

Letters

S·H·E·E·P

To the Editor:

The failure of the law school catalogue to disclaim discrimination on the basis of "species preference" is an affront to animal lovers everywhere.

How can the University of Virginia ever hope to improve its

laggard civil rights image when, 30 years after *Brown v. Board of Education*, the law school doors are still barred to miniature schnauzers, not to mention other furry friends?

To combat pervasive discrimination against those whose sexual preferences are heterospecial, we urge all enlightened and sensitive Law students to support the efforts of

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a newly-organized civil rights organization, S.H.E.E.P. (Students Having Extra-human Erotic Preferences). Our campaign to end centuries of ignorance, intolerance and "species-centrism" will begin next week with the first annual observance of "Beastiality Awareness Week."

Sad to say, the task with which we are confronted is a difficult one. History is replete with examples of prominent, talented individuals whose species preference cost them their reputations, careers and in some cases their lives. Who can doubt, for example, that were it not for her relationship with her horse, Catherine the Great would have remained as Czarina of Russia?

Today, the media perpetuate the myths and negative stereotypes surrounding beastiality. Even Woody Allen, a victim of ethnic prejudice himself, displayed callous insensitivity to heterospecial relationships in his depiction in the film "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex," of Gene Wilder's love affair with "Daisy," a sheep.

Such civil rights violations will never end until those whose sexual preferences are heterospecial come out of the pasture and demand official recognition and approval from the Law School administration. Those Law students who are truly confident of their homospecial sexual orientation should not feel threatened by the prospect of members of different species dancing together at the next Barristers Ball.

No doubt some right-wing extremists will charge that the members of S.H.E.E.P. risk trivializing the concept of civil rights and undermining the moral authority which efforts to end race and gender-based discrimination have long commanded. But we know from our success in pulling the wool over law school administrators' eyes at Harvard that we can dress up any wolf in the sheep's clothing of "civil rights."

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This letter was signed by 50 other Law students