

# On Research...

Blogging about research issues at Ohio State University



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## In the bullseye . . .

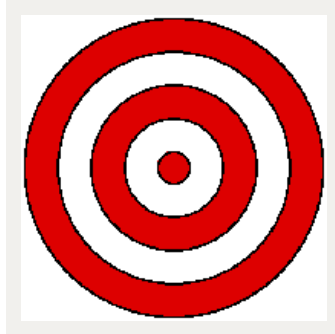
Posted on November 30th, 2009 by earlehollland

The call came mid-morning, the day after Thanksgiving, and changed my attitude for the rest of the holiday weekend. A friend and colleague had called from Washington to alert me that I was one of four people highlighted on an aggressive animal rights website.

She suggested I take appropriate action.

What is the appropriate action when you realize there's a target on your back?

Several years ago, I was asked to serve on the board of directors for a national organization, [Americans for Medical Progress](#) (AMP), a strong, vocal supporter of the responsible use of animals in research. The invitation had come because for years, I'd been the chief spokesman at Ohio State when it came to dealing with research animals and the broader issue of animal rights.



In some ways, AMP is the flip side of PETA, [People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals](#), the national group opposed to all animal use and funded to the tune of tens of millions of dollars. But unlike its alter-ego, AMP members never throw blood on clothing shops, hold demonstrations with protesters in cages or try to force a different lifestyle on passersby. AMP focuses on explaining the benefits of animal use in research to a public frequently confused by animal advocates' propaganda.

The website in question, [Negotiation Is Over](#), is based out of Florida and, by any measure, revels in its place at the extremes of the animal rights spectrum. The website's owner, [Camille Marino](#), offers her group's philosophy with every posting:

*"Negotiating with abusers is an exercise in futility and veganism is essential. The only action that matters to the imprisoned is the one that imparts freedom. It is a moral obligation to protect the innocent whenever we can — and direct action, sabotage, or subduing the violent with violence is a necessary tactic."*

A quick review of recent offerings on the site would worry most Americans. Lauding vandalism, break-ins, property destruction, and praising and defending convicted felons, the website supports what

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they call “direct action” and defends the most radical of individuals in the movement – the **Animal Liberation Front**. Individuals recently convicted under the federal **Animal Enterprise Terrorist Act** and now serving sentences in jail are excused as “political prisoners.”

At the website, along with information on my three colleagues (some of which was incorrect), Marino had provided my picture, lifted from a university website, along with office and home addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. Accompanying that information was this statement:

*“He’s a one-man PR machine for misery.”*

As comments go, it was less distressing than the labels my peers got – “*animal violence advocate*,” and “*whitecoat terrorist*.” And nothing nasty was said about Ohio State, my employer. A fellow board member’s firm was labeled “*the world’s largest animal mutilation drug company*.”

Hyperbole is alive and well at this URL!

Finding oneself in the spotlight this way is understandably unnerving. Nobody likes being called names and being suggested as a target for violence. But the identifying information about me has been on the web for years and readily available for anyone who is interested. And 30 years as a spokesman for a national university toughens the hide and makes one more comfortable being in the public eye.

It also teaches you to live defensively and to remain vigilant.

Researchers, however, never made the choice to live in that spotlight. Few thought, as they were earning their degrees to train them for careers in science, that their personal security would be at risk because of what they studied.

I’ve seen it enough times before, in the eyes of scientists who unexpectedly become objects of dissent by an anonymous public. You hear it in the catch in the voice as they try to mask their fear for their children, spouse or family. This is uncharted territory for them and they are understandably unnerved.

Advances in science are made for the public good.

And the public owes researchers and scientists the chance to do their work without fear of attack. It’s the least we can do.

As for me, I’ve been here before. \_\_*Earle Holland*

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## 5 Responses to “In the bullseye . . .”

[James Hathaway](#) // Dec 1, 2009 at 10:48 am

Good God, Earle! This is insane. Let us know what we can do to help.

[Jerry Vlasak, MD](#) // Dec 27, 2009 at 2:51 pm

Yes Earle, it is insane! It takes insanity to advocate for the exploitation, torture and murder of innocent beings to advance one's scientific career. Instead of shilling for the persistent waste of scarce healthcare research funds on typically useless and immoral animal experiments, recognize the new age of modern science and advocate for the effective use of funds in modern research and treatment methods.

It is indeed unfortunate that rational argument has had so little effect on those such as yourself who continue to inflict unnecessary harm and suffering on the innocent, such that the use of force to stop your atrocities instead becomes necessary.

[earleholland](#) // Jan 2, 2010 at 3:15 pm

Jerry, as if anyone should give credence to the your comments, a physician who is on record as saying humans should die so that other animals can live and who is the propagandist-of-record for one of the top domestic terrorist groups in the country — the Animal Liberation Front.

[jerry\\_vlasak](#) // Mar 28, 2010 at 10:06 pm

[...] (you don't deserve the title of doctor) actions such as these are not justifiable and hurt ...On Research... In the bullseye . . . Jerry Vlasak, MD // Dec 27, 2009 at 2:51 pm. Yes Earle, it is insane! It takes insanity to ... [...]

[servile](#) // May 10, 2010 at 8:40 pm

I made the mistake in attempting to engage this Camille Marino character in debate over the economic impact of the closure of a local pet store NIO embargoed; There is no doubt in my mind she is dangerous, and unhinged. These are actual arguments she used:

*you think it's acceptable to sell puppies?  
therefore, i think it's acceptable to sell your children into child pornography!*

*Hey, maybe you can have a child or two — how about one boy and one*

*girl — of your own and sell them to the booming kiddie porn industry.*

Hopefully this nutjob is on someone's watch list at the DOJ because looking at the crazy^ squared rhetoric coming out of that camp someone should be on a permanent Thorazine drip.

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