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I was thrilled to finally see some one that was brave enough to fill a much needed void for the female gender in the local area.

- Sincerely, Jan

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 [NW Women's Journal in the Portland Alliance](#)

 [Ad Sales](#)

 [NW Women's Journal Introduces New Cover Girl Policy With WA Senator Maria Cantwell](#)

[Journal Index](#) : [Journal March 2006](#) : A Woman's Irk is Never Done: Senseless

## A Woman's Irk is Never Done: Senseless

by Kimberly Gadette

When the South Korean scientist Hwang Woo-suk fudged his cloning research with the Afghan puppy "Snuppy," producing desirous yet ultimately erroneous results with the faux-pawed pooch, Woo-suk resigned, his tail between his legs. Obviously, the South Korean government wanted the experiment to work—but since it didn't, they owned up to it immediately.

Yet when a grad school team at Oregon State University found a conflicting answer to the "pre-firred" logging question (arguing the fact that logging may create more harm than good in recovery after wildfires), the federal strong arm of the foresting industry (the U.S. Bureau of Land Management) immediately axed OSU's funding as if it were suddenly infested with root rot. The grad student, Daniel Donato, was denigrated by his pro-logging superiors at OSU, who did their land-level best to keep his report out of the well-respected Science Magazine. Though there was enough of an uproar after the fact to reinstate the government grant, this axiomatic ax had left its mark.

And while I'm on the subject of environmental mal-tree-sense malfeasance, dire warnings about the effects of global warming have come from NASA (leading climate scientist James Hansen), the Pentagon (Andrew Marshall, nicknamed "Yoda," for his wise counsel to the government for over 30 years), the EPA (Jeremy Symons) and NOAA. Not unlike the reports that are flooding in within a literal inch of our noses, these findings are summarily being sunk by our fearless leaders. Per the Observer: "Last week the Bush administration came under heavy fire from a large body of respected scientists who claimed that it cherry-picked science to suit its policy agenda and suppressed studies that it did not like."

Our current federal government reminds me of the three monkeys—no, not Bush, Cheney and Rumsfeld—but those three simian deniers, SEE NO EVIL, HEAR NO EVIL and SPEAK NO EVIL.

More than just refusing to hear reports that oppose a presupposed plan, I understand that HEAR NO EVIL actually puts fingers in his ears, singing "la la la, la la la" at full volume.

SEE NO EVIL is just as impervious. On January 31, the day of the State of the Union address, Capitol Police arrested Cindy Sheehan, hauling her off in handcuffs because of her t-shirt that read "2,245 Dead. How Many More?" Maybe it's not censorship. Mr. Bush has a hard time reading as it is, and any extraneous lettering other than the characters scrolling down the teleprompter would probably cause him undue confusion. And on March 6, attempting to deliver an anti-war petition to the U.S. Mission in New York, even though Ms. Sheehan wore

a bright pink sign with only two syllables, "No War," she was once again arrested and dragged through the street by police. This time, SEE NO EVIL felt it necessary to yank the sign, along with her shirt, up over her head.

Dragging up its rear (the monkey's, not Cindy's) is SPEAK NO EVIL. Or, taking a cue from another animal, I think of Thumper from Bambi. "If you can't say something nice... don't say nothing at all." Therefore, all negative references about the administration's failures were excised from the last State of the Union speech. No mention of Katrina, America's dead and wounded soldiers, the billions lost in the failing reconstruction of Iraq, the botched Social Security plan, the failure of the new Medicare, I could go on, but I'm just aping the same old rhetoric.

Let's not forget some of last year's governmental monkeyshines: The Department of Education forced cancellation of an episode of the PBS children's show "Postcards from Buster," because two lesbian mommies were mentioned. Funding was threatened, and the head of PBS, Pat Mitchell, lost her job. Last June, the IRS threatened to revoke the tax-exempt status for All Saints Church in Pasadena, California, because a guest minister refused to go ape in his pre-2004 election assessment of Mr. Bush. Instead of rolling over, the church took the threats public last November. As of this writing, the fur's still flying between the church and Uncle Sam.

One would think with all this monk-a-philia going on, instead of being doubted, Darwin would have his own monument in Washington. It could be a gorgeous statue, done in complementing shades of bronze, his well-proven scientific theories framed beautifully beneath his likeness. Talk about your Intelligent Design.

But enough with my Planet of the Japes. By turning our backs on all this monkey business, don't we end up with the government we deserve? We gladly post our opinions on websites, sportscasts, blogs, phone-in shows – but what about Election Day, when it counts? Over 60% of the eligible U.S. citizenry voted in 2004. However, more than 78 million people simply stayed home. By this number alone, I fear that ultimately we're the ones closing our eyes, plugging our ears, covering our mouths.

One last quote to drive you all bananas: "Today, more than 60 leading scientists issued a statement calling for regulatory and legislative action to restore scientific integrity to federal policymaking. According to the scientists, the Bush administration has, among other abuses, suppressed and distorted scientific analysis from federal agencies, and taken actions that have undermined the quality of scientific advisory panels." Dated: February 18, 2004—months before the last election.

This self-inflicted cage of ours is growing smaller, while the bars of censorship are becoming thicker and stronger. Pretty soon we could be completely isolated, powerless from a government that does exactly what it pleases without any constitutional rules whatsoever.

Just like those three famous monkeys: With our brains reduced to so many Rhesus Pieces, we won't see, hear, speak or even feel a thing. Remember that children's book "Curious George?" Nope, neither do I.