



Resources on philanthropic giving and non-profits.

CRC-Greenwatch Blog

Monitoring environmental groups, non-profits, foundation & labor unions

Posted by Bryan O'Keefe | [Link to this Entry](#) | 9/13/2005 3:14:00 PM

Some Imports Aren't So Good

Over in the U.K., animal rights extremists are causing numerous problems for the biotech industry. **Lawrence Kogan examined some of this in a piece for ITSSD:**

...a spokesman for the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) previously remarked how extremist campaigns were having an increasingly negative impact on R&D investment in the UK and thereby ruining the industry.

According to ABPI figures, more than 100 abusive or threatening phone calls and other communications were made to companies engaged in animal research last year, almost three times the 38 for 2003. There were 177 cases of damage to company, personal and private property in 2004, up from 146 the previous year. A recent report appearing in the Daily Mail further corroborates this trend. It found that, during the three months ended October 2004, forty-eight attacks were committed on property belonging to pharmaceutical companies and their employees, along with countless acts of abuse and intimidation (e.g., blockades) against these companies' suppliers. In addition, such groups have engaged in personal harassment of life sciences company investors, including threats to publish their names and home addresses on the web unless they sell their shares. In fact, "abuse from animal rights militants has prompted almost 5000 directors of medical research firms and

their customers to seek Government protection."

Suddenly, these tactics are finding their way to our shores. [According to Friday's Financial Times:](#)

ANIMAL RIGHTS activists claim an attack on a New York yacht club led to brokers cancelling plans to sell shares in Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), the British biotech company.

The attack came shortly before the New York Stock Exchange's (NYSE) decision not to list Huntingdon's shares.

The exchange's decision was condemned by the drug industry, investors and US government officials. Huntingdon had planned to list its shares as Life Sciences Research (LSR) last Wednesday.

Activists from the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) confirmed last week they had attacked a yacht club on Long Island, New York, used by executives at Carr Securities, a broker that had planned to trade in LSR shares.

In a statement, the ALF said: "On Tuesday the 23rd (August), the Manhasset Bay Yacht Club was paid a visit from the ALF. Their nicely kept club area was completely covered with red paint and painted slogans. There was not a foot of the club that was left untouched.

"Let this be a message to any other company who chooses to court HLS in their 9/7/05 entrance into the NYSE. If you trade LSR, make a market for LSR, process orders for LSR, or purchase LSR shares you can expect far worse treatment. The message is simple, DON'T TOUCH HLS!" A spokesman for Carr Securities said: "We received hundreds if not thousands of e-mails suggesting, in a polite way, that we did not deal with LSR. Faced with those e-mails we have no further interest in dealing with the company." He said he would not comment on the yacht club attack.

The New York Stock Exchange needs to list LSR as soon as possible. Anything else, and you give these nut-jobs a victory. And more encouragement to keep on using these tactics against other companies