domestic Terrorism Trial By Wayne Parry

Prosecutors showed videotapes yesterday of animal rights activists descending on the homes of people who work for companies doing business with a New Jersey animal testing laboratory, screaming at them through bullhorns. Others told of having their offices invaded and smoke-bombed as the trial of six animal welfare advocates continued in federal court. The Philadelphia group Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty and six of its members are accused of domestic terrorism and other offenses in their five-year campaign to shut down Huntingdon Life Sciences, a Somerset County lab that tests drugs and consumer products on animals.

Sally Dillenback, a senior executive of Marsh USA in Dallas, told of a prolonged campaign of harassment and threats that terrorized her family, including one e-mail targeting her 7-year-old son. Marsh USA used to insure the company. "The person asked how I would feel if they cut open my son, Brad, and filled him with poison the way Huntingdon does with the animals," she said, breaking into tears. "That was devastating for me to see something like that."

The activists' Web site published personal information about Dillenback, her husband and children, including the name of Brad's teacher, which school he attended, and the fact that he sang in a choir. Protesters even showed up at the family's church with photos of mutilated animals. The group's main defense is that its Web postings and pickets are protected free speech, and that the group cannot control the actions of others. Prosecutors charge they incited others to carry out attacks on Huntingdon, its employees and others.

Jeffrey Gilmore, a vice president of a subsidiary of Marsh USA, testified in federal court in Trenton that he was in one of two Seattle skyscrapers that were evacuated when vandals set off smoke bombs in July 2002. He said he was walking toward the lobby and heard the "ding" of the elevator reaching the 22nd floor of One Convention Place. "I saw the doors open and a hand and part of an arm come out and put down a canister," he testified. "By the time the person withdrew his hand, there were sparks and a tremendous amount of flame and smoke."

Gilmore said his first thought was that the office was being attacked by terrorists, and his mind flashed to the hundreds of Marsh workers who perished in the attack on the World Trade Center. "There was absolute panic," he said. "It was just chaos." A few blocks away at the Financial Center, a similar smoke bomb was ignited on the 23rd floor, sending workers groping through choking smoke for the stairwells.

Prosecutors showed several videotapes that were seized by authorities from the Somerset County home where three of the defendants, including the group's president, Kevin Kjonaas, lived. They included two news clips from Seattle television stations about the high-rise attacks, as well as hand-held camera footage of raucous demonstrations outside the homes of employees of companies that did business with Huntingdon. In one, outside the home of Martha Lobo, who worked at Marsh's San Francisco office in April 2002, protesters including Kjonaas ran to the family's back deck and began yelling at them to come outside, calling her "puppy killer" and screaming, "You answer to us!" "I became paranoid," she testified. "I didn't feel safe anymore."

Almost all of the incidents were followed by postings on the group's Web site recounting the demonstrations, based on information from "anonymous activists." One typical posting read, "Marsh employees: We know where you work, we know where you eat, we know where you sleep. Is HLS really worth it? We are winning." Another posting asserted that the group was not responsible for the incidents, but applauded whoever carried them out.

Under cross-examination by defense lawyers, each of those who testified yesterday said they did not know who had committed the acts they described. In addition to Kjonaas, co-defendants Lauren Gazzola, Jacob Conroy, Joshua Harper, Andrew Stepanian and Darius Fullmer could face as much as 13 years in prison and fines of up to \$750,000 each if convicted. They are the first people to be charged in New Jersey under the federal Animal Enterprise Protection Act, a 1992 law that was expanded in 2002 and equates their alleged activities with domestic terrorism. The trial, which started Feb. 7, is expected to continue for several more weeks.

(NJ Star Ledger, 2/16/06)

The Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research - SwAEBR

SwAEBR has been formed with the specific mission of developing and implementing a strong proactive campaign to educate school children, as well as the general public, in the vital role biomedical research plays in their everyday lives. The Association will disseminate information necessary to improve the public's understanding of how responsible and humane

animal research has led to significantly improved health care for man and his animal companions.

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